

10. SHELDON PARK HEALTHY TREE REMOVAL

Officer responsible Park and Waterways Unit Manager	Author Tim Rillstone, DDI 9418030
---	---

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to remove two mature Poplar trees adjacent to the tennis court at Belfast Tennis Club that are causing cracking to the playing surface.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

The Belfast Tennis Club members have been worried for some time about the damage being caused by the large trees planted within Sheldon Park. The two Chinese Poplars concerned are within one metre of the eastern tennis court boundary, and have some smaller shrubs interspersed along the fence-line. The lifting of the asphalt tennis court surface currently extends from the fence-line on the boundary for approximately two metres, encroaching one metre onto the playing surface. The open cracks allow water to further damage the court and may encourage the tree roots to present basal shoots through the asphalt. This matter was raised to the Parks and Waterways Unit through the 'Request for Service' process, to the Unit Arborists.

RELEVANT CURRENT CONDITION OF TREES

The trees are all in good condition and have good vigour and form. Usually a good thing, in this case it is adding to the extent and speed of the damage, as the roots are particularly invasive. The root system is lifting and cracking the edge of the playing surface. Although the damage is only at a minor level at this stage, leaving the trees to grow further will result in extensive damage. There are a number of shrubs along this side of the court, which will continue to develop if the trees are removed.

CONCLUSIONS

The trees are causing some damage to the tennis court paving and have the potential to cause extensive damage if left unchecked. This will leave the Christchurch City Council with a large cost to resurface the court. Removing the trees now and adding to the current shrub planting will avoid this. An information notice to the park user groups and neighbouring residents of Sheldon Park will be distributed before commencement of the tree removal and replanting.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board support the proposal as outlined above.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that replacement planting must meet the Safer Parks Policy.