

7. ANDREW JOHNSON PROPOSED MEMORIAL

Officer responsible Greenspace Manager	Author Anne Cosson, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5111
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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the outcome of consultation concerning the proposed memorial seat for Andrew Johnson, and to request the Board's approval of this project.

BACKGROUND

At its 11 December 2003 meeting the Board resolved that:

1. *The plan for a memorial to Andrew Johnson on the Heathcote riverbank at the junction of Clarendon Terrace and Sheldon Street be approved.*
2. *Consultation be conducted with local residents on the position and orientation of the memorial.*
3. *An application be made to the Integrated Artworks Fund for \$8,000 for this project.*

THE MEMORIAL PROPOSAL

A plan has been prepared by Dennis Preston (Landscape Architect) for a site on the Heathcote riverbank on Clarendon Terrace at the junction with Sheldon Street. Andrew Johnson's property ('Troutdale Farm') was in the block bounded by Sheldon, Radley, Marshall Streets and Clarendon Terrace. The proposal incorporates a curved concrete backed seat, four metres long, with a timber seat base. A mosaic of images associated with Andrew Johnson's pleasure grounds, hatchery and aquariums established at Troutdale Farm, would be incorporated into the seat back. The mosaic would be produced from drawings supplied by a local school, or commissioned.

A plaque set in the seating area would record Mr Johnson's early association with the Acclimatisation Society, and the link with the hatchery in Hagley Park, together with the resulting introduction of trout to the Canterbury area.

As shown on the attached plan, the seating area would provide delightful views along the Heathcote River, and because the site chosen is among the widest grassed areas of riverbank, the intrusion of vehicular noise would be minimal.

FUNDING

An application was made to the Integrated Artworks fund and funding of \$8,000 was approved, and is available this financial year.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been conducted with local residents and the local residents' group. A letterbox drop was carried out in the Clarendon Terrace and Richardson Terrace areas, with a total of 250 letters delivered (see attached).

To date 37 responses have been received. All responses have been supportive of the idea of the seat.

The following is a summary of comments received:

"The idea is a good one, but our concern lies with the vandals."

"Feel sad to see all the other great improvements around the footbridge let go and not maintained."

"Great idea. So many people walk the river daily. Will be well used. We need more of them."

"Have always wondered about the history of the area, even pre-European. Seat a good idea. Any further information on area would be appreciated."

"We fully support the idea and commend you on undertaking this project, which will beautify the area and commemorate Andrew Johnson's contribution to the locality."

"Excellent concept. Would like additional information."

"A few more seats around the river would be wonderful also."

“About time something was done on this side of the river. The Council has spent thousands on Aynsley Terrace, which was already nice – but when you cross to the Woolston side it is really grotty. All of Clarendon Terrace needs a revamp so we can keep up with our posher Opawa neighbours.”

“Excellent to see someone connected with the area’s heritage being recognised in this way ... bringing the seat together with recognition of Mr Johnson is excellent!”

“The seat will need to be made out of something to stand up against graffiti over a period. But a wonderful idea as the river is used by so many people – even when the weather is cold! Good on you!”

Discussion with local iwi

In discussion with Otautahi representatives, Reverend Maurice Gray and Louise Tankersley, it has been suggested that a cairn or seat incorporating aspects of Andrew Johnson’s work would be appropriate placed on the Heathcote riverbank.

CONCLUSION

All feedback has been very positive. Many of the comments from submitters have stressed the need for extra seating along the river, and expressed pleasure at having some of their own local history preserved. The plaque and the mosaic should bring some of that history to light for the local community.

There were a few comments concerning graffiti and damage that may occur from vandals. Within Christchurch city, other mosaic work and plaques are standing up well to damage, mainly because of their flat, solid surfaces.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board approve the development, as outlined in the report, of the proposed commemorative seat for the late Andrew Johnson.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the recommendation be adopted.