

## 11. STREET AND GARDEN AWARDS

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The purpose of this report is to provide Board members with the results from this year's awards.

Members will be aware that the Community Pride Garden Award Scheme is a Council initiative to acknowledge the contribution made to the Garden City image of Christchurch by many private residential properties. Gardens are selected for these awards as part of the street competition, which is a partnership between the Christchurch City Council and Christchurch Beautifying Association. The assessments are undertaken during the months of December and January and are based on a non-pointed criteria as outlined below:

- Evidence of effort or improvements made to garden and effect on street.
- Overall tidiness of property/garden and evidence of community pride.
- Horticultural/landscape impact of garden on street.

The owners of gardens selected are presented with a certificate, which acknowledges the effort, and contribution made by the residents to maintaining the Garden City image of Christchurch. Alternatively, householders who wish to enter into garden competitions may do so by entering one of the competitions run by the Canterbury Horticultural or Beautifying Association.

This year there were 27 certificates awarded in Pegasus and 38 in Burwood (36 and 54 last year).

For the first time, the organising of the awards was contracted out to the Christchurch Beautifying Association. Chairman, Mr David Moyle, reports on the citywide situation:

*“This year has been very testing for the gardener with most unseasonable weather patterns and an increase of disease. The overcast conditions provided judges the luxury of viewing streets which all had a green look instead of the normal brown. Once again it came down to the fact if the residents took that extra bit of care good gardens could be achieved.*

*This year being the start of the new Millennium it was decided to deviate from the normal policy of having previous winners at both Ward and Premier level stand down for one year.*

*Ben Nevis Drive retained its placing as the Premier Long Street and the garden of Mr and Mrs G Hart at 6 Ben Nevis Drive was judged to be the Most Attractive Garden in the Premier Streets. The Premier Cul de Sac was won for the first time by Cottesmore Close. For several years the judges had commented that this cul de sac had the potential to be a future Premier winner. Both these streets received very high marks for ‘Community Pride’. The Premier Short Street was Rutherglen Avenue.*

*Overall, the longer streets gained more points than the shorter streets. Outside plantings continue to decline at a rapid rate. Five years ago 70 streets were inspected but this year only 15 streets were considered. However the winner Fairford Street set an extremely high standard and had encouraged another garden to join the group. Ben Nevis Drive has also increased the numbers of residents who presented outside plantings.*

*Memorial Avenue continues to become less horticulturally attractive. The dilution of standards is also to be seen in Main South Road, Yaldhurst Road and Main North Road. However it is the winning residential gardens which continue to maintain a very high standard. The Non Residential Section on the Main North Road reached a level which had not been seen for a number of years.*

*This year some 500 Community Pride Garden Certificates were awarded. Recipients were very pleased to receive them and appreciated the efforts being made by the various Community Boards and Beautifying Association to acknowledge their efforts. I wish to thank the 'disciples' for all the time and effort they put into making these selections. My thanks to the Chairman, members of the association, councillors and council staff who continue to provide the necessary support."*

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

**Chairperson's**

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Community Pride Garden Awards Scheme be expanded in the Burwood/Pegasus area.
  2. That a category for native gardens be introduced to the garden awards.