

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 NOVEMBER 2015

AGENDA ITEM C1

MARTINBOROUGH SQUARE – TREE LIGHTS FOR SOLDIERS’ MEMORIAL PARK

Purpose of Report

To inform Councillors of the Martinborough Community Board’s proposal to install lights in the Soldiers’ Memorial Park trees

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receives the information;*
2. *Approves the permanent installation of lights in Soldiers’ Memorial Park in Martinborough Square.*

1. Background

Martinborough Community Board proposes to place lights in four of the trees in Soldiers’ Memorial Park in Martinborough Square. The lights are to be installed before Christmas, and the intention is to leave them in place permanently.

2. Discussion

2.1 Martinborough Square Management and Development Plans

The Square Development Plan refers only to uplighting for the Boer War Memorial, and the use of lights in the trees is not covered by the plan. Para 4.2.3 of the Martinborough Square Management Plan contains the following provision:

If a project is proposed that was not anticipated by the Development Plan, the Council will consult with the community and determine whether the project should proceed. In deciding whether to approve a new proposal, the Council will consider whether it contributes to and is in keeping with the objectives and policies of the Management Plan and also the potential impact on the implementation of the Development Plan.

On the provision that community consultation is required, officers take the view that the matter is minor enough that consultation is not required, and that Council approval of the proposal is sufficient.

The key principle of the Management Plan's objectives and policies is to protect and enhance the Square's historic, community and recreation values and to allow for the use and enjoyment of the reserve.

2.2 Proposed lighting

The nature of the proposed lighting is for Christmas-type lights in one tree in each corner. These will be lit during the hours of darkness. The installation of the lights will be done in a way that ensures the long-term health of the trees is protected. The lights will be connected to the existing electrical supply for lighting in the park.

The intention is to enhance the appearance of the park and the overall Square at night. Leaving the lights in place will mean they are available for evening events such as the night market. Rather than having to be put up and taken down for each event, leaving them in place will reduce the risk of damage to the trees.

3. Conclusion

Officers recommend that Council approves the installation of lights in trees in Martinborough Square as outlined above.

Contact Officer: Helen McNaught, Amenities Manager

Reviewed By: Mark Allingham, Group Manager Infrastructure Services