

24. FENDALTON ROAD WIDENING

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the current status of the proposed widening of Fendalton Road and associated car parking at the northern end of Tui Street on the grounds of St Barnabas Church.

FENDALTON ROAD RESOURCE CONSENT

A hearing was held before an independent commissioner at the Council Offices between 30 July and 3 August 2001 and reconvened on 23 January 2002, to determine the Council's application for resource consent to widen Fendalton Road.

The adjournment of the hearing by the commissioner was to give the Council and other relevant parties the time to address several matters before he would issue a final determination.

The matters the commissioner sought to have further addressed were:

1. The design of the cycle facilities in proximity to bus stops;
2. The potential for a median gap opposite Waiwetu Street; and
3. The issue of parking in the vicinity of St Barnabas Church related to Church activities.

The commissioner released his report and decision on 7 February, granting the Council the requested consent, subject to a number of conditions (see attached).

The scope of conditions means that the only variations to the scheme submitted by the Council for consent that may be considered more than minor details, are as follows:

On-street Parking Bays

The proposed widening (between the Railway and Clyde Road) provides for two traffic lanes and a cycle lane in either direction, separated by a landscaped median strip. Given that one of the primary objectives of the project was to retain (and indeed enhance) the existing landscape planting along the corridor, this meant that kerbside parking on both sides of the road could not be accommodated. Instead, bays for on-street parking accommodating 42 cars were proposed in the scheme approved for the resource consent application. During the course of the hearing, an additional six potential on-street parking spaces were identified, principally in the vicinity of St Barnabas Church, and the Commissioner has imposed a condition that these be provided.

Waiwetu Street

The City Streets Unit very carefully considered a number of options for median gaps in the vicinity of Waiwetu Street, and our position before the commissioner was to support the layout previously endorsed by the Council and included in the consent application. This provided for U-turn gaps either side of Waiwetu Street, but no direct right turns into or out of the street. However, whilst this was our preferred position, we acknowledged that we could live with an alternative sought by a submitter (Fendalton School Board) to retain the present ability to make a right turn directly into the street, on the understanding that this would not prejudice the ability of the Council to monitor the situation and take whatever steps it deemed necessary to manage its road network safely and efficiently in future. One of the conditions of consent made by the commissioner was that the scheme utilised this option.

The current status of the consent is that the period for appeals has closed, but the Council is aware of one appeal to the Environment Court. Discussions have already been initiated with this appellant. The appellant has quite narrowly-focussed objections, the main one relating to the design for the proposed traffic signals at Fendalton/Glandovey Road. Whilst we are hopeful that the appeal may not be pursued, this cannot yet be guaranteed. If the appellant does not choose to withdraw, then the Council will approach the Court for a direction that would allow us to proceed with the remainder of the project that is unaffected by the issue under appeal. In other words, we are hopeful that the current programme, which would see a commencement of construction in June 2002, may still be achievable. We believe that at worst a start may be delayed until perhaps August 2002, although this is, of course, dependent on obtaining a hearing before the Environment Court and any decisions the Court makes.

PARKING FOR ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Related to this issue, the last Council reached an agreement with the Trustees of St Barnabas Church to acquire the land required for the proposed road widening. The transfer of this land to the Council has now occurred, although it has not yet been formally gazetted as legal road.

The agreement also provides for the Council to pay for the construction of an off-street car park on church land on the south-western corner of the Fendalton Road/Tui Street intersection. This car park would provide a further 17 off-street spaces for the use of visitors to the Church and associated facilities, with a substantial amount of associated landscaping to screen the car park from adjacent residences.

A resource consent is required for construction of the proposed car park and has been lodged by the Church Property Trustees, with support from the City Streets Unit. A hearing before an independent commissioner is scheduled to be held on 26 March 2002.

Both the Church Property Trustees and the Council recognise the mutual potential benefits of obtaining construction of this car park and are using their best endeavours to ensure its early completion. We are hopeful that, should this consent be granted without appeal, the car park could be constructed in tandem with the work on Fendalton Road, and indeed at an early stage of that work.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.