

19. PURCHASE OF RESERVE – LAING CRESCENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements and New Assets – Reserve Purchases.	

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Council the purchase of a section for a local reserve in Laing Crescent. The report has been referred to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board. The Board supported the proposal at its meeting on 6 September 2000.

INTRODUCTION

Laing Crescent has progressively been extended through subsequent subdivision over a number of years which resulted in the Council securing Lot 8 DP 52894 as a local reserve by way of reserve fund contribution. On presentation of the latest subdivision plan in 1999 (copy attached) the opportunity to secure an additional two lots, one by way of reserve fund contribution (Lot 7) and a further section by way of purchase (Lot 6) was taken in order to provide the following:

1. A linkage to Ferrymead.
2. Development of a potential future walkway system from the end of Laing Crescent to link up with the adjoining properties and streets.
3. A reserve of sufficient size to meet the local recreational needs.

It is intended to extend the reserve further once the adjoining land is subdivided at which time the revocation of the reservation over Lot 8 will be actioned and the section sold. In this regard it should be noted that it was previously recommended that Lot 8 be sold. However, the Council's Resource Management Committee was not prepared to support any further minor variations to the City Plan at the time because variations were holding up the completion of the City Plan. In addition, opposition was received from a number of local residents to the proposal to sell the existing reserve without a new reserve first being provided for. At that stage the Parks Unit decided that the extra cost of pursuing a private resource consent in the face of local opposition was not tenable, especially if it could not guarantee the residents a viable park alternative in the immediate future.

The acquisition of Lot 6 will partially satisfy the residents concerned and with the provision of additional land from the adjoining property when it is subdivided the way will be made clear to dispose of Lot 8 subject to the Reserves Act requirements being satisfied.

VALUATION

The section was valued on the Council's behalf by Ford Baker and agreement has been reached with the owner to acquire Lot 6 on the terms and conditions contained in the public excluded section of this report.

CONCLUSION - OBJECTIVES

The long-term objective of the Parks Unit is to create a better local community reserve and walkway system connecting up a series of small properties off Port Hills Road. The final reserve will provide for improved aesthetics, drainage enhancement, children's play, and possibly a connection with Ferrymead Park. The proposed purchase is the first stage in achieving these objectives.

Recommendation: That Lot 6 DP 82347 be acquired for a recreation reserve pursuant to Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 on the terms contained in the public excluded section of this report.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.