

## 2. JAMELL PLACE SILVER BIRCH TREES

<b>Officer responsible</b> Parks Manager	<b>Author</b> Anne Cosson, Area Parks Officer
Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 3.1 text 6	

The purpose of this report is to request that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board make a recommendation to City Services Committee for a final decision, concerning the silver birch trees in Jamell Place.

### BACKGROUND

A request was made last year concerning the removal of the silver birch trees in Jamell Place. At the end of the consultation process the Community Board and the City Services Committee resolved to retain the silver birch trees in Jamell Place.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board was approached in April this year by some residents of Jamell Place. The residents asked the Board to consider removing some of the silver birches and replacing them. The residents presented a plan showing which trees they would like removed. Their plan showed the removal of eight silver birches, and an increase of claret ashes from seven to eleven trees (plan attached – Plan 1).

The Community Board requested that Council staff go back to residents in the street and ask them to consider the proposal of removing some silver birch trees. The plan produced by the Parks Unit Arboriculturist varies from the plan presented to the Community Board by the local residents. The plan takes into consideration residents who wanted to retain their trees outside their property. It also takes into consideration trees that have been planted too close together, trees that are in poor health, and trees that are a large distance away from homes (plan attached – Plan 2).

### RESULTS FROM LETTERBOX DROP

1. I support the proposed plan (8 households supported, 2 households were from Denley Gardens).
2. I don't support the proposed plan (9 households supported).
  - (a) I would like the silver birch trees to remain (9 households supported, 2 households from Denley Gardens).
  - (b) I would like all the silver birch trees removed and replaced (2 households supported).
3. Submitter asked for Denley Gardens not to be included in survey.

### RECENT STORM DAMAGE

During the October storms seven trees were damaged and completely removed.

Plan 3 shows the position of the trees lost. The trees lost were one silver birch and six claret ashes.

There are now only two claret ashes left in the street. The claret ashes outside number 16 has been marked for removal. The tree is not in the best of health. The resident at 16 has requested that the tree be pruned and left for a few years. Especially since the loss of the other trees in the street.

The Parks Unit Arboriculturist has recommended that the claret ashes be replaced with fraxiumas (manor ash).

The Parks Unit does not support the removal of healthy trees. All trees drop leaves, litter and many trees, grasses and pollutions can cause asthma.

The reduction of silver birches may alleviate some of their problems but replacement trees will also drop leaves.

**Recommendation:** That the silver birch trees remain and the claret ashes damaged in the storm be replaced with fraxiumas (manor ash) and that the residents be advised accordingly.

**Chairperson's Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be supported and that it be referred to the City Services Committee of Council for their consideration and decision.