

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKS, TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1. AVONHEAD PARK CEMETERY

On Wednesday 28 January the Committee undertook a bus tour of a number of sites in the community, including Avonhead Park Cemetery. The purpose of the visit to the cemetery was to gain a full understanding of the maintenance needs, and the degree of maintenance that could be achieved given the level of maintenance funding available.

The Committee had earlier (on 16 December 2003) considered a comprehensive report regarding an overall strategy for the removal of 679 trees "over the next three years" with projected costs of \$140,000 for the removal and pruning required.

The Committee was provided with a summary overview of the extent of maintenance work required, and the level of funding available, by Jill Gordon (Parks and Waterways Area Advocate) and Tony Armstrong (Arborist). The opportunity was also taken to receive a brief presentation from an Alstom representative as maintenance contractor for Transpower, owners of the high voltage transmission power lines traversing the cemetery, and the adjacent Avonhead Park.

Members agreed that the extent of work required in the cemetery, including the new issue of maintenance/removal of trees under, and adjacent to the overhead reticulation, was much greater than originally considered, and that, in the light of the funding presently available, there would be a need to reconsider the overall strategy.

2. AVONHEAD PARK

The purpose in visiting Avonhead Park was two-fold. Firstly to understand the implications of the projected removal of 231 trees, and the \$70,000 of maintenance expenditure required to remove and replace with trees/shrubs and, secondly, to receive a presentation of details of the proposed park enhancements as a basis for consultation.

The above matters had earlier been considered by the Committee on 11 November 2003, with recommendations from the Committee being adopted by the Board on 25 November.

Members agreed that it would also be necessary to now review Avonhead Park in keeping with the further consideration of the maintenance needs for Avonhead Cemetery.

Committee Chairman's

Recommendation:

That, in light of the new information available to the Committee during the above site visits, the Committee's recommendation from its 16 December meeting be deferred in favour of the Committee receiving a further report dealing with the overall strategy (including funding) for tree removal, and any replacement programme, at Avonhead Park Cemetery, and Avonhead Park.