

12. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF 12 MARCH 2002**

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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2002.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett (Chairperson), Mike Mora, Lesley Keast, and Ken Cummings.

Bob Shearing was also present; an apology was received from Paddy Austin.

1. NATIVE TREES PLEASE!

On behalf of the project organising committee, Ms Ali Taylor-Hayhurst was in attendance to discuss this (year) 2000 initiative, and to seek some funding for information panel work at our Board site, Westmorland East Valley Reserve.

Native Trees Please! is a planting project based on the concept of re-establishing representative New Zealand native plant species that originally existed on the various flood plain surfaces throughout what is now Christchurch City. One of the aims has been to develop city-wide 'living museums' of plant life and associated ecosystems that will also add to the city's landscape heritage and provide a valuable educational resource for schools, other institutions and the general public, benefiting both present and future generations. The plan envisaged having one site with the appropriate underlying soil type, selected within each of the city's six community board areas and to plant a total of 2000 trees (symbolizing the year 2000) at each site.

The original concept was developed through a series of meetings of interested groups and individuals commencing in 1997.

Council staff to develop plans of action including the sourcing of native trees, the preparation and planting of sites, the involvement of the wider community, and the staging of the planting itself throughout the year 2000.

Achieving these outcomes included site visits, the preparation of design and planting plans for each site, the development of a communication plan, the promotion of the event to various schools and community groups and organizing the planting days for the participants.

Westmorland East Valley Reserve

This planting, held on a Sunday in August 2000, was family orientated with families from the local rotary club and residents association taking part. Both these groups have had involvement with this site in the past. There was a large turnout on the day, much enjoyed by all and with over 2000 trees being planted.

As with any planting project the success of Native Trees Please! in the longer term, will in large measure depend on the commitment of adequate resources including funding, technical skills, and the interest and commitment of local communities including the schools.

One element in the project for which sufficient funds were not available was the provision of on-site information/interpretation. This was always seen as an integral part of Native Trees Please! as a means of permanently explaining to the public the long term goals, nature and function of each site, at the same time signalling its importance as a Turning Point 2000 Millennium Project.

This site interpretation is envisaged as being in the nature of information panels, suitably sited and affixed, and containing text, diagrams, photographs and the like, covering for example information on site history, flora and fauna, and conservation and ecological values pertaining to each site.

- Recommendations:**
1. That subject to all details including costs of the interpretation panels proposed for each site being satisfactory to the Board, the installation of these be approved, at Westmorland East Valley Reserve.
 2. That an amount of \$1,840 be provided, from 2001/02 Environment Committee Project Funds to place the interpretation panels.

2. UPPER RICCARTON DOMAIN - UPDATE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the intention to consult the local community on the proposed changes to the frontage of Upper Riccarton Domain as well as updating the community on progress with the Riccarton Domain Tennis Club's application for a lease extension.

Council Funding for the Relocation of the Winter Domain Bowling Club

Board members will recall that Riccarton Racecourse Bowling Club and the Winter Bowling Club presented a proposal to the Board in December 2001 whereby the Winter Bowling Club would surrender their existing lease on Upper Riccarton Domain.

The relocation was conditional on Council providing financial assistance to the full amount requested in the proposal. The clubs have been advised that Council has secured the total amount of financial assistance requested and it is now available subject to the conditions listed below.

1. That all Council funding commitments to be held by Council until such time the Clubs have made all the necessary financial, legal and lease arrangements to be able to undertake and complete the development
2. The Riccarton Racecourse Bowling Club and the Riccarton Domain Winter Bowling Club raise sufficient funds to fully complete the project and obtain any necessary lease extensions, Statutory Consents and approvals to undertake the development.
3. The Riccarton Domain Winter Bowling Club surrendering their existing lease on Upper Riccarton Domain once they are in a position to proceed with the development and the area to be retained as freely available public open space.
4. The Club may remove any improvements from their existing leased area at their cost prior to surrendering their lease and there shall be no compensation or contribution to the Club by Council for any improvements to the leased area once surrendered.
5. All approvals including any Council Funding commitments to be withdrawn if the development is not completed within 2 years of when the Councils full funding commitment is available.
6. That the above Council commitments are the full and final Council contribution in respect of this project.

The Clubs are now working through the process in obtaining approvals for lease extension at the Riccarton Racecourse site as well as securing funding for their financial commitment.

