

## 10. BARBADOES STREET CEMETERY CONSERVATION PLAN

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941 8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Transport and Greenspace Unit Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board's approval for the adoption of the Barbadoes Street Cemetery Conservation Plan.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Barbadoes Street Cemetery is listed as a Group One Heritage item in the City Plan. It is of national significance as an example of a Victorian cemetery, and those buried there represent many prominent Canterbury early settlers as well a cross section of nineteenth century Christchurch society. Today it remains a peaceful green space near the historic and contemporary heart of the city, adjacent to the Avon River.
3. A conservation plan was prepared for Barbadoes Street Cemetery as a practical tool to document the history of the cemetery and to assess its heritage significance. Policies, implementation strategies and conservation guidelines were developed to guide future management.
4. The conservation plan has been widely supported by the community and New Zealand descendants of people buried in the cemetery, and by specialist interest groups including the New Zealand Historic Places and Cemeteries Conservation Trusts.
5. Consultants were contracted to carry out the brief which had been previously developed by the Christchurch City Council Heritage Team for the Linwood and Addington Cemetery conservation plans. The specialists included a landscape architect, landscape historian, and archaeologist. The Barbadoes Street Cemetery Conservation Plan (BSCCP) steering group was made up of Council staff and a member of the Historic Places Trust.
6. Internal and specialist consultation took place throughout the development of the conservation plan. Public consultation on the draft plan was carried out during late January and early February 2009. A copy of the final Conservation Plan has been distributed to Board members.
7. To support the plan and raise its public profile a highly successful community-based exhibition 'Awakening' was held at Our City O'Tautahi from mid December 2008 to early February 2009. More than three thousand people attended the exhibition, including a significant number of visitors to the city. The exhibition was supported by a well attended cemetery tour by local historian Richard Greenaway in late January (refer **Attachment 1**).
8. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board has previously adopted the Linwood Cemetery Conservation Plan, and the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board adopted the Addington Cemetery Conservation Plan in 2005.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. The conservation plan was funded by the Christchurch City Council Asset and Network Planning Unit. All ongoing work in the cemetery will be funded through the City Environment Capital Works budget and other sources of funding which may arise.
10. Barbadoes Street Cemetery is a Group One listed Heritage site in the City Plan.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. The implementation of the recommendations of the Barbadoes Street Cemetery Conservation Plan will require additional operations and capital funding to be considered for the next (2012-2022) Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). Some operations funds currently exist in the 2009-19 LTCCP, but no capital renewal funds are in the current programme.

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

12. The 2009-19 LTCCP budgets allows for maintenance. There are currently no specific capital funds in the LTCCP capital programme to repair and preserve the historic cemetery fabric.

## **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

13. Barbadoes Street Cemetery's Heritage listing means the site is of international and national significance. Any work to be carried out is to be in accordance to accepted best practice under the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) New Zealand Charter. The land is held as Historic Cemetery, Reserves 42, 43, and Part Reserve 20 Block XI, Christchurch Survey District.

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

14. Barbadoes Street Cemetery is an archaeological site and authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust should be gained for any modifications of the graves or ground surfaces.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

15. Alignment with the Cemeteries Activity Management Plan is specified in section 6.4: *"to preserve the cultural heritage and greenspace found in Barbadoes Street Cemetery which is a rare historic denominational cemetery and the first cemetery in Christchurch"*.
16. The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) page 128 states the need to: 'provide cemeteries which preserve cultural heritage and greenspace, and are accessible, attractive and well maintained.'

### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

17. The conservation plan will support a level of service in the LTCCP by preserving the original cemetery landscape, by managing the mature vegetation, maintenance and repair of the cemetery infrastructure, and by conserving the graves and memorials.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

18. In the Local Government Act all cemeteries are subject to the Sanitary Services Assessment. Also in the Draft Public Open Space Strategy 2010-2040, the 24 cemeteries managed by the Council are included in the Open Space network.

### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

19. In the Draft Public Open Space Strategy 2010 to 2040, the 24 cemeteries contribute to the Garden City Heritage image of Christchurch. The LTCCP is very explicit that the cultural heritage and green space is preserved. The City Plan includes the Barbadoes Street Cemetery as a Group One listed site.

## CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

20. In December 2008, a seminar was held for the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board during the early stages of preparation of the conservation plan for Barbadoes Street Cemetery, to explain the plan's purpose and background. The draft plan was provided to the Board during the consultation period.
21. Internal and specialist consultation took place at key stages throughout the development of the conservation plan. The draft plan was also peer reviewed by an experienced heritage consultant.
22. The draft conservation plan was presented for public consultation during late January and early February 2009. Copies were made available for the general public at local libraries and service centres, at the exhibition venue, and on the Council website. Key stakeholders were also targeted, including the Historic Places Trust, Cemeteries Conservation Trust and relevant community groups.
23. In addition to responses from key internal and external stakeholders, a total of 41 submissions and/or registrations of interest were received. At least 10 respondents indicated they would like to be contacted further about the cemetery (refer **Attachment 2** Summary of General Submissions).
24. Submissions received via Have Your Say and during the public consultation period expressed strong support for the plan, concern for the monuments and a desire to protect the cemetery from further damage or deterioration. Submitters were keen to retain the existing layout and passive, peaceful atmosphere while allowing for appropriate interpretation, and expected any technical conservation work to be carried out by qualified and/or approved authorities.
25. Several submitters requested further work on the location and identification of all grave sites, not just those of 'prominent' people, and many stressed the importance of access to information about the cemetery and those buried there. Suggestions included the possibility of interactive websites, a booklet and a register of all burials.
26. It was also seen as important to provide guidelines as to what work families and interested people are able to do in the cemetery, and it was recommended that the Council should support care of headstones and inscriptions on behalf of absent families. There was also a request for the Council to consider letting the public know the approximate cost and procedures for providing plaques for unmarked graves, and to consider the possibility of a general memorial for this purpose or to commemorate children lost.
27. As a result of internal Council and specialist consultation there were some changes made to the structure and content of the document. It was recommended that the consultant team make the history section more succinct; improve the clarity of the significance assessment of fabric in the cemetery, and in particular the sections on authenticity; address more comprehensively the Maori history and values of the site and Maori and European intangible values associated with the place; and prioritise recommended works and implementation policies. These changes were incorporated into the final document.
28. In response to general consultation feedback a cut-down was included on the kerb to encourage access through the lych gates as part of an approved plan for renewal of Cambridge Terrace between Barbadoes Street and Fitzgerald Avenue. In addition, drainage issues associated with the cemetery were considered and allowed for as part of this project.
29. Key consultation feedback received from all sources was incorporated into the Implementation Strategies and Recommendations in the conservation plan (refer **Attachment 3**).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board approve the adoption of the Barbadoes Street Cemetery Conservation Plan.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the staff recommendation be adopted.