

9. RAWHITI GOLF LINKS TREE REPLACEMENT

Officer responsible Community and Recreation Manager	Author Lyll Matchett - Financial Adviser, DDI 941-8293
--	--

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress on the replacement of trees and to submit a landscape plan (attached) for the first areas of replacement at the Rawhiti Golf Links following a public forum held on 2 April 2004.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The purpose of the public forum was to consult with the residents and affected people regarding the progressive replacement of declining trees in the Rawhiti Golf Links, particularly those on the northern boundary of the course between Keyes Road and Tonks Street.

A flyer and plan indicating the trees to be replaced had been circulated by mailbox drop to residents in the immediate area. Two public notice advertisements had also been placed in the Pegasus Post on preceding weekends.

The forum commenced at 4.00 pm with an introduction at the Clubhouse followed by a walk around the affected tree lines on the 10th and 5th fairways and through the small plantation pocket between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd holes. All trees had been individually numbered and marked on a plan. There was some confusion at the early stages of the inspection, as the marking of the trees on the plan did not match their exact locations.

During the inspection, the Arborist identified the trees which had been earmarked for removal and explained the need to remove these specific trees. In most cases the trees were in decline and the problems would not be resolved by maintenance. One resident requested that the trees be topped rather than being removed. The Arborist explained that regular topping of the trees is too expensive and the problems relating to the trees were terminal. He explained that by removing the trees now it would enable the areas to be replanted resulting in more trees, but at a much reduced risk for the neighbouring properties.

The Greenkeeper explained that to assist the new plantings, mulch beds would be created and some additional irrigation points would be installed to enable watering of the trees during their establishment phase.

The Arborist identified a number of specimens which had failed to grow to their normal height or were infected with canker. He explained that in these cases it is better to start again with new plantings as the trees would never be healthy or attractive.

Following the walk around the course the forum resumed in the Golf Clubrooms where the Board Chairman asked those present for their comments on the proposed replacement strategy. In most cases the residents and golf club members were in favour of the progressive removal as per the plan presented. There was some discussion regarding the planting of natives and an open area by the number 5 tee was considered suitable for this type of planting. The tree species list as presented was also endorsed with the addition of a variety of native species.

There was some objection to the removal of the trees based on ecological grounds. The Community and Recreation Unit's Financial Adviser confirmed that there was likely to be ultimately more trees in the area – not less, and that the risk by not replacing the trees at this point in time would result in having a greater proportion of trees being removed at once. The Arborist also explained that it is very expensive for the Council to maintain the trees on a reactive basis; that is, when branches fall off or the tree falls down, rather than undertaking progressive removal and scheduled maintenance.

PROPOSAL

A further inspection of the replacement sites took place which identified that a further tree needed removal in the area by the No 5 Tee where the large pine had fallen on the day of the Public Forum (trees No 6 & 7). It was identified that as there are very few existing trees in this area it was suitable for replanting as soon as possible to provide shelter for existing trees and to effect a positive impact on the golf course.

The two landscape plans show three areas of tree removal and replacement plantings.

Section 1 by the Grantley Street entrance to the course will have nine trees removed this year with 37 replacement trees being planted. Responding to a request from the Park Rangers of the Greenspace Unit, three or four specimens of cabbage tree will also be planted into this area to encourage a corridor along the northern boundary for the bellbirds who have regularly been seen by the 10 hole at the Keyes Road end (these are not yet shown on the plan LO 2 but will be included on those to be distributed).

Section 2 is adjacent to the Rawhiti Village and replacement is scheduled for 2005. There will be 13 removals in this area with 16 replacement trees being planted.

Section 3 is adjacent to the No 5 tee and extends west along the northern boundary. The landscape plan for this area shows a significant number of plantings (97 trees and 355 sedges, toe toe and flaxes). There are a group of self-sown poplars in this area which will be removed as part of tidying up a boundary fenceline as well as two small deodar cedars (No's 3 + 4) which have failed to grow properly.

The remaining areas of planting will be scheduled for 2006 - 2008 and plans for this area will be circulated prior to the work being undertaken. This enables the success of this year's plantings to be taken into consideration when programming this work.

