

6. NEW BRIGHTON - REVITALISATION

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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the implementation of the Master Plan for the revitalisation of New Brighton and to seek support for releasing the Registration of Interest document for the foreshore at New Brighton.

INTRODUCTION

Implementation of the Master Plan for the revitalisation of New Brighton has been underway for over a year. The issues that have been progressed are:

- (a) Refurbishment of the cenotaph area.
- (b) Preparation of a Registration of Interest document for some form of development on the eastern side of Marine Parade between the road and the seawall.
- (c) Commencement of the process to revoke the pedestrian status of Seaview Road between Union Street and Oram Avenue.
- (d) Development of design for the Beresford Street upgrade.
- (e) Development of a planting strategy for New Brighton.
- (f) Ongoing data collection for the artificial reef proposal.

Brief details on each aspect are provided below.

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS

Registration of Interest - Foreshore Development

The Registration of Interest document was circulated at the 13 October 2003 meeting of the Board. Approval was given for the document and the Board forwarded this to the Property and Major Projects Committee which also approved the document at its meeting on 31 October 2003. At that meeting a decision was made to hold the release of the document pending resolution of the 'slow-road' appeal.

Given the current situation with the appeal before the Environment Court this decision needs to be reviewed. It is recommended that the document now be released.

Cenotaph

The upgrade work around the cenotaph has been completed. An official opening was held on 13 December 2003.

Beresford Street

There are a number of changes proposed for Beresford Street. There are three main aims to be achieved with the works. They are:

- Narrow down the carriageway and make access from the Beresford Street car parks to the mall easier.
- Provide some car parking directly at the Beresford Street entrance to mall shops.
- Improve the safety of Beresford Street by removing the current central carriageway parking.

The City Transport Unit has already reviewed this work and has incorporated the work into the Unit's programme. The work will need to go through the standard City Transport procedure of having a scheme plan developed followed by public notification of the work through the Unit's standard consultation process.

Slow-road - Special Order Procedures

The following is the process that is being followed in order to revoke the existing Special Order that covers the pedestrian status of the mall. The requirements of the Local Government Act 1974 (Section 716(b)) still apply:

- Council Resolution to commence Special Order procedures.
- Public notification (allowance of 14 days for submissions and seven days' notice of hearing).
- Hearing.
- Second Council Resolution to accept the decision of the Hearing.

An appeal is currently before the Environment Court opposing the Council decision. A pre-hearing conference was held on 11 September 2003. The Judge made the following decisions:

- The Council to respond, by 25 September 2003, to a request from the appellants to change the listed appellant to an incorporated society
- Appellant to exchange evidence by 7 November 2003
- The Council to exchange evidence by 12 December 2003
- Appellants to exchange rebuttal evidence by 20 January 2004

Subsequent to this the Council lawyer appeared before the Court seeking a hearing date. The Judge had no time available in his next sitting weeks. He indicated he would refer the matter to the Registrar to allocate a date in due course. In the event, the Judge directed that the appeal be set down for the first available hearing date and noted this would be in the second or third quarter of 2004.

The Judge indicated that if the Council wanted priority it should file a formal application seeking priority. Council officers have reviewed this matter and consider that there are insufficient grounds for making such an application.

Artificial Reef

Work has been progressing on the development of a brief which establishes exactly what is needed in order to progress a potential application for a resource consent for the artificial reef. To date several meetings have been held with ASR Ltd and staff from the University of Canterbury. Data is to be gathered for the following:

- Site specific bathymetry.
- Site specific swell and wind conditions.
- Site specific information on the effects of a storm on sand bars.
- Site specific information on the impact on the shore of an artificial reef.

This data will allow for more detailed analysis of the design of a reef to be undertaken. It is likely that this information will take in the order of 12 months to gather.

Arts Area

The Master Plan proposed utilising the eastern end of the mall for a sculpture court/arts area. Several ideas have been suggested for the area. The project team is currently working through this and will report back with details and options in the near future.

Tree Planting Scheme

One of the initiatives identified in the Master Plan is the development of a tree planting scheme for New Brighton. A considerable amount of work has already been carried out in developing a pamphlet for distribution to the New Brighton community. The pamphlet is now ready for final review and release. Part of the scheme involves negotiating with a local garden centre for the supply of trees.

The idea of the scheme is to try and create much more of a green canopy for New Brighton.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the New Brighton Master Plan requires the progression of a number of key items. Work has already commenced on a number of elements of the Master Plan. Success has already been achieved with the work completed at the cenotaph.

Given the current delays to resolving the appeal to the 'slow-road' process, it is considered appropriate to now release the Registration of Interest document for the foreshore.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board recommend to the Property and Major Projects Committee that the Registration of Interest document seeking submissions for developments on the foreshore at New Brighton be approved for release.

Chairperson's

- Recommendation:** That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.