Esk Street CBD Consultation

Invercargill CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 14 May 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Consultation to begin on Esk Street Pocket Park

Conceptual design work is underway for the Esk Street Pocket Park, which is the first stage of the Inner City Revitalisation Project – and retailers and members of the public are being asked for their input.

Inner City Working Group Chairman, Councillor Graham Sycamore said that the Esk Street Pocket Park was chosen as the first stage of the Inner City Revitalisation Project because members of the public had clearly identified the centre of Esk Street as the place where they most liked to spend time in the inner city and wanted it upgraded.

"Even though people like to spend time in the centre of Esk Street, there is no really good public space where they can relax. Previous feedback from the public highlighted this as one area where significant development could have a positive impact on stimulating more vibrancy for the inner city.

"The Pocket Park is the key anchor project for the Inner City Revitalisation project and many of the decisions we will make in this process will set the scene for future precinct projects. We want to have consistent, appealing standards delivered across the inner city," he said.

The Pocket Park works will be centred predominantly on the mid-block section of Esk Street, around the SIT and Cambridge Place arcades.

Landscape Architect Craig Pocock, of Pocock Design Environmental, last week met with infrastructure managers to discuss technical briefs for water, stormwater, electricity, roading and footpaths, lighting, street furniture, plantings, CCTV, recycling

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Andrei Robertson, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:andrei.robertson@icc.govt.nz

and rubbish collection. Council's engineering team had also surveyed Esk Street to capture the data about seat location, signs and paving to assist with the designs.

These preliminary meetings were essential to provide an overall picture of infrastructure issues in Esk Street before conceptual planning could be carried out.

KEY ISSUES

Cr Sycamore said one key issue that had been identified was the expected life of the watermain, and after recent mains failures it is likely that replacing the watermain will need to be incorporated into the Esk Street project. Analysis of pipe samples suggests it may have less than eight years of life left in the asbestos cement pipe.

"The other infrastructural issue that has been identified by Electricity Invercargill Limited is that the electricity link boxes in Esk Street need to be replaced. Ideally, these should also be timed to coincide with the project.

"The further key issue of more comprehensive consultation and communications with retailers and members of the public has also been identified to ensure the public have a good understanding of what is planned, with an opportunity to have input," he said.

Members of the Design Subcommittee Governance Group recently appointed by Council (Cr Graham Sycamore, Mr John Green, Mr David White and Mr Mick Hesselin) will this week be delivering invitations to Esk Street retailers to consultation meetings.

A timetable has been developed for the Esk Street Pocket Park Project, which includes meetings with retailers, public open days and media briefings.

The key dates currently identified are:

Retailer meetings	20 and 21 May 2014
Public Consultation (open days)	9 to 13 June 2014
Public Consultation (Further public feedback invited)	14-20 June 2014
Final Concept presentations	3 July 2014
Report to Council Meeting	8 July 2014
Tender Project	July – August 2014
Tender for Council Consideration	23 September 2014
Construction	Oct and Nov 2014

Cr Sycamore said the above dates were subject to identifying the impacts of the key issues. At each stage the progress would be reported to Council via the Inner City Working Group.

The Design Subcommittee Governance Group would be overseeing this work as it progresses on behalf of the Inner City Working Committee, he said.

Cr Sycamore said that following completion of the Esk Street Pocket Park, the next two areas where inner city activity is planned is to provide coach and campervan parking and to work with the Sunday Market Committee in further developing and supporting the markets in Esk Street.

"After these works have been completed, the focus will turn to other precincts, however this is not expected to be until 2015," he said.

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Andrei Robertson, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:andrei.robertson@icc.govt.nz

ENDS.

Inquiries, Cr Graham Sycamore, 0274395 045
Roading Manager, Russell Pearson, 0274357 493

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Andrei Robertson, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:andrei.robertson@icc.govt.nz