

9. ENSORS ROAD RESERVE: SEATING AND ENHANCEMENTS

Officer responsible Urban Conservation and Renewal Team Leader	Author Victoria Lawson, Urban Renewal Planner, DDI 941 8089
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the intention to provide seating and landscaping at Ensors Road/Isabella Place reserve. These works are intended to increase the amenity and environmental quality of the area, and complement the 'Joy of Eternal Spring' sculpture already present on the site.

BACKGROUND

The Charleston Neighbourhood Plan sets out a long-term urban renewal strategy for the neighbourhood. Developing the plan involved extensive public consultation and identified the need to enhance open spaces in Charleston to encourage informal contact between neighbours.

Charleston Residents' Association has requested a seat at the Ensors Road/Isabella Place reserve. Warwick Scadden, Park and Waterways Area Advocate has received similar requests. A seating area would not only serve residents, but also workers from the adjacent industrial area, as a place to eat lunch etc.

It is therefore proposed to provide a seating area on the reserve. The design would be in keeping with the style of seat found elsewhere in Charleston (eg Charles Street Reserve) to help reinforce a sense of identity for the neighbourhood. The landscaping - low plant beds - is intended to improve the stark appearance of the site, visually breaking-up the large open space and encouraging people to use it. A simple post and rail fence is intended to act as a barrier between the seating area and Ensors Road for child safety reasons.

The seating area would be located so that it does not detract from the 'Joy of Eternal Spring' and the seat's colours have been chosen to complement the sculpture. The seating area would enable people to sit and enjoy the artwork.

This project will be funded from the Urban Renewal budget for the 2003/04 financial year. The project covers the seating area (designed to enable wheelchairs and push chairs to access the picnic table), hard and soft landscaping, and the tree works.

TREE TO BE FELLED

"As part of the landscape assessment of the site, a tree survey was carried out by a Council arborist. Identified on the attached plan is one pine tree that needs to be felled to accommodate the proposal and avoid impact on two other adjacent trees (birch and elm). The pine tree has a lean towards the proposed landscaping area and there is a concern about the potential instability of the tree. The tree also exhibits poor form as a specimen and it is considered inappropriate as an amenity tree for this area, particularly given the proposed development of the reserve. It is therefore recommended that the pine tree be removed to favour the retention of other trees and for the improvement of the reserve landscape". (AJL Armstrong, Arborist)

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board approve the seating area/landscaping plan for public consultation.
 2. That the Board be advised that one pine tree as shown on the attached plan will be removed as it is likely to cause damage to persons or property.

Chairperson's

- Recommendation:** That the recommendations be adopted.