

## 8. **STUDHOLME STREET (BARRINGTON STREET TO SOMERFIELD STREET) TREE REPLACEMENT**

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, City Environment, DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager, Transport & Greenspace
<b>Author:</b>	Angela Abel, Consultation Leader, DDI 941-5112

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board approval for the Studholme Street (Barrington to Somerfield) Trees replacement to proceed, as shown in **Attachment 1**.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. Studholme Street is a local road which runs between Barrington Street and Ashgrove Terrace. The street trees along the section between Barrington Street and Somerfield Park are in decline and require removal as a result of their poor condition and the safety risks that they pose. The street trees between the Somerfield Park and Somerfield Street are also in decline and will also be removed and replaced as part of this project.
3. A start work notice was sent to the residents in early December 2009 outlining the need for tree maintenance and removal in Studholme Street. A street meeting was held on the 14 December 2009 with council staff, Board members and residents who had expressed concerns with the proposal. The issues raised were if the removal of 37 trees was really necessary, on going drainage issues and grass verge protection needed to be addressed. During discussions with the residents it was decided that a concept plan would be developed for consultation and would also include the street trees on Studholme Street from Somerfield Park to Somerfield Street, wheel stops, bollards and the restoration to the berms and verges.
4. In April Council staff again met with residents. Residents unanimously agreed on the type of replacement trees and were in favour of concrete bollards. In late June 2010 a concept plan was circulated to the residents in the street. The concept plan proposed to remove and replace all trees between Barrington Street and Somerfield Street (a total of 67 trees) and to repair and protect the grass berms to ensure the replacement trees have the best possible conditions in which to thrive and improve the streetscape. The new street trees proposed are Field Maples (*Acer Campestre*) which are the same as the existing trees planted in Studholme Street between Somerfield and Ashgrove Terrace.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. The estimated cost for the removal of the trees and replanting is \$58,000 and will be funded from the Street Tree Renewals Budget.
6. The estimated cost for new bollards and verge and berm maintenance is \$48,000 and will be funded from the Berm Renewal Budget.

### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

7. Yes. Funding would be provided from within the Transport and Greenspace Road Renewal Budget, Page 81 and 82, 2010-11 Annual Plan – project 118, Road Network Renewal and Replacement.

### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

8. There are no legal considerations that would have a direct impact on this proposal. None of the trees identified for removal are listed in the City Plan as Protected or Notable Trees.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

9. Funding for trees that are no longer an appropriate species or those that are no longer appropriate in their current position requiring removal and replacement is available from the Transport and Greenspace Unit Street Tree Capital Renewals budget.
10. Removal and replacement of the trees is consistent with the Activity Management Plan.
11. Retention of the trees is consistent with the Activity Management Plan provided the tree is structurally sound and healthy.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. The recommendations in this report align with current Council strategies including social well being.

#### CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

13. A Community Board Seminar was held to introduce the proposed design and the project's consultation programme on the 15 June 2010. The feedback period was from 28 June 2010 to 14 July 2010. The publicity pamphlet (including concept plan) was distributed to residents and other interested parties in the immediate area. (refer **Attachment 2**).
14. There are approximately 103 properties in Studholme Street. Thirty nine responses were received, of which 33 (85 percent) responses were in support of the proposal, two (five percent) responses did not support the proposal and four (10 percent) did not indicate a preference.
15. Key issues raised and comments from the submitters and the project team's responses are;
  - (a) Requests for more concrete bollards, wooden bollards and wheel stops.
  - (b) Requests for verges and berms to be re-levelled and re-sown.
  - (c) A request was received to remove a disused driveway outside 76 Studholme Street.
  - (d) Several expressed concern about drainage issues.
  - (e) Problems at the school crossing point outside the school.
16. Responses to community consultation and changes to the proposed plan are as below.
  - (a) Extra concrete bollards, wooden bollards and wheel stops will be provided where appropriate as shown on the attached plan, to protect the new trees, berms and the verges.
  - (b) All damaged verges and berms will be repaired.
  - (c) A disused driveway outside 76 Studholme Street to be removed.
  - (d) All kerb and channel has been resurveyed and there is adequate fall to Barrington Street and Somerfield Park. Some properties are very low which means the vehicle crossings are shallow and wide. This can result in a wide band of water at the crossings when it rains. The channel is prone to ponding during leaf fall. Sweeping the channel reduces this.
  - (e) The Council's Safe Routes to School co-ordinator has been advised of concerns regarding the paved areas of the carriageway being dangerous for school children to crossing the road, and will work with the school to improve the situation.

17. All respondents in the June/July 2010 consultation has been sent a final reply letter thanking them for their input and an A3 colour copy of the finalised plan for their street. The letter informed respondents when the plan would be presented to the Board for approval to reconstruct. Details of the meeting (time, venue etc) were also provided so that any interested people could attend or address the Board prior to the decision being made. All submitters will be notified of the decision.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board approve the proposed replacement of the existing street trees and associated work in Studholme Street (Barrington Street to Somerfield Street), as shown in **Attachment 1** TP322201 issue 2.

#### **CHAIRPERSONS' RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.

#### **BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)**

18. An independent tree assessment and audit has been done for Studholme Street. The independent auditor states the existing Ash Trees are rated as being in a poor and very poor condition due to the extensive decay and structural deterioration of the trees. Beside the ongoing loss of tree health and visual amenity, there is the potential for significant structural failures to occur, which could cause damage to property or injure members of the public. Therefore, it is recommended that trees are removed and replaced.
19. If the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board approves the report, the tree removal work will begin in October 2010. The tree replanting and the installation of the bollards and verge and berm restoration will take place in November 2010.