Esk Street CBD Consultation

Invercargill CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, 25 September 2014

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Retailer and contractor feedback modifies Esk St timetable

Beautification work for the redevelopment of Esk Street will now take place in the New Year following feedback from contractors and retailers, however replacement of vital water mains is underway and will be completed this year, the Invercargill City Council said today.

Roading Manager Russell Pearson today hand delivered letters to business owners in Esk Street updating them on the outcome of the tendering process and progress with replacement of the water pipes.

Mr Pearson said earlier discussions with retailers had highlighted their desire that no work would be undertaken in Esk Street during December due to the busy retail period. To accommodate this Council asked contractors (in the tendering conditions) to undertake the project work during October and November this year and specified tight work hours in the late afternoon and evenings.

Council found, after receiving the tenders that:

- The contractors are unable to start work on the project until January 2015. This is due to the unavailability of some materials and their subcontractors prior to Christmas.
- Contractors will need a mix of work hours to undertake the work, with some activity during the day and some at night so they can safely work around the shopping public and minimise disruption.

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- There may be times where traffic access, particularly for larger delivery vehicles, is limited in order to construct the pocket park. We are still working through these details.
- The contractors have indicated they see the project taking longer than the eight weeks planned. We are discussing with them to understand how we can streamline the work to the minimum time necessary.

“We have yet to appoint a contractor and continue to work through a number of issues to better understand their offers before Council considers them in October.

“The current work improvements on the water and stormwater pipes are unfortunately behind the original planned schedule due to problems with the pipe but should be completed by the end of October. Contractors will reinstall the paving blocks and remove all of the orange safety gates and tidy Esk Street ready for the busy Christmas period.

“While we are disappointed that work cannot begin prior to Christmas we are committed to making sure the December shopping period remains free of disruption.”

Mr Pearson gave an assurance to retailers that Council would continue to keep them informed as time gets closer to starting the upgrade work.

ENDS.

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