

## Site Survey – Observations

### *Refer to Plan Attached*

- Remnant weedy plants observed in the original (2010) survey remain.  

‘Many of the plant species are weedy and have been self-sown, or are suckering: these include Hawthorn, Privet, Pittosporum, Cotoneaster and Berberis’ (Bickleigh Vale Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, 2010, Pg 13).
- Old, badly pruned, weedy Cotoneasters and a Hawthorn unattractively dominate the entrance to Bickleigh Vale Road (north-side).
- Visibility of oncoming traffic will be obscured by several *Abelia grandiflora* plants when they reach mature size (up to 3m), requiring removal, or heavy pruning resulting in an unnatural shape much disliked and discouraged by Edna Walling.
- An Oak (listed in 2010 as *Quercus canariensis*, Algerian Oak) planted at the entrance has been removed due to continued possum damage causing die-back. This tree would have restricted access and visibility due to poor siting too close to the roadside, and would likely have required removal in any case. The stump remains, and is beginning to reshoot.
- The Bishop Pine died and has been removed, however the stump remains.
- The *Pinus radiata* died and has been removed.
- Several Cotoneasters have been removed recently, however the stumps remain.
- The remaining Oak approximately 30m in from the entrance is senescing. It has been unattractively lopped, has few leaves, and the lower limbs are covered in bracket-fungus, indicating its declining condition.
- *Spirea thunbergii* and *Abelia grandiflora* have been over-used and haphazardly planted in many places in this section of the roadside.
- Donated plants (*Acer palmatum*, and several other unidentified shrubs not on the list of approved plants) have been planted in recent times
- A lopped tree (unable to identify, and not identified in the original survey) has branched from the stump and now runs parallel to the fenceline, and is entangled with a vine and shrub behind the fence. Together, this group of plants form a solid, tangled mass, rather than the light screening effect desirable along the roadside.
- Overhead telephone cable restricts planting of taller species below and needs to be considered in a replanting plan
- The rose (possibly Edna Walling), is usually grown as a large climber. It is growing unsupported and sprawling, and requires hard-pruning annually to maintain a shrub-like shape. It is presently in danger of being engulfed from behind by a large *Abelia grandiflora*.
- Many ground covering weeds are present

## Revegetation Proposal

Two approaches could be considered (or perhaps a compromise between the two):

1. **Retaining most of the current planting, supplementing from the approved plants list**
2. **Complete renovation (retaining selected plants only)**

### 1. Retention and Supplementation

- Any suitable plants could be selected from the approved plant lists. Drought-hardiness and size should govern plant choices. Plant selection would be made on an opportunistic basis to fit the spaces available. No design is involved.
- Stumps should be removed.
- Weeding and regular pruning would be required, particularly with road safety in mind.
- Further details will not be provided in this document.

### 2. Complete Renovation

#### *Refer to attached plan of Proposed Trees*

This would entail:

- Removing all of the weedy species, including clearing the entrance to the street and along the fenceline
- Removing (and possibly returning to the original owner) any recently introduced plants not on the approved planting lists (eg Japanese maple)
- Reducing the number of Spirea and Abelia plants to a select and well-placed few, releasing space for a more diverse plant selection
- Retaining the rose (EW?), perhaps providing some kind of unobtrusive support
- Retaining the established Eucalyptus radiata
- Replanting with three additional trees
  - At the Entrance, a Crepe Myrtle, Lagerstoemia indica (suggest var 'Natchez' in recognition of Walling's preference for 'quiet' colours, but var 'Tuscarora' could be used if a vibrant colour is preferred). Both trees are moderate in size and low branching can be removed to ensure visibility to the road. Some watering would be required until established. Size 6-8 x 6m.
  - To replace the Bishop Pine, Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box), a medium to large tree (quite variable depending on conditions), which is an excellent shade, honey and habitat tree. Size 15-25 X 8-15m.
  - To replace the ailing Oak (if agreement is reached on removal), Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood), fast-growing and long-lived wattle, which is successful elsewhere in the street. Size 8-15 x 6-8m.

- Suggested underplantings
  - To cope with the hot and dry conditions at the street entrance, several group plantings of *Dampiera rosmarinifolia*, and *Dampiera* var 'Mallee Skies' in particular would be suitable under a Crepe Myrtle.
  - *Leptospermum lanigerum* 'Mickey Creek' and 'Mountain Spire' are useful low and medium sized shrubs to consider, as is *Philotheca myoporoides* 'Flower Girl'. These could form the middle level.
  - Other plants of suitable size which prefer a little more shade could be used further inside the street, including some of the *Correas* (*alba* and *relexa*), of which there are many varieties. In particular *Correa alba* 'Western Pink Star' is a compact low-growing variety.
  - It is important to link new plantings with established plantings in the street to avoid a lack of consistency with established areas. I would therefore include plants previously specified and succeeding in the street (and apparently inadvertently left off the plant lists):
    - *Correa baeuerlenii* (Chef's Hat Correa) seems to have dropped off the list, although it was included in planting lists dated 2010. This is a useful evergreen screening plant, and inclusion of several of these would tie the new planting into the rest of the streetscape and could provide privacy screening to the Hurst garden.
    - Likewise *Correa* 'Dusky Bells' which is an excellent low or ground-covering shrub was specified in previous planting lists and used elsewhere in the street, and could be included.
    - *Leptospermum pertersonii* (Lemon Scented Tea Tree) has also been inadvertently left off the updated list. It was previously specified and has been successful in other parts of the street. I would include this in the more sheltered area near the proposed replacement for the ailing oak where it would have some shade from hot overhead sun. It is drought hardy and does well with a little shade.
  - Ground covers could include *Myoporum parvifolia* (Broad Leaf form), *Nepeta Walkers Low* (similar and related to Six Hills, Giant but lower growing and useful as a groundcover) and *Scaevola* (various selections).

Detailed plant lists and numbers required can be determined once the overall approach is agreed, and the site prepared. Identification of plants which will remain should be taken into account when calculating plant numbers.



