

10. WALTHAM OVERBRIDGE ARTWORK UPDATE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officer responsible:	Community and Recreation Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress on an artwork to be sited by the Waltham Overbridge, at the intersection of Waltham Road and Moorhouse Avenue.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At the Board meeting on 27 July 2005, Councillor Anna Crighton asked for a written response to the following question: *"Could the Board please have an update on the artwork for Waltham overbridge pocket park?"*
3. A landscape plan was prepared for an area of road reserve at the intersection of Waltham Road and Moorhouse Avenue (the site) in October 2003 as attached. The final approved version included interpretive signage, a heritage gas lamp, heritage seating, and a mural on the fence. To date, the paths, soft landscaping and planting have been implemented.
4. In September 2004 Noel Alexander addressed the Board regarding a sculpture he proposed could be installed at the site. The Board decided:
*"To request that firm costings be obtained for the sculpture and;
To recommend investigation of a shared payment for the sculpture from the Board's funds and the Art in Public Places integrated budget."*
5. Following successful funding applications to the Art in Public Places Integrated Art Fund and the Hagley/Ferrymead Board project fund, and a review by the Arts Adviser, it was determined that the appropriate way to include a public artwork on this site would be via a limited competition selection process. Four artists were invited to submit concept plans for a public artwork, including Noel Alexander. Submissions were received from only two of the artists. Councillor Anna Crighton was nominated as the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board representative on the selection panel, along with community representatives and Council officers. The selection panel were to select which concept plan should be carried forward. However, the panel determined that none of the submitted concepts were entirely appropriate for a public artwork on the site.
6. In order to determine how to progress the installation of public artwork on this site, three options were identified and assessed as follows:
 - (a) Do nothing and return remaining funding to providers.
 - (b) Repeat the limited competition process with additional or new artists invited to make submissions.
 - (c) Utilise current funding for the installation of an integrated artwork (such as a seat or interpretive panel or light) on the site via a direct commission to an appropriate artist.
7. Option (a) would result in losing current allocated metropolitan funding but it would keep the site free for a more appropriate artwork to be installed in the future. The agreed landscape plan would not be fully implemented.
8. Option (b) could result in the identification of a suitable artwork. However it is possible that with the same scope and budget that an artwork worthy of such a significant site could still not be achieved. The Landscape Design Leader notes that when an existing tree on the corner of the site is eventually removed and the site matures, a space for a larger or more appropriate artwork would be created. The agreed landscape plan would still not be fully implemented.
9. Option (c) would allow for current metropolitan funding to be utilised. An integrated artwork would be installed. More of the agreed landscape plan would be implemented. There would still be space for a significant public artwork to be installed on the site in the future.
10. Having assessed all options, it is recommended that option (c) is supported as the way in which an artwork is incorporated into the site.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Option (a) and (c) can be accommodated within existing budgets. Option (b) would require additional funding as money has already been expended on payment to the artists who submitted concept plans and on staff time and resources.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board utilise current funding for the installation of an integrated artwork (such as seat or interpretive panel or light) on the site via a direct commission to an appropriate artist.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.