

## 23. STREET AND GARDEN AWARDS

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the purpose of the street and garden awards scheme, and to present an extension to the Elderly Persons' Housing (EPH) and Commercial Awards for consideration.

### BACKGROUND

The Street and Garden Awards scheme is a joint venture between the Christchurch City Council and Christchurch Beautifying Association, the purpose of which is to foster community pride and encourage city residents in maintaining attractive garden and street frontages, footpath berms and other efforts to enhance their street and neighbourhood and the city's garden image. The scheme has been in existence for close on 50 years and is run by a joint committee comprised of representatives from both organisations.

### STREET AND GARDEN AWARDS

Awards are issued for the most attractive streets and cul-de-sac in each of the six Community Board areas (first, second and third placings) and also, under the Community Pride Garden Awards section, certificates are issued for the most attractive gardens as viewed from the street in each Board area.

There are also awards for the city's premier long street, premier short street and premier cul-de-sac (selected from the Community Board area winners); an award for the most attractive garden among the premier streets; awards for the most attractive three or more adjoining street frontages, and awards for the most attractive gardens as viewed from the street in each of the city's "gateways", namely Memorial Avenue, Main North Road, Main South Road and Yaldhurst Road. This year, Ferry Road has been included as a "gateway".

Judging and selection of streets and gardens is advertised in advance through the local newspapers, judging then being undertaken by experienced members of the Beautifying Association during January and early February with final announcements by about mid February. Community Pride Garden certificates are distributed by Board members during March.

It is important to note that the Street and Garden Awards scheme is quite separate from the garden **competitions** run by the Beautifying Association and various other organisations. The essential difference is that in the case of garden competitions, garden owners who tend to be relatively skilled in gardening techniques enter their garden in the appropriate competition class and are subject to quite specific criteria. This is not the case with the Street and Garden Awards scheme which, as indicated earlier, is aimed at recognising the efforts of as many residents as possible irrespective of their gardening skills or desire for competition. These assessments are undertaken during the months of December and January and are based on a non-pointed criteria as outlined below:

- Evidence of effort or improvements made to garden and effect on street.
- Overall tidiness of property/garden and evidence of community pride.
- Horticultural/landscape impact of garden on street.

The Board's representative to the Christchurch Beautifying Society is Linda Rutland, who assists with the final street judging; Liz McRostie assists with the EPH and Commercial judging.

Over the past few years, approximately 50 certificates were awarded in Hagley and 40 in Ferrymead . (500 city-wide).

Last year, Board members were concerned about a general decline in gardening standards made worse by the trend for more high front fences.

### ELDERLY PERSONS HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL AWARDS

Members will be aware that the Board has supported this extension to the Metropolitan scheme since 1992. This is the only Board to do so. A prize giving afternoon tea for recipients is held in March or April each year. Last year, Board member, Linda Rutland proposed an extra extension which drew a number of positive responses from the Board.

This extension is proposed as:

**1. Elderly Persons Housing**

To extend the competition so a new class “Public Rental” is established to encompass all those other housing units which are occupied by other than elderly, some of which are in the same complexes as the EPH units, some separate. This idea is particularly important now that the City Council does not generally have complexes specifically for the elderly. Most are mixed.

**2. Commercial**

To extend the programme to include an educational element, ie to approach businesses that **could** be beautified and encourage those businesses to either tidy up existing gardens or to put in gardens where there is room. It is proposed to trial this if Board members agree, as to attempt to do this over the whole Board area would be prohibitive at this stage.

There are large areas of industrial and commercial activity in the wards, especially the central city. Members may have suggestions, but I propose that the Ferry Road ‘gateway’, and the inner city around the Arts Centre would be a starting point for a trial.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board allocate \$800 from its 2000/2001 Discretionary Funds towards the Street and Garden Awards.
  2. That the Board allocate \$400 from its 2000/2001 Discretionary Funds towards the trial education element for commercial areas.

**Chairman’s**

**Recommendation:** That the recommendations be adopted.