Community Consultation

The situation has changed significantly since the original consultation regarding the Tennis Club's application was undertaken in August 2001. At that time the Tennis Clubs proposal had significant impact on the park and required changes to the lay out of existing sports fields. A number of local residents were opposed to the Tennis Clubs application.

The Parks and Waterways Unit believes that the proposed relocation of the Winter Bowling Club provides an opportunity to reach a compromise on the opposing views within the community regarding the Tennis Clubs application.

The Parks and Waterways Unit would like to hold a Public Meeting to present the current proposal to the community. This will enable elected members to gauge the feeling of local residents and receive community feedback prior to the Tennis Clubs application for a lease extension coming to the Board for a decision.

Conclusion

Staff at the Sockburn Service Centre have received calls from local residents in last few days following media reports on proposed changes to the park frontage and relocation of the Winter Bowling Club appearing in local papers.

The Tennis Clubs application has been on hold awaiting the outcome of the Bowling Club proposal, however they will naturally be keen to progress the matter following the positive response to the Bowling Clubs proposal. Given that the situation has changed significantly it is an appropriate time to go back to the community so that the matter can be resolved.

The public meeting will also be a good opportunity to advise residents of the tree assessment that is currently being undertaken to look at the long term suitability of all the trees on the park.

Committee Deliberation

A full discussion ensued on this report.

A recommendation from Helen Broughton that "the report lay upon the table" (at this time) **lapsed** through no seconder.

However the following recommendations were then promoted.

1. That the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate expedite the surrender of the lease from the Upper Riccarton Domain Winter Bowling Club back to Council.
2. That the Community Recreation Adviser be requested to measure the Yaldhurst Road frontage of the Domain, regarding it being able to accommodate the siting of an additional tennis court; to be reported to the Committee.

3. PROJECT FUNDS (2001/02) ALLOCATED TO THIS COMMITTEE

The Committee had \$50,000 available, as at 1 July 2000.

Board approvals to date are:

	\$
• 5 September 2001, Avonhead Basketball Facility, Crosbie Park, half share	15,000
• 30 January 2002, Upper Riccarton Domain Winter Bowling Club, relocation	20,000
• 27 February 2002, Community Pride Garden Awards, presentations	2,000
• (Recommended), 12 March 2002, Native Trees Interpretation Panel, Westmorland East Valley Reserve	1,840
Balance	<u>\$11,160</u>

Two new projects were promoted by the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, being

- Springmead Reserve, playground installation, where the Parks and Waterways Unit had \$12,000 available. More funds were sought.
- Vicki Reserve, completion of development plan.

Recommendation: That \$8,000 be allocated to Springmead Reserve, subject to receipt of design work/costings.

4. WHARENUI SCHOOL PROPOSED JUNIOR PLAYGROUND EXTENSION: COMMUNITY ACCESSED FACILITY

The Wharenui Board of Trustees is planning to extend the existing junior playground.

The cost of the extensions is between \$13,000 and \$14,000. As well as approaching local service clubs and businesses, the Board of Trustees was seeking assistance from the Community Board on the basis that the playground is a facility widely used (and needed) by the community.

The Committee **decided** to hold any consideration to the request at this time, and suggest that the Board of Trustees make application through the Community Board Funding Committee.

5. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

At the last meeting of the Committee some consideration was given to the roles and functions of the Committee, bearing in mind their relationship to the Board Objectives.

Areas of significance include Sale of Liquor, Resource Management, Parks and Waterways, Heritage, biodiversity, and all aspects of environment (air, water etc).

In order, therefore, to contribute to these significant activities the Committee needs to consider the following draft **'purpose'**.

1. Assist the Board to deliver its environmental objectives into the community.
2. Provide appropriate resourcing to community organisations/agencies to assist in achieving Board objectives.
3. Receive delegations from, and be proactive on behalf of, community groups and the wider community.
4. Advocate, on behalf of the community, on those significant activities which this Committee has a mandate to contribute to.

These can be achieved by:

1. Developing an understanding of policies and business unit programmes.
2. Facilitating community/stakeholder meetings on identified issues/projects.
3. Close liaison with groups/units associated with any Committee-resourced projects/programmes.

6. OWAKA PIT, UPDATE

An update would be sought from Environment Canterbury.

7. RAVENSDOWN FERTILISER WORKS

Ongoing.

Chairperson's

Recommendations:

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