

6. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
REPORT OF 13 DECEMBER 2000**

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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environmental Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2000.

The meeting was attended by Alison Wilkie (Chairperson), Mary Corbett, Neville Bennett, David Buist and Mike Mora. Bob Shearing was also in attendance.

In attendance were Martin Maguire (Community Advocate), Anne Cosson (Area Parks Officer) and Roger Cave (Community Secretary).

1. DEPUTATIONS

1.1 Ross Verity, Environmental Education and Employment Trust

In his capacity as Business Manager for the Trust, Ross Verity gave a presentation on the worm farm project, currently being conducted at a site in Wigram.

Waste disposal is a large and increasing problem; the majority of the waste stream is organic material.

The Trust is working towards an integrated and financially viable solution through the establishment of a worm farm.

It was **agreed** that the Board schedule an inspection of the Trust's facility in the new year.

1.2 Fiona Hill and Tony Oliver, Potential Variation to the City Plan on Flooding Issues.

A full presentation was given on the proposed variation to the City Plan which will identify areas where a minimum floor level rule may apply for new housing.

Large sections of the urban areas of Christchurch are susceptible to inundation as a result of flooding both from river systems as well as from the sea.

In order to assess the most appropriate means to manage the effects associated with flooding the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury have developed detailed flood plan management strategies.

Climatic change effects were also being investigated.

Increased/higher minimum floor levels are a practical and economic method to mitigate the effects of inundation in most events.

On behalf of the Community Board the Committee **agreed** to support the discussion document "Proposed Variation to the City Plan on Flooding Issues in Christchurch, November 2000".

2. PRESENTATION OF RESERVE LANDSCAPE PLANS

Anne Cosson and Craig Benson (Landscape Design Consultant) presented plans for various sites:

- Mandeville Reserve
- Peer Street Reserve
- Picton Avenue Reserve
- Denton Park (Kathleen Crescent) Trees and Enhancement

It was agreed that an inspection of sites would be undertaken on the afternoon of Tuesday 23 January 2001, as a prelude to Project Fund (2001/02) consideration.

This Committee had recommended that the Community Board allocated \$5,000 to the grounds maintenance and landscape development at the Hei Hei Multicultural Centre, to be funded from the Community Environment Fund.

Subsequent to the Committee meeting the Community Advocate has been able to secure these funds from the Property Manager and a contractor has commenced the ground tidy up of the site.

3. HERITAGE RESEARCHER/WRITER

The meeting was advised that Dr Suzanne Doig had been appointed to this position, and would take up her appointment in early January.

4. JAMELL PLACE STREET TREE MEDIATION

Following the Special Meeting of the Board, on 14 November 2000, the Community Advocate has talked to the arbitrator about the Jamell Place mediation.

The need to clarify the “objective” of the mediation was sought from the members.

The objective could be seen to be either an attempt to heal the division of the residents over the street trees, or to obtain a compromise/agreed solution to the street trees.

In view of recent “street tree processes/decisions” made, the Committee had concerns about the community consultation process and whether the agreed outcomes could then be guaranteed to receive the appropriate support by the City Services Committee.

The Committee had recommended the following:

1. That the Community Board withdraw the decision to have an arbitrator mediate with the residents on the Jamell Place trees; and
2. That the City Services Committee be asked to assume the responsibility of this issue, on the basis that the Community Board initiated mediation could well be a waste of time, energy and funding in that the Board and community would have no control over the final outcome.

These recommendations were considered at the emergency meeting of the Community Board on 22 December 2000. The Community Board **decided**:

1. Mediation take place with the residents of Jamell Place.
2. The Board meet with representatives of the City Services Street Tree Sub-Committee to agree the process for the resolution of this issue.
3. That City Streets Unit be asked to contribute to the costs of this mediation.
4. Following the outcome of the Jamell Place mediation, the Community Board prepare a paper (to the Strategy and Resources Committee) on the question of delegated responsibilities currently given to Community Boards.

The Community Advocate will give an update on this at today’s meeting (a copy of his letter to the Chairperson of the City Services Committee is attached for members information).

Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the information be received.