

## 6. ROYDS STREET – KERB AND CHANNEL RENEWAL

<b>Officer responsible</b> Asset Management Team Leader	<b>Author</b> Lorraine Wilmshurst, DDI 941-8662
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the City Transport Unit's decision not to support the residents proposal to uplight the existing street trees in Royds Street.

### BACKGROUND

Royds Street is a cul-de-sac that runs east off Straven Road near Fendalton Road to Daresbury Park and is due for kerb and channel renewal in 2004/05.

After meeting with the residents of Royds Street on three occasions a report (see **attached**) was presented to the Board at the Works, Traffic, and Environment Committee meeting on 17 February 2004, seeking approval to go to final design, tender and construction.

The meeting requested additional information on the following issues – the road surface, a threshold at Straven Road intersection, and street lighting. This information was presented to the meeting in March 2004 and approval was given to proceed to final design, tender and construction subject to the aspect of street lighting being reviewed by staff in conjunction with residents, including the possibility of a residents funded contribution.

At the Board meeting on 30 March 2004, Council officers were asked to also ascertain the residents final level of interest/willingness to contribute to the uplighting and the amount of that contribution, what Council funding is available, and what the ongoing operational and maintenance costs would likely be.

### DISCUSSION

At the time of writing this report the residents have indicated they are interested in a cost sharing arrangement for uplighting trees in their street. Their representative has been informed that the Council would need to have a guaranteed amount towards the installation and that the funding would be required by the end of April to meet the tender dates for the project so the work can be undertaken in July/August when the trees are dormant.

Council Officers have investigated possible funding for the balance of the cost to install the uplighting. The City Transport Unit considered whether the uplighting additional funding could come from the capital works budget. The Unit has taken into consideration the information given by the Lighting Engineer that the uplighting:

- Is ornamental
- The lights will get covered in leaves and dust
- Pedestrians may have an issue with glare from them
- Ducting for the cables will disturb the tree roots
- They will add to the light pollution in the night sky
- There will be ongoing operational and maintenance costs.

The Unit also took into account the work that residents have put into their street and the "Living Streets" consultation process.

Ornamental uplighting of the existing fountain in Royds Street has been included in the street renewal project.

### Policy

There is no guiding policy on uplighting and so the recommendation from the City Transport Unit is that if the Community Board chose to pursue the uplighting of the trees on behalf of the residents, the City Transport Unit would meet the balance of the costs of the installation as part of the street renewal project. However, before undertaking the work, the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee would need to consider whether or not a Council policy for this type of work is required.

### Cost Sharing

The City Transport Unit recommends that, in this case, if the proposal is accepted the residents should contribute 1/3 of the cost of the work. This would result in the residents contributing \$9,100 towards the cost of the uplighting before the work could proceed. Although residents have indicated that they are prepared to contribute between \$8,000 and \$10,000 towards the cost of the work, this has yet to be confirmed by the proponents of the proposal.

## **Operational Costs**

The ongoing operational and maintenance costs for the uplighting are considered significant, particularly in terms of the wider benefits.

The proposed street lighting for Royds Street is four (4) high pressure sodium lamps and the uplighting of the street trees will be additional lighting in the street. The annual operational cost ( ie: electricity, general maintenance and depreciation) for the four street lights will be \$497 per year. The additional operational costs for the proposed ten, 70 watt, uplights will be \$2,441 per year and if they are 150 watt lamps, then the costs will rise to \$3,055 per year.

The high-pressure sodium lamps will provide a golden coloured light to the street. The “white light“ metal halide lamps used in the in-ground flood lights have only half the lifespan and are more expensive than the sodium lights. Other ongoing maintenance costs for the uplights will include the need to remove leaves from them as this is not part of the street sweeping contract, and if the trees are replaced it may be necessary to respace the uplighting. Costs can also occur if the in-ground lights are damaged due to vandalism or flooding.

It needs to be noted that during a power crisis flood lights and uplighting of the nature proposed for Royds Street, that are connected to the street lighting system, would be disconnected to save power. New road lighting schemes have been designed to minimise the amount of upward waste of light and the proposed uplighting will of course have the opposite effect.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Board, when considering the possibility of uplighting existing street trees in Royds Street, will need to take into account the effect the extra ducting may have on the trees that the residents want to retain, and the ongoing costs for operating and maintaining them.

If the uplighting of existing street trees is to be included in the street renewal project for Royds Street, the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee will need to first consider whether or not a policy for this type of work is needed and establish a cost sharing protocol between residents and the Council.

As the residents have not, to date, confirmed that they are willing to contribute funding; the uncertainty of Council support for such a project when there is no policy for this type of undertaking, and the ongoing concerns of costs, light spill, and possible tree damage, the City Transport Unit is not recommending that the uplighting of the existing trees in Royds Street proceed.

### **Staff**

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the Board decline the Royds Street residents proposal for the Council to provide for the uplighting of existing street trees in Royds Street as part of the current street renewal project.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendations be adopted.