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The purpose of this report is to advise the Community Board of varying conflicting desired outcomes on a proposed tree removal at the above creche and requests the Community Board to make a decision on the direction to be taken.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 1991 a land swap deal was arranged with the New Zealand Police and thus the New Brighton Creche on 109 Beresford Street was born. At that stage the Creche Committee was very pleased with the extent of planting in particular the large trees on the Council owned property.

In 1996 the Council was advised the adjoining property owner, to the east of the creche, after his father's recent death, was planning on subdividing the property and requested that the existing large Macrocarpa tree located half over the boundary be removed in conjunction with himself. The Property Unit also took the opportunity to bring on site the Council's Arboriculturist/Tree Surgeon, Sam Hardwick. Sam advised other trees on site were becoming unsuitable in the long term due to considerations of ultimate size, high maintenance requirements and problems of litter and possible storm water pipework damage. He recommended to retain the pines for a few years while the replacement trees were growing up to provide their own shelter.

The boundary fence trees removal and replanting occurred in 1996.

In actioning Sam Hardwick's recommendation, the Property Unit allowed \$5,000 in the 1998/99 budget for removal of the final pine tree. This work was planned to occur in 1999 approximately three years after Sam's original report and since the original first group of trees were removed and until replanting occurred.

In 1997 John Allen, Area Parks Officer, took a complaint from the new owner of the flat adjoining the creche identifying the remaining pine was shading his property and gum and pine needles were becoming a nuisance.

The Property Unit requested the City Design Landscape Architect to visit the site, prepare contract documentation for removal of the tree and reinstatement of the landscaping including selection of an additional tree more suitable to the residential area.

At this stage the New Brighton Community Creche Committee has asked your Community Board to review the issues (*see attached letter*). The Crèche's wishes are for the trees to be retained. The larger trees provide a natural play area for the children and also provide the necessary shading required for the children to play outside in the sun. The green environment is also something special for the crèche and is a unique feature for Council facilities of this nature.

### **CONCLUSION**

As the Property Unit is only acting as an agent for the removal of the tree it feels the required final decision needs to be made by the Community Board after consultation with the Committee, Creche and adjoining neighbours. The Property Unit would wish the Community Board, as per Sam Hardwick's recommendation to ultimately authorise the tree to be removed at some time in the future to suit a compromise of all parties concerned.

**Recommendation:** That the Community Advocate, in association with the Property Unit and Board representatives, chair a meeting of the Creche and Neighbours concerned. This meeting is to come up with an amicable agreement for the trees and request the Property Unit to allow the required budget funding for the removal and relandscaping the area after any removal.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the tree is retained until the replacement trees planted in 1996 are of a reasonable size, or until the Macrocarpa is deemed unsafe.