



16. PINE TREE REMOVAL – RAWHITI DOMAIN

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Craig Taylor, Project Co-ordinator Arboriculture
Corporate Plan Output: Sports Parks Tree Maintenance and Felling	

The purpose of this report is to provide information and seek comment on the removal of two pine trees in Rawhiti Domain adjacent to the New Brighton Athletic Clubrooms.

INTRODUCTION

The New Brighton Athletic Club has requested that two trees be removed. The reasons given for removal primarily relate to the claim that the trees are the cause of blocked drains and guttering, as well as concerns of the safety of the trees. Following the request from the club I inspected the trees and recorded the findings below.

Drainage

As the drainage lines leave the building on the west side, and taking into account the surrounding trees on the reserve, it is not conclusive that the two pine trees are the cause of the blocked drains. If tree roots are blocking the drains this may well be due to the pipes' condition and tree removal may not remedy the situation.

There is only one length of guttering on the premises, which is in the valley between the two buildings, removal of the two closest pine trees may diminish the amount of debris collecting on the roof. However, due to the proximity of the other trees, pine needles and leaves will still collect on the roof and possibly block the guttering. It is considered standard maintenance to remove such debris from the roof or guttering of a building.

Safety

Tree One

This tree as shown in the attached photograph has previously lost one of three main stems. The two remaining stems show signs of poor branch attachment and are likely to fail.

With the close proximity of the building and club members during usage I would recommend the removal of this tree.

Tree Two

This tree as shown in the attached photograph has a major stem, which originates early on from the main stem of the tree. This major stem shows signs of poor branch attachment and in time is likely to fail. Were this to occur it is highly probable that the stem would fall onto the building causing considerable damage.

Therefore I recommend the removal of this tree.

Recommendation: That the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board agree to the removal of the two pine trees in Rawhiti Domain as shown for health and safety reasons.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the aforementioned recommendation be adopted