



The Chairperson
Tree Committee
Taupo District Council
September 21st, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

There are seven predominately silver birch trees along Redoubt Street that run alongside the clubrooms and courts that cause significant disruption to the Taupo Tennis Club. We have spoken to Council staff and have had an on-site visit to evaluate what steps could be taken to improve the situation. The club does enjoy the current, homogeneous avenue look the current trees provide and we enjoy the wind protection and ascetic look that a row of trees provides. However the trees, in their current state cause the following problems:

- The middle constantly causes interference with the landline that comes into the clubrooms causing major problems with the phone connection. The Council already trims this frequently.
- The root system of the tree on the eastern corner of the clubrooms (third one from the corner) interferes with the main electrical cable that comes into the clubrooms. This has necessitated expensive repair work by the club and will soon cause irreparable damage to the connection thus will need to be removed anyway.
- The trees that run outside the clubrooms drop large quantities of leaves and seed into our gutters causing problems associated with blocked gutters.
- The trees that run alongside courts 1-3 drop leaves and seeds onto these courts causing a safety issue, especially when the courts are wet. An added complication will arise when these courts are laid with artificial turf in the very near future as the seeds have the potential to germinate in the sand in the artificial turf. The newly resurfaced courts will not be able to sprayed with herbicide, nor be able to vacuumed.

The Taupo Tennis Club requests that the Council introduce an annual tree management program to keep the trees in check by height reduction and thinning as opposed to wholesale removal. At the on-site visit this option was deemed unviable as we were told that such a program would stimulate growth of the trees. An alternative to an annual tree management program would be to replace the trees with a more suitable variety. Varieties we have considered are

- Gleditsia tricanthos 'Sunburnst' (Honey Locust)
- Fraxinus 'Raywoodii' (Claret Ash) –
- Liquidamber styraciflua (American Sweet Gum)
- Prunus species (Flowering Cherries)

- Magnolia grandiflora "Little Gem" and although evergreen, it is a very nice tree and could be inter-planted with one of the others choices

All trees potentially get large. The above trees aren't particularly fast growing which is a good thing in terms of their management. The first three suggestions give very good autumn colour and also will provide summer shade. We have suggested the flowering cherries as we have sister city relationships with both China and Japan and there are a number very nice forms which put on a good display of spring blossom and the trees are easily managed in terms of size.

We reiterate our commitment to provide appropriate semi mature replacement trees for replanting.

We would welcome an opportunity to present our case to the committee at an upcoming meeting.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely

Matt Jackson

MJ

Secretary

Taupo Tennis Club

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