

26. TURNING POINT 2000 UPDATE

Officer responsible Environmental Policy and Planning Manager	Author Andrew Craig Landscape Architect
Corporate Plan Output: Major Amenity Project	

The purpose of this report is to update the Community Board on the Turning Point 2000 State Highway 1 landscape enhancement project.

BACKGROUND

To remind Community Board members, the aim of this project is to enhance the landscape of State Highway 1 commemorating Turning Point 2000. The project will be staged for that section of the State Highway that goes through Christchurch. The first stage involved planting trees at Belfast and at the Sawyers Arms roundabout. This project was presented to the Community Board at its October 1999 meeting. The Board asked that consultation be carried out with residents and affected groups prior to implementation.

UPDATE

Consultation was carried out where plans were presented to the Belfast Residents Association and the principal of Belfast Primary School. Both supported the proposal.

Standard publicity pamphlets were circulated in early April. Of the 155 properties, eighteen people responded with ten opposed to the proposal. All those who were opposed objected to having trees planted outside their property. This was because they felt that trees would create leaf litter and a safety hazard for cars entering and exiting their property. Some retailers were concerned that berm trees would obscure views to their premises in addition to making customer car parking difficult.

In the course of developing working drawings, some technical difficulties also arose. The proximity of underground heavy duty electric cable to some trees were of concern to Orion. It also became apparent that some water mains would need re-routing or reinforcing which would incur considerable extra expense.

As a consequence of these difficulties, it has been decided that it would be prudent not to proceed with that part of the project with the tree planting in the berms at this stage. The tree planting in the median will go ahead, which will entail the removal of the existing gums and replacing them with fastigate oaks (the same type of trees and layout as for Yaldhurst Road). The entryway into Belfast will also be bolstered with tree planting. Ground cover roses will be planted on the median end points.

This work will be carried out during July. Work at the Sawyers Arms roundabout will be carried out at about the same time.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.