

8. SANDOWN CRESCENT/CARISBROOKE STREET PEDESTRIAN ACCESSWAY

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Corporate Plan Output: Safety Improvements 9.5.90	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of progress on the request for the closure of the pedestrian accessway in Sandown Crescent, Aranui.

BACKGROUND

The Board will recall the report presented to the Community Board at the 30 October 2000 meeting, in which Mr Mike Heslin of 50 Sandown Crescent, Aranui, requested that the pedestrian accessway adjacent to this property be closed. Mr Heslin had expressed concern for the condition and use of the accessway.

The pedestrian accessway (the land) is held as State housing land and, by virtue of the Housing Restructuring Act 1992, ownership was vested in Housing NZ, although the land is controlled and managed by the Christchurch City Council. However, due to an oversight the land ownership was not vesting in the Council at the time of the subdivision. Housing NZ is agreeable to completing this action and will meet the transfer costs.

A similar accessway at the other end of Sandown Crescent was closed on 1 December 1994 due to anti-social behaviour occurring in the area and because it was not considered necessary to have two servicing the same area.

The Police at New Brighton have not received any reports of criminal activity in the pedestrian link and are of the view that it is probably in the public interest that the pedestrian link remains open to provide access between Carisbrooke Street and Sandown Crescent.

This accessway provides a facility for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between Sandown Crescent and Carisbrooke Street, two schools, a recreation playground and residential properties in the area.

The Council has formed a partnership with Housing NZ to investigate initiatives to enhance the Aranui area. From a City Streets perspective and bearing in mind the "Living Streets" charter where there is more emphasis on people, it would be unwise to close this accessway until the outcomes of the partnership are known. Housing NZ, as a major property owner in this area, supports the retention of the accessway at this stage.

The local power distribution authority Orion has identified that a 11kva power cable is located in this accessway connecting Carisbrooke Street to Sandown Crescent.

SURVEY

To gauge the use of this facility a pedestrian count was carried out on Thursday 14 September 2000, between the hours of 8am to 4pm, and recorded that 52 adults and children travelled in either direction.

A questionnaire was also distributed to the wider community to identify the use of this facility. From a distribution of 74 questionnaires, 27 replies were received. Of these, 78% agreed to the closing of the accessway while 19% disagreed with a closure; 63% of the responses did not use the accessway while 33% did; 26% of the responses who used the accessway lived in Sandown Crescent and 7% lived in Carisbrooke Street.

CONCLUSION

The accessway serves as a connection for the communities of Corhampton Street, Ventnor Crescent, Carisbrooke Street and Sandown Crescent. It also provides access to a recreation playground, one of the few green spaces in Aranui, and schools in the area. Many of the residents in the area do not own cars and appreciate the network of foot and cycle accesses throughout Aranui. Although some residents do not support the retention of this accessway it does provide an important link in this area. These links may well form an important element in the combined Christchurch City Council/Housing NZ enhancement project in Aranui.

The City Streets Unit does not support the closure of this accessway at this time, as it provides an important link for the residents of the area and should remain open as an intricate part of the city "Living Streets" theme.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board support the retention of the pedestrian accessway between Sandown Crescent and Carisbrooke Street at this time.
 2. That pedestrian accessway (the land) ownership be vested in the Christchurch City Council.

Chairperson's Recommendation: For discussion.