

21. EDGEWARE VILLAGE RENEWAL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Strategy & Planning Group, DDI 941-8177
Officer responsible:	Carolyn Ingles, Programme Manager Liveable City
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval that the it's resolution of 20 April 2005 "*That the \$4,000 be allocated for the enhancement and beautification in the Edgeware Village.*" be agreed to encompass the change from 'shopper' tree guards to 'shopper' bollards and chain.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Board resolved on 20 April 2005 to allow earlier allocated project funding to be used for the installation of two 'shopper' tree guards.
3. In September this year, the contracting firm commissioned to dig the tree pits discovered a number of underground services, many of which were not evident on service plans or not in the position as shown. A site inspection by Council officers jointly with the contractor, verified that there is no suitable position for the proposed two street trees with decorative tree guards and grates to be positioned in this area where they will be:
 - Free of damage from turning or parking vehicles
 - Safely out of the pedestrian zone especially for those with impaired sight
 - Free of underground services.
4. The contractors were instructed to fill in the holes and trenches and to compact the area to a temporary safe standard while future options were investigated. The contractor has advised that the area will be safe for about one month but that it will then begin to break up and become a trip hazard. It is therefore important that an alternative option is quickly agreed that can be incorporated into the permanent footpath renewal work to prevent new surfaces being cut into for an enhancement project in the near future.
5. Options have been investigated for this area; the option recommended enables the 'shopper' templates to be utilised while still providing pedestrian and amenity enhancements (see Appendix 1 for visualisations of the recommended option, which remains subject to confirmation of services on site).
6. Copies of the recommended proposal have been supplied to the St Albans Residents' Group and staff will attend their monthly meeting on 17 October 2006. They were very involved in the earlier original concept and design. The Residents' Group feedback will be reported to the Board at the 18 October 2006 meeting.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The change in project costing is outlined below:

Original budget allocation from Board 2004/2005	\$4,000
Original Proposal – casting of 'shopper' pattern and production of tree guards	\$4,145
New proposal – casting of 'shopper' pattern and six chained bollards	\$4,015

The additional design, production and planting costs are within the existing Urban Renewal budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve it's resolution of 20 April 2005 "*That the \$4,000 be allocated for the enhancement and beautification in the Edgeware Village*" be agreed to encompass the change from 'shopper' tree guards to 'shopper' bollards and chain.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

Not seen by Chairperson.

BACKGROUND ON ALLOCATION OF BOARD FUNDING IN EDGEWARE VILLAGE

8. On 2 February 2004 the Board resolved that \$4,000 be allocated from it's 2004/05 Project Fund for a mosaic seat at the Edgeware Village. After enquiry into the necessary on-site management of a mosaic artist, the management fees were considered disproportionately large to the scope of the project by Council officer. It was recommended that the Board fund a different enhancement proposal incorporating two ash trees, 'shopper' tree guards, grates and cobblestone inserts.

OPTIONS

9. The large number of underground services and their positions restrict the number of options. It is considered important to enliven this area with some planting to alleviate the large area of hard seal.

PREFERRED OPTION

10. The preferred option proposes two beds of planting to either side of the pedestrian crossing, retaining the one existing tree. While services here will preclude planting beds being the standard depth, plant varieties can be chosen that will be suitable and that blend with those used on the opposite side of the street. The planting period has passed for this year but the beds can be prepared and kept tidy and planted next autumn. Casting of the 'shopper' figures has progressed to the dyes being produced and it is proposed to continue to use these as decoration on two sections of post and chain around the corners of each planter bed. These barriers will not only stop people cutting across the planting but will also ensure pedestrians enter the crossing at a safe and visible angle. Strips of cobblestone inserts will further enhance the area. It is proposed to leave the community notice board in its current position and relocate the rubbish bin into the eastern planter bed. The earlier proposed positions in front of the car park are not suitable because of the risk of being hit by cars when parking.