

6. CAMBRIDGE GREEN RESERVE

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on the landscape plan and recent consultation for Cambridge Green Reserve.

BACKGROUND

In 1995 the triangular piece of land at the Barbadoes/Salisbury Street intersection was purchased for reserve. It was named Cambridge Green Reserve in 2000 after consultation with local residents group(s) and the community board. A landscape plan was prepared by City Solutions staff for the new reserve and after an extended period of consultation the plan is now ready for implementation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESERVE

After consulting with Ngai Tahu, a runanga management committee was formed to advise on the design of the reserve and how its significance to Maori could be highlighted. Ngai Tahu regard this site as extremely significant due to its situation at the junction of the Avon River and St Mary's Stream. The junction is the site of the pa of a noted chief, Tautahi, from whom Otautahi/Christchurch is named. The water from St Mary's Stream was used in blessing the marriage of Tautahi to a Waitaha princess Te Auru in the late 17th or early 18th century, thus consolidating bonds between families of Kaiapoi and Koukourarata/Port Levy (or, from another perspective, between Ngai Tahu and Waitaha). The stream has great significance because of the wairua (spirit) of the water and the historical linkage with the noble, Tautahi.

St Mary's Stream was piped under Salisbury Street in the early days of European occupation, and this has been a long-standing grievance to Maori. The reserve development plan includes the diversion of a section of the pipe to an open waterway in the reserve. This, and the City's respect for the site, is seen as a significant move toward healing the grievance and demonstrating a bond of understanding between the Christchurch City Council and Maori.

FEATURES OF THE DESIGN

A significant feature proposed for the reserve is the erection of four *pou* which have been designed by George Edwards, a respected local carver appointed by Te Runanga ki Otautahi. The carvings will be crafted by skilled carvers who are inmates at Paparua Prison under the tutelage of Mr Edwards. It is likely that these will be installed over time, once the development works of the site have been completed. Funding for these carvings will need to be worked through. The central pou haki, estimated to cost between \$100 000 – \$120 000 is likely to be the most expensive of the four carvings, with the others costing between \$12 000 and \$23 000.

The central *pou haki*, is proposed to be a prominent, central monument and focal point for the site. Three smaller *pou* are proposed for the three corners of the site, celebrating ancestral, historical and environmental values respectively. The value of these *pou* must be appreciated with regard to the site's history and the healing of relationships which has commenced between Te Runanga ki Otautahi and the Council.

Comment received from earlier consultation clearly supported the idea of water flowing through the reserve. This concept was developed as part of the former Waterways and Wetlands team's desire to "daylight" an existing drain that runs down Salisbury Street to the Avon River. It highlights the existence of a waterway which has excellent flow and but which is only apparent where it spills into the Avon River from an historic brick barrel outfall. It is proposed that the water will be diverted from the brick barrel drain (which currently is hidden under Salisbury Street) by way of a pipe in to the reserve. An open waterway with riparian planting will become a feature of the reserve before being channelled back into the brick barrel drain beneath the riverbank and splashing down in to the Avon as it currently does. It is not proposed to modify the historic outfall at all, as discussion with Heritage Planner, Jenny May, indicated that the brick barrel outfall should remain as an important heritage feature of the area.

A sitting area with mounding and planting as a buffer to Barbadoes Street traffic will be formed within the reserve. Liaison with cycleway planning staff has resulted in a wide path skirting the edge of the reserve rather than running through it. It was seen as undesirable to have the shared path separating the reserve from the riverbank.

Interpretation is also planned for the reserve and will highlight the significant heritage of the area. It is close to the Barbadoes Street Cemetery, the Bricks Landing area and the site that was Tautahi's Pa. The reserve will be an ideal site to continue the heritage trail that has already been marked along the Avon River by way of interpretation panels and with the carvings, engineering and landscape works proposed will make this a fascinating destination.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Further consultation on the details of the project is under way with the Avon Loop Planning Association and the Moa Residents' Group, which are the residents' groups in the immediate area. In particular, time has been spent with the runanga management committee set up specifically for this project. The Carter Group has also been involved in discussion of the proposal.

It is expected that before any work starts a ceremony will take place on the land. However, prior to the ceremony it would be desirable to bring all the parties involved in the project together to hear first hand the details of the project and, in particular, the cultural significance of the site.

Park and Waterways staff feel that before Christmas, a morning tea could be held bringing local residents, business groups, the Runanga Working Party, staff and community board members together as a way of forging relationships in the area. It is suggested that the Hagley/Ferrymead Advocacy Team could organise this, with a welcome provided by the Board chair.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Parks and Waterways Unit has \$120,000 in 2001/02 to carry out the proposed landscape works according to the attached plan. Work is likely to begin in April 2002. The carving and installation of the pou presently has no funding, but can occur over time as funding is sourced. It would, however, be desirable for the first central pouhaki to be placed in the reserve soon after the development works have been completed.

CONCLUSION

The landscape plan for Cambridge Green Reserve has been endorsed by local residents' groups and runanga. Further consultation is occurring on the finer details of the proposal. It is intended that the reserve will be fully developed by the end of 2001/02 financial year and that four pou will be installed over time on the reserve to highlight its importance.

This report, which has been prepared for the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board, has been referred to this Committee in regard to its approval of the endorsement of the concept of the four pou and the retention of the heritage values of the brick barrel drain.

As it is understood that there is no urgency with the matter, the Committee may wish to return it to the Art Works in Public Places Working Party.

Chairman's

Recommendation: For discussion.