Replacement Species

During the consultation a wider range of species of trees for replacement were requested to be included in the strategy and especially the use of natives to attract birds to this area. The following schedules of plantings recognises this request:

Species	Common Name	Species	Common Name
Sections 1 and 2 (10th Hole Grantley St)		Section 3 – By Fifth tee	
Abies pinsapo	Spanish Fir	Abies pinsapo	Spanish Fir
Acer Buegrgerianum	Trident Maple	Acer Buegrgerianum	Trident Maple
Acer campestre	Field maple	Acer campestre	Field maple
Castanea sativa	Sweet chestnut	Carex testacea	Sedge
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke bush	Cortaderia richardii	Toe toe
Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat	Dodonaea viscosa	Ake ake
Ficus carica	Fig	Hebe salicifolia	Koromiko
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip tree	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip tree
Pinus thunbergii	Japanese Black Pine	Metrosideros umbellata	Southern rata
Magnolia Grandiflora	Evergreen magnolia	Myoporum laetum	Ngaio
Sorbus aria	Whitebeam	Phormium cookianum	Mountain flax
Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	Pinus thunbergii	Japanese Black Pine
Cordyline Australis	Cabbage tree	Pittosporum Eugenioides	lemonwood
		Pittosporum tenuifolium	kohuhu
		Podocarpus Totara	Totara
		Sorbus aria	Whitebeam
		Tilia x europaea	Common Lime

Trees Scheduled for Replacement 2004 (Areas 1 and 3)

Total number of replacements: 13 + 3 already removed.

Trees considered for replacement are prioritised according to their state of decline or lack of structural integrity.

Trees with the abbreviation s-m behind their Botanical description are classed as semi-mature specimen.

Tree No.	Species	Location	Action
2	Populus alba	Removal of group of 150 smaller stems	Scheduled with fence replacement
3	Cedrus deodara (s-m)	Area 3	Removal
4	Cedrus deodara (s-m)	Area 3	Removal
8	Cupressus Macro	Area 3	Pruning and shaping
9	Cupressus Macro	Area 3	Height reduction
46	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Area 2	Removal
47	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Area 2	Removal
60	Populus nigra Italica	Area 1	Removal
61	Populus nigra	Area 1	Removal

62	Populus nigra	Area 1	Removal
63	Populus nigra	Area 1	Removal
64	Populus nigra (5 stems)	Area 1	Removal
65	Populus nigra	Area 1	Removal
66	Populus nigra	Area 1	Removal
67	Cupressus macro. (s-m)	Area 1	Removal
68	Populus nigra	Area 1	Removal

Note:

Trees 6 and 7 and 54 have already been removed for safety reasons since the schedule was originally prepared. Trees 69, 70 and 74 originally scheduled for removal this year have been delayed to provide protection to neighbouring properties for a further couple of years. Some interim maintenance may be done to these trees.

Trees Scheduled for Replacement 2005 (Area 2)

Total number of replacements : 11

Tree No.	Species	Condition	Comment
41	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Fair	Removal 2005
42	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Fair	Removal 2005
43	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Fair	Removal 2005
44	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Fair	Removal 2005
45	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Fair	Removal 2005
48	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Fair	Removal 2005
49	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Poor	Removal 2005
50	Populus nigra 'Italica'	Poor	Removal 2005
51	Populus nigra	Poor	Removal 2005
52	Populus nigra	Poor	Removal 2005
55	Populus nigra	Poor	Removal 2005

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost for undertaking the tree replacements is as follows.

Tree removals	\$4,250
Replacement Species and Planting	\$3,500
Irrigation extensions	\$1,500
Fence replacement	\$500
Total Cost	<u>\$9,750</u>

This is being funded within the tree maintenance and course improvements budgets. No additional funding is required.

TIMETABLE

The Programme for replacement work is as follows:

Mid June - Communicate Plans to Community Board and Neighbouring Properties
 Late June early July 2004 – tree removals in sections one and three.
 Late July 2004– ground preparation/ mulch installation
 August 2004 – planting of sections one and three
 Autumn 2005 – tree removal section two
 Winter 2005 – planting section two.

COMMUNICATION OF PLAN

Memo to Community Board Members showing planting plan
 Circulation of plans and timetable to persons attending public forum
 Circulation of plans and timetable to neighbouring properties.
 Copy of plans and timetable located at Pro Shop for public access.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.