

9. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF 25 JULY 2005 MEETING**

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Regulation and Democracy Services
Officer responsible:	Lisa Goodman, Community Board Principal Adviser
Author:	Roger Cave, Community Secretary, DDI 941-5112

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 25 July 2005 meeting.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett (Chairperson), Lesley Keast, Peter Laloli and Tony Sutcliffe.

Apologies were received and accepted from Helen Broughton, Mike Mora and Bob Shearing.

1. DEPUTATION BY APPOINTMENT

On behalf of Mr M Irving, Ms Maria Swarbrick (the client's Project Manager and Landscape Architect) addressed the Committee.

The site, at 45 Brodie Street, has a new house built and completed, but the proposed vehicle crossing is compromised by the siting of a berm tree.

Ms Swarbrick advised the Committee that the berm tree was not identified in the building consent process.

The property has three berm trees outside the property, and the removal of one tree would not, in the client's opinion, adversely effect the appeal of the street.

Ms Swarbrick was thanked for her presentation.

2. STREET TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – BRODIE STREET

The Council's Arborist (Tony Armstrong) was in attendance, and presented a report on the request to the removal of one berm tree outside 45 Brodie Street.

In his (precised) report, the Arborist noted:

1. *Resource and building consents have been approved for the dwelling, however, the applicant did not indicate the street tree at the planning stage.*
2. *On the grass berm directly in the pathway for the proposed vehicle crossing is a street tree, an ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) approximately 4m in height.*
3. *The tree is healthy and there is no arboricultural reason for its removal.*
4. *Using the existing vehicle crossing (or modifying it) is not considered practical by the applicant.*
5. *The option, to remove the tree, is now requested as being the most practical and cost effective solution to completion of the construction works.*
6. *The agent, on behalf of the owner, has accepted that a replacement tree will need to be planted, either on the berm in closest possible proximity or on an adjacent site including the nearby park.*
7. *The tree is not listed as protected under the City Plan and no resource consent is required for this work.*
8. *All treework will be carried out by a Council approved contractor with the appropriate health and safety and work site management controls in place.*
9. *There are three possible options:*

- (a) **Do nothing/status quo i.e. decline the request to remove the tree.**

This is not considered a viable option, as it would leave Council exposed to a charge of being unreasonable or obstructive to access to the new dwelling.

- (b) **Decline the request to remove the tree but allow for the transplanting of it.**

This option has been investigated using 2 methods that have proved prohibitive from a practical or financial perspective, and without any form of guarantee for a successful operation. This option is therefore not realistic or reasonable and is therefore not recommended.

- (c) **Approve the removal of the tree.**

This option will provide the simplest, cheapest and quickest solution. However, in mitigation to replace the tree, and improve the general landscape amenity of the berm, the original vehicle crossing will need to be re-instated back to berm once a new vehicle crossing is constructed. All costs of this operation shall be met by the applicant.

10. *The preferred option is option (c)."*

In discussion, members expressed concerns that the issue of the berm tree had not been identified much earlier in the building consent process.

Members considered that (as a fence had been built and the on-site driveway had been formed) they were not now able to consider any other 'option' than to agree to the removal of the tree.

The Committee's recommendation is recorded under Clause 6 of this report.

3. **MONA VALE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

On behalf of the Greenspace Unit, Jeremy Hawker (Botanical Services Operations Team Manager) gave a presentation on the Mona Vale development programme.

The Committee received the information.

4. **GREENSPACE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2005/06**

Rod Whearty (Parks and Waterways Advocate) gave the Committee a presentation on the Capital Works within the Board area.

The Committee received the information.

5. **HERITAGE WEEK UPDATE**

Members received an update from the Community Engagement Adviser and Community Secretary on the proposal to undertake a history of the Hornby area.

6. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Board approve the removal of one street tree outside 45 Brodie Street as outlined in option (c) of the Arborist's report noting:

- (a) Removal of the street tree (including stump/roots)
- (b) Removal of surface and sub surface of the existing crossing, installing kerb, soil and grass to the Christchurch City Council standards
- (c) Replacement planting with a new tree to the Christchurch City Council standards. The species and site for the new tree shall be determined in liaison with a Greenspace arborist.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee's recommendations be adopted.