

## 14. RECOGNITION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS GARDENS

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Barbara Ford
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on possible means of recognising residents for their gardening efforts who do not 'win' awards. This matter was considered by the Board at its 1 March meeting.

The Board requested a report outlining the present scope of awards and the likely costs of an extension to those systems to include several hundred gardens worthy of praise if not a formal award.

Current Community Pride awards are selected by judges from the Christchurch Beautifying Association and must meet certain criteria. Certificates are awarded and presented at a formal function. The cost in this Board's area to present 37 certificates in Shirley and 46 in Papanui is approximately \$1,000. This includes afternoon tea and printing of certificates. It does not include the cost of employing a person to organise the whole process throughout the city.

### OPTIONS FOR RECOGNISING NON-COMPETITIVE GARDENS

The suggestion that Certificates of Appreciation be given to property owners/occupiers has considerable merit. Many people do add to the streetscape of their area through their hard work in keeping their gardens tidy. Often this may be in a street where not all properties receive the same attention. Those who do have well kept gardens can be an inspiration and encouragement to others in the street. Many of these gardeners put in the effort for their own enjoyment and pride in their homes.

### Options

Certificates could be granted using a mix of the following options:

The Board could of its own accord provide a Certificate of Appreciation to properties identified throughout the year that is not linked to the formal garden judging times for other competitions. Properties would be recommended for a certificate which would simply be posted or delivered to the home or:

- The same process as above followed but only be undertaken at the time of the annual competitions.
- Residents, staff or Board members could identify properties worthy of receiving a certificate and refer to staff to post out.
- All properties – whether identified by staff, Board members, or other residents be referred to the Parks Officer to have the final say.
- Certificates printed with words of appreciation but no name or address. This would simplify the process and enable the certificate to be delivered to the letterbox and recognise the resident or tenant.

## **Cost**

The cost of the above would be minimal say \$300 - \$400 to print sufficient to last two years. This would, however, depend on the numbers handed out.

## **Criteria**

To retain some merit in receiving a certificate some basic criteria may need to be set. For instance, the garden should in some way stand out over and above the average home garden. The garden should also add to the streetscape. Gardens which were not visible from the street would not be considered.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board agrees to providing a Certificate of Appreciation to properties where it is identified considerable effort has been required to establish and maintain a garden which adds to the streetscape.
  2. That a process be agreed on identification of properties and criteria established.
  3. That a grant be approved from the 2000/2001 Discretionary Fund of up to \$400 to design and print certificates.

## **Chairperson's**

### **Recommendation:**

1. That the officer's recommendation be adopted.
2. That consideration be given to reviewing the standard required for Community Pride Awards.
3. That a Working Party of three Board members be appointed to select suitable gardens and that they make selections twice a year with the aim of encouraging residents' pride in the area.