

### 3. ENSORS ROAD RESERVE: SEATING AND ENHANCEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about the outcomes of the public consultation stage and seek the Committee's recommendation to the Board on whether to proceed with the seating and enhancements proposal. The Board approved this project to go out to public consultation (with colourful planting) at its meeting on 3 March 2004.

#### BACKGROUND

Developing the Charleston Neighbourhood Plan involved extensive public consultation and identified the need to enhance open spaces in Charleston to encourage informal contact between neighbours.

Charleston Residents' Association has requested a seat at the Ensors Road/Isabella Place road reserve. Warwick Scadden, Park and Waterways Area Advocate, has also received similar requests. One neighbour requested a seat before the Neighbourhood Plan was developed but there was no funding at that time.

#### RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION STAGE

Consultation plans were sent to 22 local neighbours and the residents' association asking if there were any objections. Seven replies were received, with the majority being in favour (including the unanimous support of the Residents' Association).

The two objectors were primarily concerned about current Council policy to leave grass cuttings behind after mowing; increased litter; and 'undesirables' using the seating area after dark.

To address the two latter concerns, it was explained that the Council has moved away from providing litterbins as these attract household rubbish and fly tipping. The objectors were encouraged to phone the Council regarding litter and to request to have it removed.

Recognition lighting, to light up people's faces, was offered to discourage 'undesirables' from the seating area after dark, as it strips them of their privacy. However, the two neighbours still object to the seating proposal.

#### OTHER FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION STAGE

Some feedback suggested amendments to the proposal. This has been incorporated and the attached plan has altered from the original seen at the March meeting:

##### **The post and cable fence has been extended**

Children play on the sculpture, but they are just metres away from Ensors Road traffic. Therefore it is intended to extend the post and cable fence to form a physical barrier between playing children and the traffic.

##### **The fence at the turning circle has been replaced**

One of the objectors requested this fence to stop traffic reversing onto the grass. She is now not keen on the fence as people sit on its horizontal bars, and it is outside her house. It is intended to replace the existing fencing with the post and cable fence to stop people sitting here.

##### **Recognition lighting has been added**

Recognition lighting has been added to the proposed seating area to discourage 'undesirables' after dark. In addition, it will be fitted with a white light source to make colour identification easier (for seeing the colour of hair, clothing, etc).

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Committee recommend to the Board that the seating and enhancements proposal for the Ensors Road reserve be approved.