

**10. RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF 18 MAY 1999 MEETING**

RR 9962

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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environmental Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 May 1999.

The meeting was attended by Alison Wilkie (Chair), Neville Bennett, Mary Corbett and Mike Mora. An apology was received from David Buist.

In attendance were Martin Maguire (Community Advocate), Robyn Robinson (Area Parks Officer) and Roger Cave (Community Secretary).

**1. BERM PLANTING BY INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS**

Further to his presentation to the 5 May meeting of the Community Board, Alec Ford (on behalf of the Deans Avenue Precinct Society) was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the Society's concerns in respect of "*the increased number of frontages being planted in our area with trees and shrubs by developers and landowners.*"

*"...we wish to have the current policy clarified in such a way as to prohibit the excesses that are appearing in our area."*

Whilst some examples identified were in fact a matter of enforcement (cutting back on the boundary to allow free passage along the footpath) one site had had two trees planted on the sealed footpath.

Other examples saw landscaping undertaken on the outside of a property fence on that area which would be usually planted as a grassed berm.

There was concern that very little or no streetscape enhancement was occurring and that in some instances resource consent conditions were not being reinforced. There appeared to be an increase in concrete walls on the boundary rather than landscaping strips.

The General Inspector from the Sockburn Service Centre (Steve Dejong) was in attendance to assist in the discussion.

Current Council policy on grass berms and in the new City Plan (for L3 landscaping) appeared to be adequate, but the examples discussed showed up some inconsistencies. Whilst the L3 rules required a two metre landscape strip, these examples showed that the L3 objective of "*... the enhancement of an open street scape...*" was perceived to be compromised.

**Recommendation:** As the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board was concerned that there is no policy within the L3 zone in respect of streetscape enhancement (including landscaping, tree replacements, footpaths and berms) to ensure that Christchurch remains a garden city, the Council's Environmental Committee is asked to investigate this and report back to the Board in due course.

## 2. WELCOME AND ENTRY SIGNS

The Board had given support to placing signs (on the Council boundaries) on the major roads coming into the city. Sites could include SH74 (from Akaroa), Springs Road and Shands Road.

Messrs Ron Fensom (Halswell Residents Association) and Brian Shepherd (Halswell Lions) were in attendance.

A "Welcome to Halswell" sign had been mooted for some time.

Whilst this idea was supported, members saw the opportunity to identify sites on the other major (not state highway) roads coming into the city boundaries from the west, south and east.

It was **agreed** that possible sites be visited and that some preliminary costing of suitable signage be investigated. Local service clubs could undertake the sign installation.

## 3. STREETSCAPE SITES

Further to the Board allocating project funds to planting on streets, a list of possible streets were drawn up.

Shands Road (to Halswell Junction Road)  
Hei Hei Road  
Wycola Avenue  
Middleton Road  
Halswell Junction/Springs Roads  
Manurere Street  
Brynley Street  
Picton Avenue  
Peveler Street  
Amyes Road

Through the Parks Unit up to 25 streets throughout the city were planted each year. By way of a letterbox drop, residents are asked to indicate their support to any proposal.

A need to revisit the Riccarton Road Mainstreet Programme was also identified.

It was **agreed** that a co-ordinated priority schedule be compiled. The next tour would look at some of the above streets. Also, the appropriate business units would be alerted to this Board initiative.

**4. STREETScape ENHANCEMENT PROJECT FUND**

Members noted that the Board had allocated \$10,000 project funds for 1999/00.

It was **agreed** that decisions on allocating these monies to “streetscape enhancement projects” and/or “welcome and entry signs” would be considered at a later meeting.

**5. OVERHEAD RETICULATION / CABLE TELEVISION**

As requested at the previous meeting the City Streets Manager was advised of this committee’s concerns in relation to the introduction of cable television and other services from the new telecommunication providers. This will lead to more overhead reticulation (and visual pollution).

The City Streets Manager, in acknowledging the Committee’s concerns, confirmed that a full report would be placed before the (Council’s) Environmental and City Services Committees shortly.

**6. SECOND FAMILIARISATION TOUR**

To be held on 15 June; a subsequent tour of Halswell Quarry and the Port Hills (to view recent council property acquisition) would be scheduled.

**7. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED**

- The ex Tranzrail land in the vicinity of Blenheim Road/Deans Avenue
- The need for reforestation opportunities in local reserves
- The resource consent monitoring of open pits, ie Owaka and Roberts Road.

**Chairperson’s**

**Recommendation:**

1. That the report be received.
2. As the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board was concerned that there is no policy within the L3 zone in respect of streetscape enhancement (including landscaping, tree replacements, footpaths and berms) to ensure that Christchurch remains a garden city, the Council’s Environmental Committee is asked to investigate this and report back to the Board in due course.