

10. THOMSON PARK - CONSULTATION ON PLANTING PLAN

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Corporate Plan Output: Park Woodlot Replacement Park Plans and Policy Statements Community Relations pg 6.1.2	

The purpose of this report is to update members on consultation undertaken on the proposed replanting plan to be undertaken when trees are removed from around the playground.

Members will be aware that the Parks and Recreation Committee at its April meeting endorsed the Parks Unit's concept felling and landscape plan, including the replacement planting operations, subject to final consultation on a final planting plan. The Council at its 26 April meeting additionally decided that no felling begin until public consultation has been undertaken.

A planting plan proposal was put to a meeting of local residents and others interested in this proposal on Monday 15 May. The North New Brighton Residents' Association had advertised this meeting to the 1,600 households in its area and invitations had been sent to all persons who had previously been involved or had made submissions.

Approximately 20 people were present at the meeting. A cross-section of the community were there, with some people still adamantly against the felling of the trees and others there to have the felling confirmed.

After much discussion, the placement of and numbers of macrocarpas were confirmed, with the type of underplanted natives to be confirmed on Saturday 20 May when Coast Care offered to show residents plants currently growing nearby so that residents were aware of their form, colour, height, spread etc. The results from this site meeting will be tabled at the Board meeting. If this final consultation confirms the plants to be used, then this will allow the Parks Unit to undertake the felling and subsequent operations, immediately tenders are called and other arrangements made. It is hoped that work can start before the end of June.

Other comments put forward at the meeting were:

- That matagouri should not be placed on the edge of plots or near the playground.
- Pingao may not prove to be suitable.
- Karo and Manuka could be used.
- A 'nurse crop' of ngaio was favoured, so long as these were managed well and removed when appropriate.
- Introduce Pohutakawa and other colourful exotics later, once the main planting had established.
- Large specimens to be used if possible.
- That it not be lost sight of that the area was primarily used for children and families.

Coast Care staff described the plants and their suitability, while other Parks staff outlined the felling and subsequent operations. General enquiries on the overall landscape plan for the playground, skate area etc, and how the area will be maintained were also answered.

Some very good ideas regarding suitable uses for the felled timber were put forward and will be taken into account. Consultation with interested residents will continue.

It was agreed by Parks staff that the contract for felling and clearing would include retention of some of the wood for use at Thomson Park.

Another idea submitted by telephone after the meeting by two residents was for the planting of a limited number of Norfolk Island Pines in the area. This is in accordance with previous resolutions of the Board (to trial these trees along the foreshore), and is supported by Parks staff as a trial.

The amendments resulting from the 15 May 2000 meeting will be incorporated into the replanting.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

**Chairperson's
Recommendation:** For discussion.