

11. WALTHAM PARK WAR MEMORIAL GATES – RESTORATION UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Transport & Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to report back to the Board on proposed restoration work, including the possible relocation of the Waltham Park War Memorial Gates, and in addition to make application for funding from the 2006/07 Community Board Discretionary Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In March 2005 Council staff were approached by a local resident concerning the condition of the Waltham Park War Memorial Gates and the surrounding area. The Waltham Park War Memorial Gates were erected to honour the memory of the 'boys of the district who fell during the Great War' and were funded by the residents of the district. They were unveiled by Sir R. Heaton Rhodes, Minister of Defence, on Sunday 6 August 1922.
3. From an initial assessment of the area it was determined that there were some issues that required addressing. Firstly the stability of the fence, the deterioration of the balustrade and gates, the broken lights and lastly the surrounding use of the area as a car park and dumpster storage.
4. Contact was made with staff from the Recreation and Sports Unit to determine their requirements regarding access to the area in behind the gates. A landscape plan (copy **attached**) has been prepared in consultation and in agreement with the Waltham Pool staff.
5. The landscape plan proposes to relocate and update the security fencing, install bollards to secure the area, highlight the memorial by focusing on the plaques and providing a gravel bed behind the memorial. In addition simple soft landscaping behind the memorial will be used to compliment and form a backdrop.
6. A report outlining all possible options for the restoration of the Waltham Park War Memorial gates, including relocation, has also been prepared (copy **attached**). These options are included below.
7. To date the dumpster has been permanently relocated and a moss treatment has been carried out on the stonework.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. The critical maintenance work of \$4,200 will be funded from the Transport and Greenspace, Fountains, Clocks and Statues operational budget. Application for funding for the full restoration and landscaping will be made through the next LTCCP funding process.
9. Veterans' Affairs has approved a funding request for \$4,940, and an application for funding is being made to the Community Board as part of this report.
10. All work will be carried out by a Council approved contractor.

OPTIONS

11. Option 1 – Do Nothing

Doing nothing will result in further deterioration of the metalwork, stonework, and foundations. Obviously less is more, more deterioration of the heritage fabric leading to more cost to maintain and conserve long term. The cheapest option at this point in time.

Not recommended.

12. Option 2 – Relocation of gates within the park

Requires full dismantling and rebuilding at another location within the park. Will require public consultation. Not a conservation option as it entails loss of heritage value in moving from historic original position and possible loss of heritage fabric during relocation. This is the most expensive option.

Not recommended.

13. Option 3 – Full restoration of memorial gates

- (a) New foundations to support columns and wall.
- (b) Straightening existing columns and wall.
- (c) Repair and repointing of all stonework.
- (d) Blasting and repainting wrought iron balustrade.
- (e) Replace missing lighting to gate columns.

Requires full dismantling and rebuilding and considerable earthworks and propping. May require public consultation. This is the second most expensive option.

Recommended within the next five years.

PREFERRED OPTION

14. Option 4 – Critical maintenance work

- (a) Moss and lichen removal. (Completed)
- (b) Repair and re-pointing of damaged stonework only.

Preserves the heritage fabric and allows time for budget allocation. The most cost effective proactive option.

In addition, we would like to include as part of this initial maintenance items 3.4 (funded from the Veterans' Community Grants Fund) and 3.5 (funded jointly by the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board and Transport and Greenspace, Fountains, Clocks and Statues operational budget).

These two desirable but non critical projects, ie, the painting of the balustrades and restoring the lights, will enhance and highlight the Waltham Park War Memorial Gates prior to carrying out the major work of stabilising the wall and landscaping. The major work will not impact greatly on these projects though it is expected there may be some touching up of the paint work to the balustrades when this is done.

Recommended in the short term.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Board:

- (a) Support the critical maintenance work being undertaken immediately, with full restoration being budgeted for at a later date.
- (b) Allocate \$7,000 from the Board's 2006/07 discretionary fund towards the replacement of the lights to the gate columns (as per the quotation from Connetics).

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.