

9. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF 24 FEBRUARY 2004 MEETING**

**Officer responsible**  
Community Advocate

**Author**  
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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2004.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett (Chairperson), Ken Cummings and Mike Mora. Bob Shearing was also in attendance for Item 1 only.

Apologies were received from Paddy Austin and Lesley Keast.

**1 DEPUTATION : KENNEDYS BUSH ROAD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**

On behalf of the Association, Mrs Sylvia Lukey and Mr Bob Webster were in attendance.

They traced the close partnership between the Association and the Council in the developing of the Halswell Quarry but now expressed concerns that the approved management plan was being seriously compromised by the Sister Cities work being undertaken within the quarry park area.

Copies of the tabled submissions are **attached**, which give fuller information on the concerns expressed to the meeting.

Council Officers, Kay Holder and Dave Adamson, were in attendance and participated in this discussion.

Members expressed sympathy and support for the residents' views and sought to have any further Sister City work suspended in the meantime so as to allow the Associations' concerns to be fully addressed.

The Committee's recommendations are recorded in clause 8 of this report.

**2 LINCOLN UNIVERSITY/ISAAC CENTRE/ECAN/CCC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP GROUP**

Allan Watson and Kevin Connery (Lincoln University) were in attendance to discuss a research proposal.

Allan attended the May 2003 meeting of this Committee to discuss this (then) recently formed Research Partnership Group.

The following information records the May 2003 meeting deliberation:

In 2002 the City Council and the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation, Lincoln University formed a partnership based around the issue of urban ecology. Environment Canterbury has also been represented in the group and is now in the process of becoming a full partner. The objective of the partnership is:

*"To contribute to the goal of a sustainable city by promoting and co-ordinating research, teaching and education projects focussed in the area of urban ecology and benefiting both the University's academic objectives and sustainable city outcomes".*

Further to this objective a group from Council and Lincoln have been exploring opportunities to promote the above sustainable City outcomes. One idea that would potentially benefit both parties is the drawing up of a list of small scale research projects that could be taken on by students undertaking honours, masters, PhD courses or summer research projects.

Lincoln University undertakes a considerable amount of biological, agricultural, economic and other research and teaching and has expertise in landscape design and management. We see this as an opportunity to apply this to matters of significance for the city at minimal cost, but with benefits to both parties.

The outcome of Allan's presentation and consideration by the Committee was one of strong support: an amount of a maximum of \$5,000 was set aside (from 2003/04 funds).

At today's meeting the proposal was discussed. Whilst Environment Canterbury have provided a grant, there was still a shortfall of \$1,110.00 and the committee was favourably disposed to provide these funds.

Following the presentation from Allan and Kevin, the members present expressed their support for the proposal and their recommendation is recorded under clause 8 of this report.

### **3 TEMPLETON STORMWATER SCHEME – RAILWAY TERRACE DESIGN PLAN**

Rod Whearty (Parks and Waterways Area Advocate) and Alan Cutler (City Solutions Landscape Architect) were in attendance to discuss the design plan for Railway Terrace prior to it being circulated for community feedback.

Greenspace Unit has been working through a programme over the last few years to address problems with storm water disposal in the Templeton area. The proposal divides Templeton into a number of smaller catchment areas and the storm water is "processed" within each of these areas through the construction of drainage swales and soakage basins.

The first part of the scheme was Colchester Reserve and this site was completed approximately two years ago. The next site programmed for development was actually Railway Terrace however this project was put on hold due to the presence of an underground fibre optic telecommunications cable that the Council was previously unaware of.

The Greenspace Unit went ahead and constructed the Kirk Road site in conjunction with the building of the Templeton Community Centre while further investigations were carried out on the Railway Terrace site regarding the fibre optic cable.

Subsequent investigations identified that the original stormwater storage capacity proposed for the Railway Terrace site was unachievable due to ground levels and the presence of the fibre optic cable.

The City Transportation Unit has funding in the current financial year to undertake traffic calming work in Railway Terrace. The City Transportation and Greenspace Unit have worked collaboratively on this project to develop a design that integrates the two projects.

The carriageway width of Railway Terrace will be reduced from 14 metres to 9.5 metres with some minor realignment of the bend onto Jones Road at the southern end and modifications to the intersection at Kirk Road.

There is potential to make some good savings through combining both projects. Integrating the two projects will also provide a better outcome for the community in terms of recreational opportunities and traffic safety in the area.

At today's meeting the Committee gave support to the design plan being circulated for community comment.

