

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: Board member Gamby
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 25th March 2009
SUBJECT: Flagmakers' Demonstration

On the 16th March I attended the demonstration, in Nelson, of the new Flagmakers' Flagtrax system for erecting street banners. This patented system has been under development for several years, and is a totally NZ system.

The system consists of a bracket up the light standard or power pole, and a plastic extrusion that is an integral part of the bracket, and runs down the pole. The banners have a plastic bead that fits into this extrusion, and the banner is pushed up the pole and onto the bracket along the extrusion. A banner can be raised on the pole by this method in just a couple of minutes. Old style Flagmakers' brackets can be retrofitted to take the new system.

The main 'plus' would appear to be the ease with which a banner can be raised, and the saving in the time taken to do so. No ladders or cherry pickers are required.

'Minuses' (thinking about the Golden Bay current situation), are that our banners could not be used on this system without major work being done on them, our brackets could not be retrofitted to take this system, and that the price to install new fittings is far too high for us to contemplate at the present time. The Flagmakers' representative estimated, on the number of banners we currently fly, the cost would be about \$430 a pole, a cost of \$17,200 to replace our present brackets, and we would still have to buy new banners.

It is still not certain if we could erect these without a certified person on power poles.

While being impressed by this new system, I think on balance we must persevere with what we have got for the foreseeable future.

Leigh Gamby