

**9. RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF 20 APRIL 2004 MEETING**

<b>Officer responsible</b> Martin Maguire, Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Roger Cave, Community Secretary, DDI 941 6502
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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 April 2004.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett (Chairperson), Lesley Keast, Mike Mora and Ken Cummings. Bob Shearing and Peter Laloli were also present.

An apology was received and accepted from Paddy Austin.

**1 APPLICATION FROM “EVENTING CANTERBURY” TO ESTABLISH AN EQUESTRIAN CROSS COUNTRY COURSE AT CANTERBURY PARK**

The Parks and Waterways Advocate (Rod Whearty) presented a comprehensive report on the application to construct an equestrian cross country course at Canterbury Park.

Eventing Canterbury’s application is compatible to existing activities already established at the Park, and complimentary to the overall vision that the Greenspace Unit believes to be appropriate for the park.

Developing the A & P area for multi-use equestrian activities will give the sport a central base and identify in the city similar to other sports such as soccer and rugby etc.

The site provides a wonderful opportunity to create an exciting interface between urban and rural lifestyles that is easily accessible to people with disabilities as well as the wider community.

Eventing Canterbury’s proposal provides a unique opportunity for local residents and other park users to enjoy and experience an equestrian event at the highest level, close at hand, which they may not otherwise have to under normal circumstances.

The Committee was very supportive of the application, which will now be considered by the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee.

The Committee’s recommendation is recorded under Clause 7 of this report.

**2 PETITION FROM RESIDENTS REGARDING DOMESTIC GEESE AT WESTLAKE RESERVE**

Rod Whearty presented a report, which was initiated by a 56 signature petition from residents living adjacent to or near Westlake Reserve.

The prayer of the petition (précised) sought the placing of signage on the islands within the lake to stop people causing damage to wildlife; also concerns about the increasing population of geese and their detrimental effect on other wildlife and the reserve.

Parks Rangers have been aware of the problems associated with the increasing geese numbers, and the report suggested three possible options.

The options were to “take no action”, to restrict the numbers to an agreed level, or to remove all the geese.

The report acknowledged that any management programme would not necessarily receive universal acceptance from residents, but wildlife management on parks and open spaces was necessary.

The Committee was supportive of placing of signs, and working towards a nil target for domestic geese. A further recommendation to allow staff to manage any other ferrel pests (on such reserves) was suggested also.

The Committee was supportive of the Parks and Waterways Unit undertaking additional dredging around the Lake islands as a deterrent to people accessing these islands, in the interest of protecting the wildlife that inhabit these islands.

The Committee's recommendations are recorded under Clause 7 of this report.

**3. CARMEN/PEBBLES/SHOWGATE CORRIDOR  
PATHWAY LINKAGE, ENHANCEMENT**

At the 16 March meeting of this Committee, it was agreed to fund some minor pathway linkages on this corridor, subject to an estimate being received.

At today's meeting, the Parks and Waterways Advocate advised that this work was not, in his opinion, providing a benefit to the corridor. Any minor works sought could be looked at under maintenance.

The Committee therefore **agreed** not to provide any funds to this corridor enhancement.

**4. TEMPLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, NETBALL/TENNIS COURT FENCING**

A plan was tabled, showing the need to provide total fencing around the courts, but that the eastern side was not being done (under the present contract).

The Committee was supportive of the request to provide some funding for the 43 metres of fencing required. The recommendation is recorded under Clause 7 of this report.

**5. HERITAGE WEEK 2004, UPDATE**

An update was given to the possible projects, which the Community Board could become involved in for Heritage Week, 2004.

**6. OWAKA PIT, OPERATION**

There was general discussion on the current activities at this privately owned pit.

Members were of the strong belief that current dumping practices were contrary to Council bylaws, and that a firewood operation at the site may be operating without Resource Consent.

The Committee's recommendations are recorded under Clause 7 of this report.

**7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board recommend to the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee that Eventing Canterbury's application for a licence to construct an equestrian cross country course on Canterbury Park be approved under the powers of general competency contained in the Local Government Act 2002, and pursuant to section 54 (1) (C) of the Reserves Act 1977 for a period of 5 years with a right of renewal for a further 5 years subject to conditions 1- to 13 outlined in the Officer's report.
- 2 In relation to the Residents petition regarding domestic geese at Westlake Reserve
  - (i) That the Board note that an interim reply has been sent to all signatories to the petition.
  - (ii) That the Board note that appropriate signs will be put in place by Friday, 21 May 2004.
  - (iii) That a proposed management programme to restrict geese numbers from a maximum of 6 down to nil be formulated based on advice and guidance from the Park Rangers.
  - (iv) That the local petitioners be consulted on the proposed management programme prior to implementation.

- (v) That where Council Staff become aware of the unauthorised release of pests or ferrel animals, that the Board support and grant authority to staff to undertake proper management control in these instances.
  - (vi) That the Board consider funding appropriate interpretation panels to be erected within the Reserve to educate users on the special nature and wildlife of this reserve.
- 3 That the Community Board consider funding the Templeton Community Centre tennis court fencing (estimated at 43 metres) in the sum of \$4,000 from the Board's Environment Committee project fund.
- 4 That, in view of the possible non-conforming activities currently being undertaken at Owaka Pit, the Council enforce the closing down of the current operation until it can be established that it complies with current Council bylaws and its resource consent conditions.
- Also, that Council seek to enforce any necessary remedial action so as to ensure that the site is being operated in full accordance with current bylaws and resource consent conditions.
- 5 That the Owaka firewood operator be told to cease all work forthwith and that this site remain closed until consent has been obtained.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the report be received and that the recommendations contained in Clause 7 above be adopted