

4. TREES FOR CANTERBURY

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Corporate Plan Output: City Streets Capital Outputs – Fixed Assets	

The purpose of this report is to update the committee with regard to the possible relocation of Trees for Canterbury (TFC) onto another Council owned property.

BACKGROUND

Trees for Canterbury currently occupy a Council owned property in Opawa Road on an annual tenancy at a rate of \$200 per annum. The property is held for street diversion purposes as part of the Opawa Road widening proposal and there is now a need to consider alternative sites for their operation.

Trees for Canterbury employs many young and recently employed staff; a number have intellectual disabilities and transport to and from work is a major issue. For this reason the location of the site is particularly important and must be near a bus route.

The site requirements are up to one hectare in area. Reasonable security of tenure is required as TFC propagates trees which require the installation of irrigation systems, which involve a reasonable level of capital investment.

The land that TFC currently occupies, is leased at a minimum rental and it is understood that TFC is not in a position to consider paying a market rental without Council assistance.

Options to relocate their operation include the following sites:

Philpotts Road

A two hectare parcel of land currently zoned Rural 3 which is currently used for grazing by the Council's Farm Management Division. This site has been considered as possibly being surplus to the Council's requirements in the past but has not yet been declared so.

Kearneys Road

A block of land in Kearneys Road opposite the Linwood Rugby Clubrooms has been identified as having some potential as it is large enough to screen from neighbours and is near a good bus route with a reasonable frontage.

Site Adjoining Linwood Service Centre

An area of disused land adjoining the Linwood Service Centre has been identified as a possibility. Numerous issues exist with regard to considering this site as there are other competing interests for this land.

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to gauge the level of support for rehousing Trees for Canterbury on other Council owned property and to what extent the Council may be prepared to assist in not only the annual rental costs that TFC may incur but also the reasonably considerable Resource Consent/relocation costs that may be incurred.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the officers be requested to report back on the possibility of the Opawa Road widening being designed in such a way as to allow Trees for Canterbury to remain on its present site.
 2. That, in the event that this is not possible, the officers be asked to identify the most suitable alternative site, to allow the retention of this site and its use by Trees for Canterbury to be considered as part of the 2001/02 Annual Plan process.