

11. ST JAMES PARK SEAT REQUEST

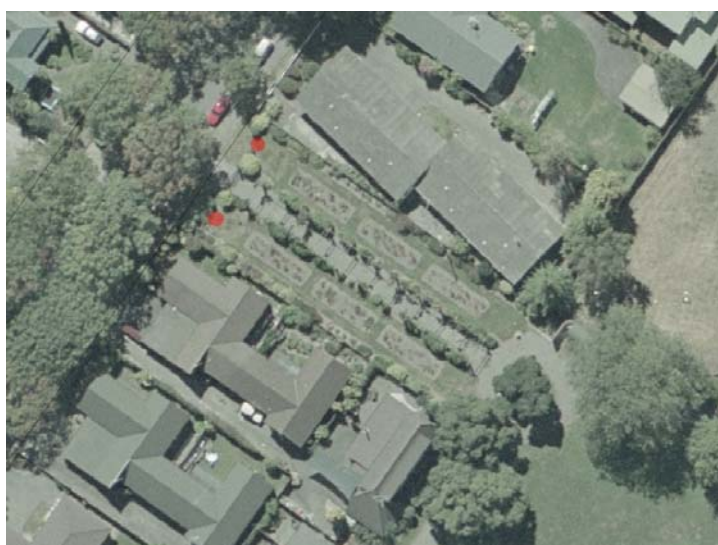
General Manager responsible:	Jane Parfitt, General Manager, City Environment Group DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Alan Beuzenberg, Transport and Greenspace Manager DDI 941- 8096
Author:	Mary Hay, Consultation Leader DDI 941-5410

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Community Board of the outcome of an investigation into the request for additional seats in St James Park rose garden.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In response to a deputation by Margaret Howley on 19 May 2010, the Board requested that staff prepare a report on the installation of two park bench seats in St James Park immediately inside the St James Avenue entrance. It is understood that this request relates to the rose garden entrance, in the areas indicated with red dots in image below.



3. Staff have investigated this request and do not support the installation of seats in this area, for the following safety, aesthetic and nuisance reasons:
 - (a) Safety - the rose garden is a rectangular shape, bounded by St James Avenue at one end and the wider St James Park, and a public toilet, at the other. The proposed seats would have to go in either end of the rose garden as there is insufficient space along the edges of the rose garden, which require space to be left for mowers. Due to the location of the public toilet, and the associated Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, they would have to go at the road end of the reserve. This was the area requested by the resident. However in order to orientate the seat to the rose garden, the back of the seat would be facing the road/footpath, which is not ideal from a safety perspective;
 - (b) Aesthetics - the existing entrance to the rose garden has a heritage iron gate and pergola and it has a formal symmetrical design. Locating a seat in this area would detract somewhat from the attractiveness of this entrance, particularly since its back would be to the entrance. The view from the seat would be variable with some lovely views of the rose beds but some less attractive views of the adjoining units. Road noise may also be an issue;
 - (c) Nuisance - the rose garden is located extremely close to adjoining residential units, which have low fences. If the seat were to attract any anti-social behaviour, which is quite possible at night time when they are illuminated by street lights, then the adjoining neighbours would be significantly adversely affected.
4. Alternative picnic spots - there are five other seats in St James Park and a number of other areas that are suitable picnic spots that are well away from residential properties, streets or public toilets.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The cost to purchase and install a park bench is approximately \$2,200-\$2,500 (including GST).
6. There is a city wide park furniture budget, which is used to renew old seats and picnic tables. St James Park has five park benches that would benefit from replacement and this budget is intended for this purpose. This budget is not allocated for the installation of additional seating.
7. The Shirley/Papanui Community Board could use its 2010/11 Discretionary Response Fund to fund the purchase and installation of the seat.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

8. Yes. There is no funding provided for this request in the 2009-19 LTCCP.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. N/A.

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

10. No legal considerations have been identified.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. The proposal does not have funding allocated in the LTCCP.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. Safer Christchurch Strategy

This strategy aligns injury prevention, road safety and crime prevention under the overarching aim of Christchurch becoming the safest city in New Zealand. One of the goals of this strategy is to enhance safety from crime through preventative and supportive actions, such as:

- (a) Ensure the phased adoption of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) into city-wide planning and policy;
- (b) To promote CPTED principles for application by owners and occupiers of existing buildings and spaces;
- (c) Provide active support to locally led initiatives that make significant contributions to reducing the incidence and effect of crime.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

13. No community consultation was undertaken because the investigation determined that the rose garden does not have suitable space available for park seats.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board decline the request to fund two new seats in St James Park.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion – but supporting the staff recommendation.