

2. **EDWARD AVENUE – KERB AND CHANNEL RENEWAL
(BARBADOES STREET TO HILLS ROAD)**

Officer responsible Ken Stevenson, DDI 941-8555	Author Lee Kelly, DDI 941-8355
---	--

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board to proceed to final design, tender and construction of the Edward Avenue kerb and channel renewal and Bings Drain waterway enhancement project.

BACKGROUND

The Board will recall that a report on Edward Avenue was submitted to the 2 July 2003 Board meeting seeking approval to publicise the concept plan for the Edward Avenue kerb and channel renewal project, Barbadoes Street to Hills Road.

The concept plan that was publicised in September 2003 indicated a road width of 7.5 metres wide along the entire length of Edward Avenue from Barbadoes Street to Hills Road. Feedback received during the consultation process was positive, however a family living on Edward Avenue towards Hills Road were not happy with the proposed road narrowing because it would impact on the number of vehicles they could park on the street and it was perceived that it may make it more difficult for them to negotiate their large caravan into and out of their property.

Along with the civil engineering work for the street it was proposed that the Bings Drain, currently piped and within the boundary of private properties, be 'opened' up to create a water feature. The Bings Drain runs along the north side of Edward Avenue, between Barbadoes Street and Cleveland Street.

However, during routine design work it was discovered that a mistake had been made in calculating the area of land required to open up the Bings Drain and to provide the necessary embankment work and landscaping. To achieve the best result it would be necessary to reduce the road width on Edward Avenue between Barbadoes Street and Cleveland Street a further half a metre to 7 metres.

To offset the reduced road width it is possible to provide indented cobbled parking bays along this section, while maintaining some on-street parking as well. It is also possible to increase the width of Edward Avenue from Cleveland Street to Hills Road to address the concern raised by a submitter during the consultation process.

A plan showing the proposed change to the publicity plan was delivered to residents within the affected area, Edward Avenue, Barbadoes Street to Cleveland Street in early December 2003. A number of site visits to speak directly with residents took place and those residents consulted have accepted the plan change. The owner of property number 206 Geraldine Street (this property also has access from Edward Avenue) has asked that the proposed indented parking bay shown on the plan change adjacent to their property boundary on Edward Avenue be removed and the project group has agreed to this. The owner of property number 622 Barbadoes Street (this property is an ownership flat, one of two that also has a property boundary on Edward Avenue) has requested that a wooden foot bridge be installed over the opened up Bings Drain so that access to their property from the proposed indented parking bay would be easier. However, the cost of undertaking this work is prohibitive being within the region of \$8,000 to \$10,000, as the bridge would have to comply with all building codes and while may only be used by the property owner it would be on public property and easily accessed by the wider community.

It has been suggested to the owner that the bus stop currently installed outside their property entrance on Barbadoes Street could be moved further along Barbadoes Street to free up an on-street parking area. While they would prefer the bridge concept the moving of the bus stop would be acceptable.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To replace the existing old dish guttering with kerb and flat channel.
- To improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
- To incorporate Urbane Design's aims and objectives re the St Alban's Neighbourhood Plan.
- To 'open' up Bings Drain (Parks Waterways and Wetlands component and funding).
- Successful consultation with key stakeholders and residents.
- Completing the project within budget and programme.

RECOMMENDED OPTION

Between Barbadoes Street and Cleveland Street, the proposal consists of an open waterway (Bings Drain) along the north side of Edward Avenue and a gently winding 7m wide carriageway with off street cobbled parking bays. Extensive landscaping adjacent to the waterway along with walkways will be provided.

Between Cleveland Street and Hills Road the carriageway will be reconstructed to 9m wide and follow a similar alignment as the western end of Edward Avenue with on-street parking available along this section of Edward Avenue.

The proposed work allows for the increased separation of pedestrians and motor vehicles along Edward Avenue. This has been achieved by narrowing the carriageway width and allowing for an additional area of landscape planting and/or grass berm between the footpath and the carriageway.

Narrowing the carriageway and creating a gently winding alignment will encourage slower speeds along the length of Edward Avenue and also act as a deterrent to unnecessary through traffic.

BUDGET

The road reconstruction budget is in the region of \$552,000 which includes a contingency of 15%. Additional to this budget is the Parks and Waterways Unit contribution of \$295,000 for the opening up of the Bings Drain.

CONSTRUCTION

This project was originally within the 2003/2004 financial year for construction. However, the cost of opening up Bings Drain was more than originally anticipated and the project was carried forward to the 2004/2005 financial year.

There is a desire on both the residents' behalf and the City Streets Unit for the Edward Avenue reconstruction to happen sooner rather than later and every effort is being made to facilitate this project and bring forward the reconstruction date so that it is closer to the original reconstruction date. The final date, however, will depend on obtaining the necessary approval of the residents and the Shirley/Papanui Community Board.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board approve the Edward Avenue (Barbadoes Street to Hills Road) kerb and channel renewal and waterway enhancement project for final design, tender and construction.