

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Area Parks Officer, Robyn Robinson
Corporate Plan Output: Capital Outputs Playgrounds – New Installations 9.4.92	

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board following public consultation on the proposed play equipment for Ferrier Park.

Background

The Parks Unit allocated \$10,000 capital funds for the provision of play equipment at Ferrier Park in 1998/99. The funds were allocated under the Parks five-year capital works budget due to a public request for equipment some time ago.

Board members may recall receiving personal information leaflets from the Parks Unit asking residents for their comments on the proposal of play equipment in Ferrier Park. Two public meetings were also held to discuss issues regarding and surrounding Ferrier Park.

Three main areas of concern were identified from initial submissions. These included:

1. Provision of appropriate outdoor recreation facilities;
2. Poplar tree removal;
3. Traffic issues

From the initial letter some residents suggested the possibility of removing the old house on the corner of Ferrier Park and constructing the play equipment on this site.

The land of Ferrier Park encompasses the old Council house at number 46 Nortons Road. A building assessment was made of this dwelling which deemed the house uneconomic to upgrade to a reasonable standard. It was considered more appropriate to remove the house and incorporate the site into Ferrier Park for recreational use.

Recreational Opportunities

Through the process of consultation, three main suggestions were put forward by local residents for the provision of an outdoor recreation facility in Upper Riccarton. These were:

1. Removal of the 46 Nortons Road house with incorporation of the land into Ferrier Park resulting in landscaping and provision of children's play equipment on this site;
2. Removal of the 46 Nortons Road house with incorporation of the land into Ferrier Park resulting in landscaping and the provision of a barbecue and/or gazebo on the site. No provision of play equipment was to be made with this proposal;
3. Transfer of funds to Staveley or Toorak Reserve to provide additional play equipment with no provision of play equipment at Ferrier Park.

A questionnaire was sent to local residents on 25 January 1999 asking their preference for recreation provision in Upper Riccarton. Replies were received from 199 households. The results of the survey are as follows:

Upper Riccarton Reserve Development

Option	Development Choice	Preferred Option
A	Play equipment provision on Ferrier Park at 46 Nortons Road site	105
B	Barbecue and gazebo provision on Ferrier Park at 46 Nortons Road site	30
C	Play equipment upgrade at Staveley or Toorak Reserve	64

According to this survey, Option A, for the provision of play equipment at the 46 Nortons Road site was favoured by 105 households.

Option B, to provide a barbecue and gazebo on Ferrier Park and the 46 Nortons Road site received many comments in opposition. This was due to the lack of toilets and children's facilities in Ferrier Park.

A public meeting was then held in the Avonhead School hall at 7.00pm on 24 February 1999 to discuss the outcome of the survey.

Public Meeting Outcomes

A number of issues were raised at the public meeting with agreement reached on the following:

1. A need for play equipment to cater for 2-6 year old children. This was due to the demographics of the Upper Riccarton area, showing an aging population who would bring young grandchildren into the area.
2. Older children in the 6-12 age group are currently catered for in the play equipment at Toorak and Staveley Reserves and Avonhead School.
3. Toorak Reserve had limited space for inclusion of further equipment so was removed from consideration for further play equipment.
4. Option B, to install a barbecue and gazebo on Ferrier Park at the 46 Nortons Road site was rejected due to the low number of residents in favour of this option.
5. Staveley Reserve additional play equipment to be reconsidered as it was proposed that this would enable families with children of a range of ages to utilize the reserve.
6. Residents attending the meeting also requested landscape plans of Ferrier Park to be supplied to local residents to enable them to make an informed final decision regarding the removal of the poplar trees.

At the public meeting the option to install additional play equipment at Staveley Reserve was strongly favoured over Ferrier Park. With this and the above issues in mind it was agreed at the meeting that two final options be put to local residents. These options included:

- A. Play equipment provision at Ferrier Park on the 46 Nortons Road site or
- B. Play equipment provision at Staveley Reserve

Further information regarding the proposed play equipment was supplied to the local residents and the final questionnaire was sent to residents on 26 April 1999. Included in the letter were two landscape plans showing proposed enhancement to Ferrier Park once the poplar trees were removed and the development of the 46 Nortons Road site once the old house had been removed (attached).

A total of 156 households replied to this final questionnaire with the results as follows:

	Play Equipment Location	Preferred Option
A	Ferrier Park	99
B	Staveley Reserve	57

The results of the survey show a clear majority in favour of the play equipment to be located on Ferrier Park with 99 household preferring this option.

The house at 46 Nortons Road has recently been removed and the site is currently being prepared for landscaping as per the attached landscape plan.

Ferrier Park Poplar Trees

The Parks Unit and professional arborists, Treescape Ltd. considers the line of poplars located at the northwest end of Ferrier Park to be structurally unsound and therefore require removal. Tree removal will leave approximately six of the existing poplars on site.

It is proposed to landscape the main entrance into Ferrier Park (see attached landscape plan labelled Sheet 2). The area from where the poplar trees removed will be landscaped to provide shelter, whilst keeping the area visible to maximise safety for users of the Park. The perimeter of the park will be further enhanced with shrub planting.

Proposed entry enhancement from both Nortons Road and Balrudry Street includes realignment of the entry barriers and fences, and establishment of a large garden area consisting of coarse textured plants that will accentuate the entry points.

Traffic Issues

During public meetings and through submissions, local residents expressed concerns regarding cars travelling too fast down Nortons Road particularly near the corner by Ferrier Park. Christchurch City Council City Streets Area Traffic Engineer, Paul Burden is investigating these concerns. The Council has also programmed the development of a Local Area Traffic Management Scheme for this area and it is expected to start in the near future.

Conclusion

The Parks Unit allocated funds for provision of play equipment at Ferrier Park. From initial consultation a great deal of public interest and involvement resulted with some excellent suggestions being received from local residents. Outcomes of the public consultation are as follows:

1. The old Council house at 46 Nortons Road has been removed from the site and it is proposed to incorporate this land into Ferrier Park. Play equipment to suit age 2-6 year olds provided and the site is to be developed as per the attached landscape plan (*being page 10*).
2. Poplar trees located in Ferrier Park have been identified as unsafe by Parks Unit staff and independent consultants and therefore will be removed in the near future. The site is to be developed as per the attached landscape plan (*being page 11*).

- Recommendation:**
1. That play equipment to suit 2-6 year old children is installed at the 46 Nortons Road site.
 2. Ferrier Park poplar trees are removed as soon as possible.
 3. Ferrier Park is to be developed according to the 'Ferrier Park Enhancement Proposal' Landscape Plans Sheet 1 and 2 (March 1999).

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendations be adopted.