

<p><b>Officer responsible</b> Parks Manager</p>	<p><b>Author</b> Area Parks Officer Robyn Robinson</p>
<p>Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 1, 3.1 text 6</p>	

The purpose of this report is to determine an appropriate course of action for the silver birch street trees growing in Jamell Place, Upper Riccarton.

**Background**

Jamell Place residents seeking the removal of all the silver birch trees in their street approached the Parks Unit. The residents reported a lack of enjoyment of the life due to a number of problems that the silver birch trees were causing them.

A public meeting was then held on site on 26 April 1999 with the concerned residents to further discuss their issues. Some of the problems identified included the amount of time required to remove the trees’ fallen leaves and catkins, blocking of drains and gutters and possible safety issues from fallen leaves on paved surfaces causing residents to slip over.

Parks Officer, Craig Taylor, made an assessment which determined that the trees are in good health. It is Council policy to retain all such specimens on Council land wherever possible.

To enable an informed decision to be made on the retention or removal of the silver birch street trees a letterbox drop to Jamell Place residents was made. This letter asked for their preference as to whether they wished the trees to be removed or retained.

A total of 14 submissions were received with six households requesting removal of the trees and eight households requesting retention of the trees. Residents who wished to see removal of the trees made comments outlining problems that the trees were causing. Residents who wished to have the trees retained commented on the aesthetic beauty and character that the trees gave the street.

**Conclusion**

A number of local residents in Jamell Place requested the removal of the silver birch trees in their street. However public consultation identified the majority of residents wished to see the trees remain. It is Council policy to retain healthy trees wherever possible and as these trees are in good condition, justification for removal could not be found.

**Recommendation:** That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board declines the application to remove the Jamell Place silver birch street trees.

**Chairperson’s**

**Recommendation:** That the officer’s recommendation be adopted.