

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

GARREG ROAD – UNDERGROUNDING OF OVERHEAD SERVICES

The following notice of motion from Mark Kunnen, seconded by Sally Buck, has been received for consideration by the Board:-

“The Community Board underwrite, subject to Council approval, any funding shortfall above \$185,000 so that the residents can confirm their half share of undergrounding to achieve full reconstruction of Garreg Road.

The associated explanatory note has been received in support of the notice of motion:-

“Garreg Road – Kerb and Channel, Street Reconstruction, and Undergrounding”

The residents and ratepayers in Garreg Road have for some time been working hard in actively gathering the necessary financial support to enter into a 50/50 split funding arrangement with the Christchurch City Council to ensure that the complete street reconstruction includes the total undergrounding of all overhead services.

This task has been no small undertaking. The residents are to be commended for the work they have undertaken to date.

The considerable voluntary financial pledges that have been offered to date from property owners in the street, is testament to the very real desire and genuine commitment to create the best neighbourhood environs they can achieve.

By contributing their own personal funds they are guaranteeing that the very necessary street reconstruction and upgrading to flat dish channels results in an as safe and aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sustainable outcome that can be achieved is accomplished.

To date the residents of this street have been able to arrange voluntary pledges of \$175,700 from a total of 61 properties in the street. Such a united number of residents who are committed to provide very real neighbourhood improvements for all, shows a willing community spirit that is seldom seen today.

The detailed street design work has been undertaken, and is now being prepared to go out for tender.

It is therefore essential that the street can give with some urgency the assurance to the Christchurch City Council of having reached agreement amongst those in the street willing to contribute, that they will united be able to fund their 50% share of the undergrounding cost.

It has been preliminarily estimated that the residents half share would be \$200,000 of a total estimated undergrounding cost of around \$400,000.

It is recommended that the Community Board make available some of their discretionary funding that is presently sitting at \$45,000 of unallocated reserves from our \$350,000 total to support these residents in their tremendous endeavours to greatly enhance their community.

There are a number of factors that lead us to support the request from residents for support from their Community Board for a local residents community initiative to enhance their living environs.

The residents in the street have worked extremely hard in collecting a very considerable sum to date. They have had to work with all residents and property owners which involved tracking down some owners who were or are presently residing, not only throughout New Zealand, but also some even further a field in the USA and UK.

They have also worked with the Housing Corporation to secure their contribution to this local project. This commitment from a community housing organisation reinforces the fact that the wider benefits that will be accrued from undertaking the reconstruction of the street together with undergrounding, by doing it once and doing it right the first time.

Many residents in the street have made very generous commitments in spite of personal financial limitations. Their pledges are considerable and highlight the very real and united local community that resides in this street.

Many who have pledged their support include widows, pensioners and superannuitants who are on fixed and limited incomes and who are making considerable sacrifices. Many of our elderly have given a life long contribution to make our city what it is today, it is incumbent on those of us managing our city today to build upon their legacy for future generations rather than demand yet more from those who have done so much for our present generation.

It is rightly felt by many in the wider community, that funding for what should be a core council activity, should more correctly be covered by the many long years of rates that have been paid by these properties over the last 80 years rather than fall solely upon the existing residents.

The street can be rightly proud of the very real and genuine community leaders who have co-ordinated the streets fundraising to date. It is truly testament to their leadership qualities, outstanding organisational ability and negotiation skills that they have united the street behind a very demanding and significant requirement for a local street to accomplish.

The street co-ordinating committee is totally committed to working for the whole of Garreg Road to be undergrounded, and through their deep sense of fairness and social justice have united the street and rallied all within it behind a united commitment for the whole street to be undergrounded.

The Community Board support will go some considerable way to addressing the cross subsidisation that is inevitable in a long street that was developed in sections, over a period of time, with varying section sizes and development philosophies.

The street contains a section of previous state rentals that have been lovingly enhanced by hardworking proud owners, remaining Housing Corporation rental properties through to substantial homes of distinction both lovingly restored and modern.

This is a local community that can only be greatly improved, with an enhanced neighbourhood spirit, improved and sustainable environment, and greatly enhanced aesthetics values.

Given the Council's demand for surety from the residents of Garreg Road confirm that they have achieved the necessary funding to pay for half of the undergrounding costs.

In discussions with the representatives of the street, they feel that given a more realistically achievable target they will be able to achieve a sum of \$185,000.

Due to funding pressures outlined above, and the desire to treat the street as a whole rather than only undergrounding one half of the street (divided by Jeffreys Road) such a reduced figure makes some allowances for the unique pressures on this diverse community.

The Christchurch City Council will give Garreg Road residents 30 days after the final tender price has been agreed upon to commit or otherwise for their 50% of the actual tender price for under-grounding. This final figure could be slightly more or less than the estimated cost of \$200,000.

Since the original estimated figure for undergrounding was struck by the Council at \$400,000 for the whole of the undergrounding costs, detailed design work has been carried out, and where possible cost savings have been designed into the final design plans which are at present out for tender.

By providing the Garreg Road residents an exact final dollar figure, the Garreg Road Street Co-ordinating Committee can campaign for pledges with a guaranteed maximum required contribution from the street, thereby being able to offer certainty of outcome to any final residents who pledge funds to cover the existing shortfall from \$175,700 to the required street contribution of \$185,000.