

## 7. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### Little Hagley Park ñ Avon River Landscaping

The following groups and individuals addressed the Committee on the question of landscaping the Avon River, Little Hagley Park.

#### *Merivale Precinct Society Inc*

Ms Gina Williamson, Chairperson, spoke to a written submission which signalled the concerns of Merivale residents at what they perceive to be indiscriminate native plantings through Millbrook Reserve and Little Hagley Park.

Ms Williamson signalled that the Society is not against such plantings, provided they occur in appropriate places. Ms Williamson responded to questions from the Committee.

#### *Urban Landscapes Group*

Mr Colin Meurk addressed the Committee on the written submission from the Urban Landscapes Group. He outlined the history of the site in question, community and Urban Landscapes Group involvement, and scheduled a series of recommendations for consideration.

Mr Meurk (with support from Mr Simon Johnson) responded to questions from the Committee.

#### *Glenda Fox*

Ms Glenda Fox spoke to her written submission to the Merivale Precinct Society, in which she disagreed with the Society's concerns about native plantings in Little Hagley Park.

Ms Fox submitted that under no circumstances should the plantings be removed, as they are an enjoyable and significant enhancement of the area.

Ms Fox also responded to questions from the Committee.

#### *Representatives from the Hagley/Ferrymead and Fendalton/Waimairi Community Boards*

Linda Rutland (Deputy Chair, Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board), Mike Wall (Chairman, Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board) assisted by Peter Dow (Community Secretary) spoke to (1) information already supplied to the Committee and (2) overheads. Val Carter (Deputy Chair Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board and Gina Clarke (Community Secretary) were also in attendance.

The deputation addressed the matters outlined below:

1. The extent of plantings undertaken along the banks of the Avon River, especially Little Hagley, opposite the Millbrook Reserve.
2. The impact that this planting is having in obscuring path/seat users views of the river.
3. The longer term consequences for the existing mature exotic plantings in and around the immediate vicinity.
4. A noticeable departure from the dominant 'English' planted character in this area.
5. A desire to understand the ongoing maintenance/pruning arrangements for the plantings.
6. The receipt of adverse feedback from the community regarding the presence of the plantings.
7. The 'stranger danger' aspect due to the (now) dense nature of the plantings.
8. To obtain an understanding of the Council's policies and practices regarding such planting programmes, including consultation arrangements.

9. A request for all Boards to have early input into the development of the Council's planting strategy currently under consideration.
10. To request that a safety audit be carried out of the existing plantings and remedial action to be taken as required.

Board representatives responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee also acknowledged written submissions from:

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| • Andrew Couper   | - support for native plantings on above sites.   |
| • David Mann  | - support for native plantings on above sites.   |
| • St Andrew's Environmental Club  | - support for native plantings on above sites.   |
| • Lucy Tyndall on behalf of the students and staff, Rangi Ruru Girls School | - requesting no significant change to the native vegetation on the stretch of riverbank between Carlton Mill Bridge and Helmores Lane                        |
| • Kevin Connery, Lecturer, Landscape Architecture Group, Lincoln University | - 'the stretch of the river through Little Hagley Park offers an unique opportunity within Christchurch to tell the story of what indigenous processes are'. |

The Committee **decided**:

1. That the following process be followed to progress this issue:
  - each Community Board be requested to select two key areas in their community for a review of riverside planting.
  - the areas selected be assessed by Jenny Moore, independent landscape consultant.
  - the criteria for assessment acknowledge the issues raised by the submitters.
  - Community Boards be given an opportunity to comment on the respective assessments prior to consideration by the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee.
  - appropriate guidelines be prepared for future plantings.
2. That staff develop a long term plan for riverside planting and that Community Boards be involved with the identification of areas within their communities to be included in the long term plan.