

Memorandum

To: Motueka Community Board
From: Reserves Manager
Date: 18 September 2006
Re: Trees

Tasman District Council does not have a tree policy, but as a general rule when staff are approached by a resident who has issues regarding a tree and would like it trimmed or removed staff generally follow the process outlined below:

The tree is assessed by an arborist for issues such as vitality, health, structure, the role it plays in its situation and the level of nuisance it could be causing the resident. Other trees in the park are also taken into account.

When it is decided that a tree is worthy of retaining staff work with the resident to try to alleviate the problems they are experiencing, the tree may be trimmed etc.

If the resident is not happy with this outcome they often seek assistance from a Councillor or Community Board member who review the information with staff and make a decision.

In some instances staff have been supported in their decisions and the tree has been retained, in others staff advice has been set aside and the tree removed.

When the arborist report suggests that the tree could be removed as the role it plays in the park is limited, the tree is no longer suitable for the situation or it will require ongoing maintenance costs to keep it safe, staff generally liaise with the residents surrounding the park to get their views on whether or not to retain the tree. In some instances where this approach has been used the tree has been removed and in others the tree has been retained.

When our arborist finds a tree in a dangerous condition the tree is removed for the safety of the community often without consultation.

New trees are planted when trees have been removed if required in the park. A new tree will be selected and placed to cause as little nuisance as possible for the nearby residents. In some cases in smaller reserves with residents on all sides it can be difficult to suit all residents.

The main issues regarding trees and neighbours are views being blocked, shading and sunlight issues, leaves in gutters and on properties, tree roots invading gardens, branches hanging over buildings, issues with allergies and in some cases people being afraid of a large tree near their house in high wind situations.

Beryl Wilkes