

6. THE CHARLESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board and provide an update of the urban renewal projects currently being implemented in the 2001/2002 financial year in accordance with the Charleston Neighbourhood Plan.

CHARLESTON – AN UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN INITIATIVES

The neighbourhood plan for Charleston was prepared last year. The aim of the Charleston Neighbourhood Plan is to help retain and enhance the physical and social character of Charleston. The Plan draws together City Council led projects, and community initiatives.

The aim of the plan is:

- To improve the appearance and character of Charleston through the development of streets and open spaces.
- To improve traffic safety.
- To encourage good building and site design appropriate for the location.
- To provide a basis for both publicly-funded projects and community self-help.
- To provide a means to co-ordinate various interests.

Many of the projects in the Plan are now underway, and will be completed within the next two months, these include:

CHARLESTON RESERVE UPGRADE

A commitment has been made by the Council to upgrade the play equipment, landscaping and seating within the Charleston Reserve. These works are in response to community concerns relating to undesirable activity at night, dog excrement in the play area and a need to upgrade the play equipment for health and safety reasons. The works will begin in the next few months and include:

- New planting
- New fencing and gates
- New seating
- New picnic table
- An artwork seat featuring Phillipstown Room 1 tile artwork, a colourful Charleston sign and moulded concrete seat
- Replacement of the outdated play fort. The play fort has to be removed as it does not meet current playground safety standards with a modern version of the historic 'Cobb and Co' staging coach and horses
- Replacement of the old swings with modern swings
- Replacement of the old merry-go-round with a modern merry-go-round.

This reserve up-date is an exciting concept for the whole community and is proposed to be installed in June of this year.

CHARLES STREET WALKTHROUGH:

Many ideas were gathered at a meeting held with local residents last year concerning the landscaping and safety of the Charles Street Walkthrough area. Currently, the area is a through route to Ensors Road, and is unkempt, unsafe and attracts deviant behaviour, especially at night. Many local residents expressed safety concerns living adjacent to the walkthrough area. Plans are now underway for the following works:

- New 'lamplight' lighting
- A new grassed area
- New planting
- Fence painting
- Tree work to improve sight lines.

These works will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

WILSONS ROAD – OUTSIDE JADE STADIUM

Changes to the footpath have recently been completed outside Jade Stadium. Planting within the landscape areas will begin shortly to complement the footpath paving treatments and widened pedestrian areas.

LLEW SUMMERS SCULPTURE

It is difficult not to notice the large concrete sculpture on Ensors Road. This temporary loan art is an inspiration for the Charleston area. The “Joy of Eternal Spring’ is a special art piece which was designed for interaction. The 13 tonne sculpture by the local talented artist Llew Summers is only on loan for six months. This loan period will finish in July. The piece will then be offered for sale, and will then be removed from the site.

STREET WORKS

Kerb and channel renewal works remain programmed for Charles Street, Barbour Street, Osbourne Street, Grafton Street, Henry Street, Short Street, Laurence Street, Grenville Street and Fredrick Street for the next six years. As part of these reconstruction works the old dish kerb and channel will be replaced with new kerb and channel, and lighting, street trees, landscaping and grass berms will be reviewed. This will result in a more pleasant place to live.

CONCLUSION

The Charleston Neighbourhood Plan is achieving its purpose of being a vehicle for co-ordinated community renewal. The plan provides a framework for multidisciplinary and community led projects. It is important to ensure that the ideas and initiatives continue to be pursued if the aims of the plan are to be achieved.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the information be received and those involved be commended for the plan and process which has been adopted.