

## 6. MARINE PARADE SCULPTURE PARK

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The purpose of this report is to confirm Board support for the Marine Parade Sculpture Garden enhancement plan following community consultation.

### BACKGROUND

For some years now an area of dune reserve on Marine Parade has been informally used as a tuition and display site for stone sculptures produced by a local group, Te Pani Trust, and their students. The garden has provided a supportive atmosphere to a range of citizens, including those who are differently abled and disadvantaged, to create sculpture whilst working in the natural coastal environment. It has also proven to be a popular attraction to the New Brighton area, contributing towards community arts development, and the provision of features of potential interest to the local community and visitors to Christchurch.

Over the past six years, this activity has been allowed by the Greenspace Unit on a trial basis. The Unit is now looking to formalise the area so that sculptures can remain on-site, and road safety concerns, as previously raised by several neighbouring residents, can be addressed. Community Board funding will contribute toward the traffic calming work. Funding from the Coast Care budget will be allocated toward both traffic calming and landscape enhancement work.

### RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Art in Public Places.  
Social Well Being.  
Environmental Design and Management Plans.  
Local Area Traffic Management Plans.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

A proposed landscape plan, indicating traffic calming, car parking and landscape enhancement, was sent to key stakeholder groups and residents in November 2003. Responses received by the project team indicated a mixed reaction toward the proposal so an alternative option, based on the feedback received, was distributed for public comment.

Option 1 indicated the location of car parking and traffic calming features, and illustrated some landscape work to better define the sculpture garden from the surrounding dune landscape.

Option 2 retained several features of the original proposal but pulled back on the amount of road treatment and landscaping.

### CONSULTATION

Consultation packages were sent to 24 residents in the immediate area, Bon Suter (sculpture garden coordinator), Te Pani Trust, South New Brighton Residents' Association and the Southshore Ratepayers' Association. Packages were also made available at the New Brighton Library and the Shirley Service Centre. The consultation period ran from November 2003 to January 2004.

In February 2004 the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate and the Transport and City Streets Traffic Engineer met with residents living opposite the sculpture garden to discuss their concerns about the plan and licence arrangement. The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate also met on three occasions with Bon Suter to discuss the plan design and licence related issues which had arisen from the consultation.

### RESULTS

Respondents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan and were given the option to comment. Please refer to the attached comment sheet for a summary of respondents' comments/suggestions that are relevant to the proposed enhancement.

## **Stage One of Consultation**

Eight responses and one submission have been received. Of the responses:

- 4 approve of the plan
- 4 do not approve of the plan
- 1 gave no indication (but did indicate with removal of the painted flush threshold lines he would approve of the plan).

## **Stage Two of Consultation**

Eight responses and one letter have been received. Of the responses:

- 2 approve of option one
- 3 approve of option two
- 4 disapprove of either option.

Six out of seven residents immediately opposite the garden have commented on the proposal, and another four residents who live close to the garden but not opposite have also chosen to comment. Three Southshore residents out of the designated consultation area have also taken part in the consultation, and as such their responses need to be given a lighter weighting.

Overall, six respondents chose to accept Option 1 with a few adjustments. Three respondents chose to approve Option 2 (note that one respondent is out of the designated area). Six respondents have chosen not to accept either option (note that two respondents are out of the designated area).

The main reasons for not accepting either option can be summarised as:

- Concern over the perceived impact of a formalised car park attracting more vehicles and youth to the area.
- Proposed landscape planting blocking views across the dunes.
- Level of (undesired) visibility residents opposite the garden have of the sculptures.
- Concern over licence related issues that are not directly relevant to the landscape proposal, but should be considered.

The consultation results indicate the community is divided over developments proposed for the sculpture garden. However, it is clear that a number of concerns expressed by residents can be ameliorated by making amendments to the proposed plans that take into account the comments and suggestions made. The final proposed plan (attached) remains congruent to the Coastal Parks Management Plan (2000) and includes the following key features:

- Defining a parking area in front of where the sculptures are displayed, the edge being defined with timber bollards, and surfaced with a colour treatment.
- Building out areas that will be planted, to further define the parking space and visually narrow the road at two points, thus having a calming effect on traffic.
- Softening views of the sculpture garden for residents living opposite by building up landscaped areas around those sculptures positioned toward houses.
- Ensuring adequate driver sight lines are retained by planting with low level plants/shrubs in the kerb build outs.
- Removing several Ngaio bushes planted in the dunes behind the sculpture garden to retain views of the greater dune area.
- Removal of the proposed chip pathway adjacent to the road edge (as included in Option 1).
- Removal of the proposed coloured road surfacing treatment (as included in Option 1).

## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Location**

The question of whether the garden should be transferred to another site was explored by the Council at its November 2000 meeting with the resolution:

*“That the clause be referred back to the Board for further consideration of other options relating to the location, landscaping and design of the sculpture park, after further consultation with local residents and other interested parties.”*

Council staff have discussed with Bon Suter the possibility of finding an alternative site for the sculpture garden. Conversations in 2000 and this year have indicated her unwillingness to move for the following reasons:

- A number of sculptors using the garden live close by.
- There is a considerable awareness of the location of the garden across Christchurch City.
- Toilet, hand washing and tea/coffee facilities are available from Bon Suter's house.
- The location fits the needs of physically and emotionally disabled people.
- Bon Suter is able to monitor the sculptures from her house.
- It would be a considerable expense to shift the sculptures to another area.

### **Licence Agreement**

Though not directly related to the proposed development, concern was expressed by three residents (one quite strongly) living opposite the sculpture park on issues related to the licence arrangement. It would be in the best interests of the local residents and the project if a formal licence agreement was formed between the Council and Bon Suter to clarify expectations and roles of the licensee. The arrangement would then help protect both neighbouring residents and the licensee from future disagreements on maintenance and management related issues. The Facility Assets Manager has delegated authority to enter into a licence agreement for a term not exceeding five years at a rental not exceeding \$50,000 pa.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Greenspace Unit anticipates that the development will commence sometime in early May 2004. Construction time is expected to be approximately four weeks. The proposed landscaping will be undertaken during the 2004 planting season.

### **CONCLUSION**

The redevelopment plan for the Marine Parade sculpture garden seeks to re-establish the area as an attractive and safe roadside reserve for residents living in the area, sculptors working on-site and visitors from across the City. Project staff have listened to the concerns and suggestions offered by Bon Suter, the local residents and the South New Brighton Residents' Association and in response have made a number of amendments to the final proposed design. Funding is available this financial year to landscape the area and address the issue of road safety.

### **Staff**

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the Board support the implementation of the final proposed development concept for the Marine Parade Sculpture Garden project.
  3. That a licence be entered into for up to five years, the Council having delegated this authority to the Facility Assets Manager (the Facility Assets Manager taking note of the Board's recommendations).

### **Chairperson's**

- Recommendation:** That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.