

## 6. BROMLEY CEMETERY - FORMER CARETAKER'S RESIDENCE

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Acting Greenspace Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Kathryn Howard, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate Hagley/Ferrymead, DDI 941-6614

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Board on the process to consider the future of the Bromley Cemetery's former caretaker residence; and to seek support for this process.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 7 July 2004, the Board was asked to recommend to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee that the former Caretaker's residence and associated structures be removed from Bromley Cemetery to provide further burial space. Instead the Board recommended that:

- *"The house be retained and upgraded on the site.*
- *"The Council negotiate with City Care for an appropriately skilled person to be appointed to maintain the cemetery and adjacent cemeteries.*
- *"Staff be requested to investigate the possibility of erecting a building at the cemetery for storing the cemetery register (enabling the register to be freely available for public viewing).*

3. At its meeting on 14 July 2004 the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee recommended that:

- *"the house be retained and upgraded for future used in the cemetery."*

4. At its meeting on 29 July 2004 the Council, after receiving the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee report and additional information on the financial implications of the first two of the three options listed below:

- Option 1. Demolition of the house and re-utilisation of the land for burial purposes.
- Option 2. Retention of the house and continuation of the current rental tenancy.
- Option 3. Retention of the house and redevelopment as a records viewing facility with a resident caretaker,

And resolved that:

- *"this clause be referred back to the Committee, to allow the officers to undertake a more comprehensive evaluation of Option 3."*

5. It is proposed to undertake this comprehensive evaluation by way of a Cemetery Conservation Plan for Bromley Cemetery. The plan sets out what is significant about a place, and therefore, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. This will allow decisions on the former caretaker's residence to be considered in the overall context of Bromley Cemetery.

6. This process is supported by the Urban Design and Heritage Team who advise that caretaker's residences, which were commonly associated with cemeteries, are now very rare in Christchurch and therefore support careful consideration of the future of the Bromley Cemetery caretaker's residence.

7. Conservation Plans are currently being prepared for two Council cemeteries; Addington and Linwood Cemetery. Priority for the next cemetery conservation plan will be for the heritage listed Barbadoes Street cemetery. This is planned for 2006/07. A conservation plan could be prepared for Bromley Cemetery thereafter in 2007/08.

8. It is proposed to continue with the tenancy arrangement, including gateway responsibilities, and undertake required building maintenance until a decision on the former caretaker's residence is made.

9. The need for further land for cemetery use is being assessed under the Assessment of Cemetery and Crematoria Services and any outcomes relevant to Bromley Cemetery could be included in a Conservation Plan.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

10. Conservation Plans are not legal requirements for cemeteries, but the City of Christchurch Heritage Conservation Policy is to “prepare conservation plans for all appropriate listed heritage buildings, places and objects in Council ownership”.
11. Approximately \$15,000 would be required for a conservation plan for Bromley Cemetery.
12. If the Board wish a cemetery conservation plan to be prepared for Bromley Cemetery ahead of the heritage listed cemeteries, they could allocate discretionary Board funding to this project.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Board:

- (a) Support the process of undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the former caretaker's residence in Bromley Cemetery by way of a Cemetery Conservation Plan;
- (b) Decide if they wish to fund the Bromley Cemetery Conservation Plan.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

For discussion.