

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Horticultural Officer
DATE: 9 March 2011
SUBJECT: Memorial Park Motueka – Replacement of Hedge Report
– RCS11-03-03

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Community Services Committee on the options to replace the burnt out hedge at Memorial Park in Motueka.

BACKGROUND

Over the last 18 months the hedge that ran along the sports field along Pah Street has been set on fire and progressively destroyed. Each time the burnt out section of the hedge was removed and temporary ranch style fencing erected. This was primarily erected to prevent vehicles mounting the kerb and entering the sports field. To prevent further fires it was decided to remove the remaining hedge and install a fence the whole length of the sports field. Because of the piecemeal way the fence was erected it is out of alignment and needs to be adjusted or replaced with a more permanent solution.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

The Parks and Reserves department believe a replacement fence is necessary and the following factors are important to consider when determining the best option.

- Preventing vehicular access to the sports fields.
- Safety considerations to reduce the incidence of players having to retrieve balls off the road.
- The safety of motorists and pedestrians in relation to cricket and footballs leaving the park.
- The Motueka police have requested that the view into the sports fields remain open as this allows for passive surveillance by the whole community which helps prevent unsociable behaviour.

- The aesthetic look of any replacement fence also needs to be considered.

It has been suggested that a replacement hedge is established however this would take some time to grow and it is often difficult to successfully establish hedges where old ones have been removed.

The Motueka Community Board support retaining the ranch style fence. This would need to have work done on it to bring it up to a more acceptable standard.

The Motueka Association Football Club Inc also support the ranch style fence but would require netting placed behind the goal areas during their season to help prevent balls going onto the road. This would need to be erected for the winter season and removed for the summer to enable cricket to be played. This would incur an added cost each season for the erection, dismantling and storage. There would also be the capital cost of purchasing the nets.

The Motueka Cricket Association have expressed concerns about the health and safety issues of cricket balls leaving the park.

Parks and Reserves staff would like to see a pool style fence erected with narrow gaps small enough to prevent cricket balls going onto the road.

Whilst it is thought that a pool style fence would cover all the necessary requirements for a fence, the feedback on this option has been less than favourable. Comments have included that this fence would make the grounds look prison like and detract from the look of the park. Attached are photos of several pool style fences that have been erected recently around the district.

Allowance has been made from the Motueka Reserves Financial Contributions for the 2010-11 year.

OPTIONS

- 1 Do nothing and leave the temporary fence as is.
- 2 Replace the temporary fence with a new 1.8 metre fence that would prevent balls leaving the park in a style that meets the needs of the majority of park users.
- 3 Upgrade the temporary fence and plant a new hedge.

AFFECTED PARTIES

Users of Memorial Park, residents of Pah Street and ratepayers.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community Services Committee resolve to replace the temporary fence with a new 1.8 metre fence that would prevent balls leaving the park in a style that meets the needs of the majority of park users and that this be funded from the Motueka Reserves Financial Contributions.

Kathy Tohill- Curnow
Horticultural Officer

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