

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Lorraine Wilmshurst, Area Engineer
Corporate Plan Output: Cycleways	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of an investigation into issues raised at a meeting with residents on 2nd September 1999.

The cycleway/footpath is not legal road or accessway but is on council owned property administrated by City Streets and Water Services Units.

There were four key issues raised:

- The request to close the cycleway / footpath.
- Safety to users.
- Adjoining properties vulnerable to criminal activity.
- Graffiti.

The meeting, following much discussion, requested that further investigation be undertaken as follows.:

- **Fencing**

The meeting requested that officers investigate the possibility of fencing or barbed wire being placed on top of the existing fences.

Under the City Plans rules, a fence can be 2m high or, if it is a side boundary fence, it can be 2.3m high for a maximum length of 9metres (This includes a garage on the boundary). If fences are to be constructed higher than this then neighbours' consent is required.

Resource Consent would be required for construction outside these base rules.

Some of the boundary fences are in a state of disrepair and may require some attention before any work is undertaken. There is a joint responsibility for fencing between the Council and adjoining landowners under the Fencing Act.

Council has a strategy to remove graffiti from fencing adjoining council land as soon as possible.

Barbed Wire – The bylaw states that barbed wire is not allowed within 1 metre of any boundary line. It is permissible if it is 2.5 metres above the ground.

- **Trees**

Residents requested that the large trees along the accessway be removed as they are used as access to properties and also shade properties.

It has not been possible to easily determine whether the trees are on private property or council land but they can be removed if an agreement can be reached with the adjoining property owner.

Once agreement has been obtained, City Streets will undertake their removal.

- **Signs**

The meeting asked that signs be erected at each end of the accessway saying that the area was under surveillance.

It is not recommended that signs be erected, as they are not stating what is happening and are unlikely to have any effect. The cost of such signage would have to be met by the Community Board.

- **Lighting**

Investigate the possibility of installing lighting along the length of the accessway.

It would be possible to install lighting for the total length of the accessway (Hargood Street to Aldwins Road).

It would require approximately 19 light standards and they would be installed in the gravel area adjacent to the drain fence on the south side of the cycleway.

The initial investigation into this was carried out in 1997 and at that time two options were looked at. One was a semi decorative lantern type fitting that is very vandal resistant and would minimise the effects of spill light into adjacent properties. The estimated cost was \$40,000. The alternative was to use a standard type street light, which was estimated to cost \$30,000.

Community Constable Ray Hastie has indicated his support for this option. At present there is tagging along the whole length of the pathway and it is very dark at night. Lighting at night would make the walkway available at night and more user friendly, which could help to deter undesirable activities. It would also make the area safer for all users.

- **Graffiti**

This issue is part of the fencing issue and it is the responsibility of Council to remove that which is on council land.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the officers begin negotiations with adjoining landowners with regards to the removal of the large trees identified and fence replacement.
 2. That the Board give consideration to joint funding with other Council Units of the street lighting cycleway/walkway, and that this be staged if necessary.
 3. That discussion begin with adjoining owners where fences are in need of repair.

4. That subject to three, above graffiti be removed as soon as possible from fences in good repair.
5. That the adjoining owners and other people who attended the meeting be informed of the Board's decisions.

Chairman's

Recommendation: For discussion