

## 14. SYMES DRAIN ENHANCEMENT

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of enhancement possibilities for Symes Drain along Garrick Park (privately owned), in Woolston Workingmen's Club Ground.

Symes Drain is a utility waterway draining part of Garrick Park and residential land to the north. The Club relocated the drain, which flowed through the centre of its proposed park, in 1958 to provide clear space for the park. It is about 1m deep with steep sides, 2m from the residential properties on the north side of the park. There has been a past history of crumbling banks, which were constructed too steeply, against the advice of the Drainage Board. In 1989 responsibility for the drain was taken over by the Drainage Board.

A Landscape Architect employed by the Council has had discussions with the Clubs representative regarding the length adjacent to the cricket pitch. In this area the club is reluctant to provide sufficient space to allow for stable bank slopes, that are a requirement of any sustainable enhancement. They requested the Council supply plants to obscure the drain from view. At that time agreement was reached to supply plants, provided they were planted more than 1m away from the edge of the drain. This would allow for future enhancement of this reach. With the reduction in funding for work of this nature, and a change in policy, the planting will require the legal protection of an esplanade strip before Council supplies the plants. This will allow for work to be undertaken in the future when more land can be made available for enhancement.

At the lower end, near Ferry Rd, there is sufficient space to allow for reshaping of the banks to a more stable slope. If enhancement work is to be undertaken, this is area could be used to show the club an example of what could be achieved if they can provide the space required along the rest of the drain. Generally 7m as opposed to the present 3m is required to achieve a sustainable outcome for the drain. Near Ferry Rd, 95m of enhancement could be undertaken at a cost of \$15,000, if the Club is prepared to plant and maintain the plants. It would be possible to undertake this work in 2001/2002. Staff will continue discussions with the club to achieve the best outcome for both Council and the Club.

**Recommendation:** That the Board supports the enhancement of Symes Drain in Garrick Park.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted.