

10. ALEXANDRA STREET POCKET PARK CONCEPT PLAN

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

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the landscape concept plan for the development of the Alexandra Street pocket park following consultation with the local community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The property at 69 Alexandra Street was held by the Transport and City Streets Unit for a number of years. As part of the consultation process for the street upgrade completed in 2005 the community expressed a strong preference for this property to be retained for open space.
3. At its meeting of 1 April 2005, the Board allocated \$10,000 from the 2005/06 Project Fund for the Alexandra Street Amenity Enhancement, specifying that this be put aside for a Council-owned piece of land in Alexandra Street to be upgraded into a small neighbourhood reserve to complement the recently completed street works. The Board has requested that the Transport and Greenspace Unit consult with the community on the design of the reserve.
4. A community meeting was held on site on Friday 16 March and was attended by approximately 12 residents. The feedback from residents at this meeting was incorporated into a landscape concept plan for the development of this site into a pocket park. This concept plan was then circulated to approximately 110 households in the immediate area during May. There was a very good response with 29 residents returning the comment form providing further feedback on the proposed design.
5. Overall we received a very positive response from the community with 24 residents (83%) clearly indicating their support for the plan.

Support for proposal	Yes	No	Not indicated	Total
Number of responses	24	4	1	29

6. In recognition of this support, the Transport and Greenspace Unit proposes that this proposal be approved and implemented (refer to attached plan).
7. The development of the site as public open space is consistent with the preferences expressed by the community during earlier consultation processes. A majority of those residents who have responded during the current consultation are also in support of the use of the site as a pocket park. Whilst the Richmond Village Green is close by, this pocket park will provide valuable additional open green space in an area of increasing residential density and will help to improve the streetscape amenity in the immediate neighbourhood.
8. The small size of this site (343m²) limits the options for its development and use. Those residents who attended the meeting on 16 March were shown photographs of Essex Reserve, a pocket park on the corner of Stanmore Road and Tuam Street, as an example of what could be successfully achieved on a site of this size. This is a park that is surrounded by both residential and business developments, and also one that most residents were familiar with.
9. There is insufficient space and budget for the development of sports facilities such as a basketball half court on this site. Petanque is an example of a sport that could be played here without a formal court. Furthermore, Richmond Village Green provides a large open space for more active pursuits in close proximity.
10. The park will provide an opportunity to plant the three specimen trees without negative impacts on neighbours. The choice of deciduous tree species will allow for shade in summer but not cause shading effects to surrounding properties or the footpath and road during the winter months. The trees will have their lower branches pruned back, and the shrub plantings underneath will be at a low level, to maintain good sight lines and visibility into the park and improve safety. The seating will provide a resting place for pedestrians, especially those residents walking to and from the nearby shops. The proposed diagonal path has been retained as a means of encouraging people to go into the park from the footpath and to use this space.

11. Low post and cable fencing will be installed around most of the perimeter of the park to prevent parking of cars and trucks as is occurring at present. A number of concerns about traffic issues in Alexandra Street, including the lack of parking, were raised by submitters. However, over the entire consultation period more residents have indicated that, either, there are currently problems with vehicles parking on this site, or they do not want this site developed for car-parking. The traffic and car-parking issues will be considered separately by the Transport and Greenspace Unit.
12. On completion of the development works the park will be placed under the Transport and Greenspace Unit maintenance contracts. There are specified levels of service that set the required maintenance standards to be adhered to within all parks across the City.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The Hagley Ferrymead Community Board has allocated \$10,000 of Project Funding to this work. At present, costs are estimated to be in excess of this amount at approximately \$15,000. It is noted that another report requesting allocation of discretionary funds is before the Board at this meeting and the additional funding for this project is included in this. If this request for additional funding is not successful at this time, the development work may be able to be staged as funds are obtained.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

14. Under the LTCCP, the Hagley Ferrymead Community Board is allocated Project and Discretionary Funds for projects and activities that benefit their community.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. No resource or building consent requirements have been identified.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

16. No legal implications have been identified.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

17. The proposed development aligns with the LTCCP as follows:
 - (a) Community Board funding - p.171
 - (b) Parks, open spaces and waterways - p.123
 - (i) Safety – by ensuring our Parks , open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places.
 - (ii) Recreation – By offering a range of active and passive recreation and leisure opportunities
 - (iii) Health – By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities.
 - (iv) Community – By providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact.
 - (v) Governance – By involving people in decision-making about parks, open spaces and waterways.
 - (vi) City Development - By providing inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environments.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

18. This project supports a level of service in the LTCCP as follows:
 - (a) Area of urban park per 1,000 population.
 - (b) Percentage of urban residences within 400m of a park.
 - (c) Customer satisfaction with appearance of parks and with range of recreational opportunities available within parks.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

19. This project has primary alignment with the following Council strategies and policies:

- (a) Safer Christchurch Strategy
- (b) Older Persons Policy
- (c) Parks & Waterways Access Policy
- (d) Environmental Policy Statement
- (e) Local Parks Acquisition Policy
- (f) Social Wellbeing Policy

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

20. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

21. Consultation was undertaken with the local community on the design of the pocket park development.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed Alexandra Street Pocket Park Concept Plan and the City Environment Group commence the construction programme.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.