Mike Mora expressed concerns about the proposed narrowing of Railway Terrace. He sought to have this design aspect given further consideration prior to the plan going out for public consultation. This motion lapsed through want of a seconder.

The Committee's recommendation is recorded in clause 8 of this report.

### **4 UPPER RICCARTON DOMAIN : PLAYGROUND DESIGN**

Rod Whearty, with Jocelyn Mahoney (City Solutions Landscape Architect) were in attendance to discuss this report.

At its 29 October 2003 meeting the Board gave its agreement to this Committee to receive the concept plans for the Yaldhurst Road frontage redevelopment.

As part of the consultation on the overall plan in September 2003, local residents were invited to work along side staff to develop the design plan for the new playground and redevelopment of the old bowling club site.

Some local residents expressed an interest in being involved and have been working with staff over the last three to four months to come up with the proposed plan for the site. The community feedback and comments from the wider community as part of the original consultation have also been taken into consideration by the design group consisting of the interested residents, facilitated by the Parks and Waterways Advocate and Landscape Architect. At today's meeting some local residents were in attendance to discuss their participation in producing the plan.

Whilst the members present were accepting of much of the plan, there were some concerns relating to the relocation of the existing Yaldhurst Road playground and some other design and vegetation features. The Committee wished to record its appreciation to those residents who had participated in this design group.

Their recommendation is recorded in clause 8 of this report.

## **5 GREENSPACE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2003/04**

The Greenspace Manager provided a full schedule of capital projects, within the Board area, as at 1 March 2004.

The schedule covered a multitude of projects, from the Templeton township stormwater scheme to fencing of a local neighbourhood reserve.

The Committee **received** the information.

## **6 FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE FUNDS**

Three requests were given consideration by the Committee:

- **Riccarton Racecourse Teahouse Restoration**  
A working group (made up of Board members, Jockey Club Trustees and heritage planners) is working on the restoration of this 1903 teahouse.  
  
Funds were sought to two projects, being grounds tidy-up and the commissioning of a quantity surveyor to reaffirm the restoration estimate for this work.
- **Community Garden Pride Award Presentations**  
Two functions will be held to acknowledge the award recipients.
- **Showgate/Carmen/Peebles corridor pathway project**  
This work had been promoted for funding from the 2004/05 Project Fund but was not successful. The Committee agreed to hold this matter over to the next meeting.

In respect of the Teahouse Restoration and Garden Pride Awards, the Committee's recommendations are recorded in clause 8 of this report.

## **7 ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY : RESPONSIBILITY ISSUES FOR ONGOING DISCUSSION**

At its December 2003 meeting the Committee received a copy of the ECan Annual Report for 2002/03.

In discussion, the Committee thought it would be beneficial to have regular meetings with ECan to discuss some of their activities/responsibilities.

The Committee **agreed** to follow through on this proposal.

## **8 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 In respect of the Halswell Quarry, that the Community Board ask the Council to:
  - a) place a moratorium on any further Sister City structures until the vegetation is of sufficient stature that such structures can realistically sit within that landscape
  - b) to show greater regard to the semi-rural and informal concept defined in the Management Plan and the requirements to consult the community.
  - c) to request that the Halswell Quarry park be gazetted as a reserve with an association requirement to adhere to the guidelines for the reserve.

- 2 That the Community Board seek speaking rights at the March Council meeting to emphasise the Board's desire that due recognition be given to the Halswell Quarry Management Plan, so that any proposed Sister City gardens projects is compatible with the Management Plan.
- 3 That the Community Board fund the following requests, to be funded from the Environment Committee Project Fund:
  - Riccarton Racecourse Teahouse Restoration, in the sum of \$2,400.
  - Community Garden Pride Award presentations, in the sum of \$2,500.
- 4 In respect of the Lincoln University/Isaac Centre/ECan/CCC Research project, that the Committee supports this project and recommends that an additional \$1,110.00 be provided from the Environment Committee Project Fund.
- 5 That the Board approve the Templeton Stormwater Scheme/Railway Terrace design plan for circulation and feedback from the community but that a public meeting be held with the Templeton Residents Association within ten days of the consultation document being circulated.
- 6 That the Board receive the Upper Riccarton Domain playground design plan.

**Chairman's**

- Recommendation:**
- 1 That the report be received and that recommendations 1-5 inclusive be adopted.
  - 2 That recommendation no. 6 (Upper Riccarton Domain playground design plan) be given further discussion