

4. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF 2 DECEMBER 2003 MEETING**

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Roger Cave, Community Secretary, DDI 941 6502
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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2003.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett, Ken Cummings, Mike Mora and Paddy Austin.

An apology was received from Lesley Keast. Peter Laloli was in attendance also.

1 Upper Riccarton Domain

At its 19 November 2003 meeting, the Board had granted “power to act” to this Committee to consider an officer’s report on the tree removal and replacement programme on the Upper Riccarton Domain and to make decisions on the officer’s recommendations.

Committee members considered an interim report at the 7 October 2003 meeting of the Environment Committee regarding the community feedback on the redevelopment proposals for Upper Riccarton Domain.

Parks and Waterways staff had gone through all the written comments from local residents and separated out those related to the trees.

A number of the comments relate to the actual timing of the tree removals apart from one or two individual comments opposing the removal of any trees at all. Some comments also refer to the shelter provided by the Lombardy Poplars at the Sayers Crescent end of the park. The proposal identified this particular row of trees for removal in year 5.

There was a reasonable level of acceptance within the local community to the proposed replacement programme, given that the consultation was delivered to around 600 local residents.

The Parks and Waterways Unit propose some minor changes to the tree replacement programme, in recognition of the comments from the local community.

The other proposed change centres around the actual timing of the replacement programme for the other trees along the eastern and western boundaries. The original consultation plan identified the bulk of these trees being removed in year one and another seven being removed in year two.

Although some of the residents would like to see the replacement programme spread out over a longer time frame, this is not a cost effective or efficient way of addressing this issue. The arborist would like to remove all these trees in year one. The proposal is to use semi mature trees in a number of locations to reduce the impact. The semi mature trees will be used predominantly along the western side of the park.

The Parks and Waterways 5 year Capital Works Programme has funding in the following years for tree replacement and associated landscape enhancement planting on Upper Riccarton Domain.

2003/04	\$20,000	Tree Replacement planting/ Landscape Planting
2004/05	\$15,000	Tree Replacement planting
2008/09	\$15,000	Tree Replacement planting

The proposal was to commence the felling and stump removal operation in late February/early March 2004 while ground conditions are still firm so as to minimise any damage to the grass areas on the park. The proposal is to remove all the trees in one operation. The planting will be completed over 2 years.

The Parks and Waterways Advocate is also currently working with a small group of local residents regarding the design of the new playground and this will come back to the Environment Committee and Board for approval in the new year.

Overall the Parks and Waterways Unit has received a very positive response from the local community and many are looking forward to the increased recreational opportunities the redevelopment will provide. The tree replacement programme is one part of an overall redevelopment of Upper Riccarton Domain which will take it forward for the next 20-30 years.

A request for early removal of a tree on the domain in the vicinity of 31 Brodie Street was not supported by the Committee.

Exercising its "power to act", the Committee **resolved**:

1. That the existing row of Lombardy Poplars be monitored on a regular basis and reassessed in November 2008 to confirm if they should still be retained in terms of their health and safety.
2. To approve the tree removal programme as outlined in this report.
3. To approve the tree replacement plan for Upper Riccarton Domain.

2. Environment Canterbury Annual Plan 2002/03

Agreed to discuss the issues during the 2004 meetings of this Committee.

3. Ongoing Issues of Interest

1 Riccarton Racecourse Trustee Tea House Restoration Joint Committee

The Community Advocate and Community Secretary have had discussions with the CEO of the Riccarton Jockey Club, and it has been agreed that we will take over the administration of this joint committee.

2 Wigram Air Base, Serviceperson's Memorial

Before a Trust can be set up the Council's Property Unit is negotiating to purchase the required land.

3 CCC/ECan/Isaac/Lincoln Research Partnership

Following a presentation (13 May 2003) the Committee put \$5,000 aside. The Team Leader (Allan Watson) has advised that a research proposal has been received; the subject is the South West (of Christchurch) and the effects of urbanisation on rural land values. An application to this Committee can be expected.

4 Ilam Stream River Flows

A local resident had written to this office and the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board concerning the lack of flows in the Ilam Stream.

Officers attended a recent meeting with local residents and it was decided to undertake a trial of feeding water from the Crosbie Park pumping station. Use of the rural water supply network is being discussed with the Selwyn District Council.

5 Harrington Park, Volleyball Facility

Due to the high demands on this local park, the Area Parks and Waterways Advocate will investigate the possibility of installing a volleyball facility to meet community requests.

6 Beautifying Association Community Garden Pride

Discussed briefly at our November 2003 meeting and a fuller report will be provided at the February 2004 meeting, and an amount of monies will be sought to hold the two wards' afternoon tea presentation ceremonies.

7 Other Issues

- Draft Christchurch City Environmental trends
- Southwest area plans
- Greenfields subdivision survey
- Learning through education environment programmes in local schools
- Community gardens
- Colin Meurk, looking at native environment opportunities

4. Environment Committee Project Fund Approvals 2003/04

The Committee **received** the information.

5. 2004 Committee Meeting Schedule

Tuesdays 4.00 pm in Board Room

17 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 22 June, 20 July, 17 August and 14 September.

The Committee **received** the information.

6. Date For Wigram Ward Inspection

It was **agreed** that an inspection be undertaken in early February 2004.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the report be received.