

## 9. CHARLESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the progress of the Charleston Neighbourhood Plan.

Following initial discussions with the Charleston Neighbourhood Committee, a special edition of the 'Our Environment' newsletter was sent to residents and stakeholders in the area. The newsletter discussed some of the issues in the area, Council projects, and opportunities for the area. A feedback form was enclosed for comments. Approximately 20 of the feedback forms were returned and an additional 20 phone calls and letters received in response to the newsletter.

Following this a public meeting was held at Jade Stadium to discuss some of the issues that had been raised and possible responses to them. A number of Council staff attended to answer questions and provide further information. Approximately 50 people attended this meeting.

Council staff then prepared display material outlining possible traffic management alternatives, opportunities to improve the amenity of Charleston and other ideas and information, in response to concerns that had been brought to the attention of Council and as a result of staff investigations. A Neighbourhood Plan display day was held on 12 May in the Leyden Street church hall. Proposals for the area and general ideas were generally well received with approximately 60 people attending the display. Many of the attendees had not been to previous meetings. The material was then displayed in the Phillipstown Community Centre for those people unable to attend the display day.

Given the impact that a change in traffic management could have on the businesses in the area and the lack of response from business owners in the area to date, it was decided to take a more direct approach to consult with them.

A letter was sent to Charleston business owners with one of the concepts, the most severe proposal, included, and the opportunity to meet with Council staff collectively or individually for discussion given. The letter elicited a strong response and staff since have met with business owners in the area.

It became clear to staff that the concerns of the residents and needs of the businesses were at odds in Charleston. Therefore a public meeting was held on 18 July to discuss the traffic management issues. The purpose of the meeting was to try and achieve an overall traffic management scheme that would satisfy all of the interested parties. Through the Charleston consultation process traffic management has been the key issue in need of resolution. The meeting provided an opportunity for differences in opinion to be voiced and responded to. The turnout was very good with approximately 70 people, representative of the stakeholder groups, attending.

In addition to issues surrounding the physical aspects of traffic management, enforcement was of particular concern in regard to speed, hoons, and parking during events at Jade Stadium. While traffic management issues can be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan, Council officers will tackle the enforcement issues through other means.

With consensus reached at the public meeting in regard to the traffic management initiatives, a draft plan has been prepared for discussion. The plan includes arts initiatives, the kerb and channel renewal programme, possible designs for the individual streets, parks improvements, ways in which the community can take ownership of the area and improve it, and other useful information.

The Plan will be tabled at the Committee meeting and staff will be available to answer any queries.

### **Chairman's**

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