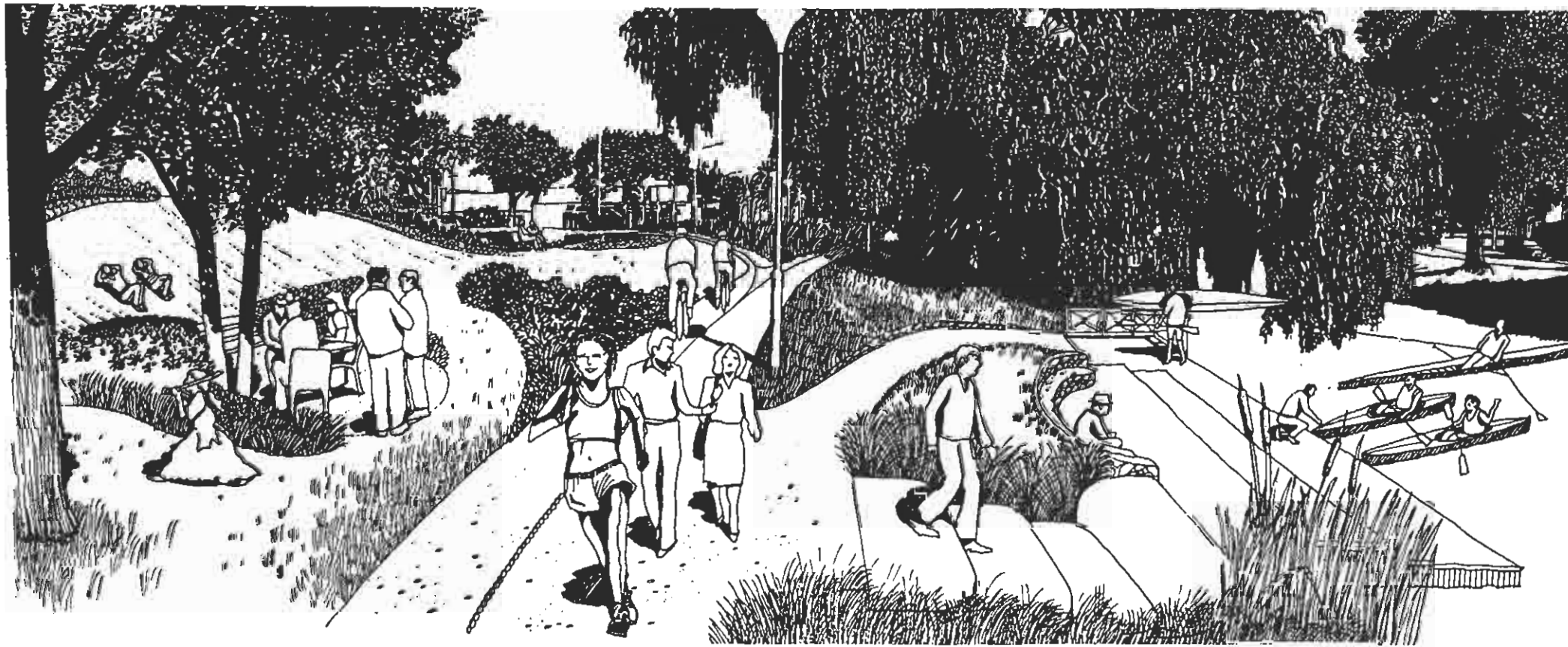


AVONSIDE ~~DRIVE~~ PARK

from Fitzgerald Avenue to Linwood Avenue



Lucas Associates

351 Manchester Street tel. 365 0789 April 6, 2001

VALUES

General Values

The Avon river (Otakaro), is an important amenity, recreational and wildlife resource for Christchurch residents as well as being a tourist attraction. It is an asset for the whole city. Its ecological, landscape and amenity values need to be protected for future generations.

The river was an important area of mahinga kai for the Waitaha, Ngati Mamoe and Ngai Tahu. Cabbage trees were planted in the area as fishing markers.

Heritage Values

The neighbourhood adjoining this stretch of the river has strong heritage values. Many specific sites have been listed and an area surrounding Hanmer Street, with many heritage workers cottages, is presently in the process of becoming a listed heritage area, as well as this, the wider area is also being considered for heritage listing. Most of these sites can be accessed from Avonside Drive by pathways and streets.

Holy Trinity Church, designed by the renowned B.W. Mountfort in 1874, is a listed heritage building and has several listed trees of heritage value in its grounds. Several notable people are buried in the church grounds including Benjamin Mountfort, Joseph Brittan, William Rolleston, Julius Von Haast and J.C. Maddison.

Englefield Homestead, a listed heritage building, was built in 1856 for William Guise Brittan, a founder of the Canterbury settlement and the first Commissioner of the Crown Lands in Christchurch. Englefield had renowned gardens which stretched down to the river. The house was probably designed by B.W. Mountfort.

Linwood house was built in 1857, designed by Charles Fooks and is a listed heritage building.

Various architectural styles exist in the area showing a good display of fashion through the ages including Georgian, Gothic Revival and Art-Deco.

The area along the river between Fitzgerald Avenue and Stanmore Road was popularly called "The Willows" because William Guise Brittan planted the first willows on the banks of the Avon here. The willow trees are of heritage and personal value to the community.

The Canterbury Rowing Club was established near the Fitzgerald Avenue corner in 1841. People from all over Canterbury came for rowing regattas between Fitzgerald and Stanmore Bridges. The Avon river is still popular for kayakers and other paddlers.

Local Values

The residents living in this area have strong community values and an attachment to the Avon River, a key landscape feature and resource in their neighbourhood. This community and its values are supported by neighbouring communities.

The neighbourhood of Avonside Drive is close to the city, just outside the Four Avenues, and as such is within walking and cycling distance.

Hanmer streets and others in the area running north-south, afford good views to the Port Hills and towards the river.



ISSUES

Avonside Drive is a barrier to the Avon River for residents, visitors and wildlife.

The riverbank is steep and inaccessible for recreational and amenity use.

With the road so close and busy, the river lacks an adequate and tranquil "setting"

There is no path or cycleway along the river side of Avonside Drive.

The major traffic intersections crossing Avonside Drive are unfriendly to pedestrians and cyclists.

The Avon River is an outstanding natural feature for the city of Christchurch and has a history of associated use. The traditional values and associations of this stretch of the river are increasingly being degraded by roading and traffic.

The natural riparian ecosystem along this stretch of Avonside Drive is increasingly being encroached upon, and is now steep, narrow and severely reduced.



OPPORTUNITIES

There is no vehicle access from Avonside Drive to the properties adjoining it as the drive entrances have been removed. This increases the opportunity for closing Avonside Drive to motorised traffic.

Redirecting through traffic to the major internal streets of Christchurch such as, Gloucester Street, Hereford Street and Armagh Street, could re-enliven static and dying business areas along these streets in the East.

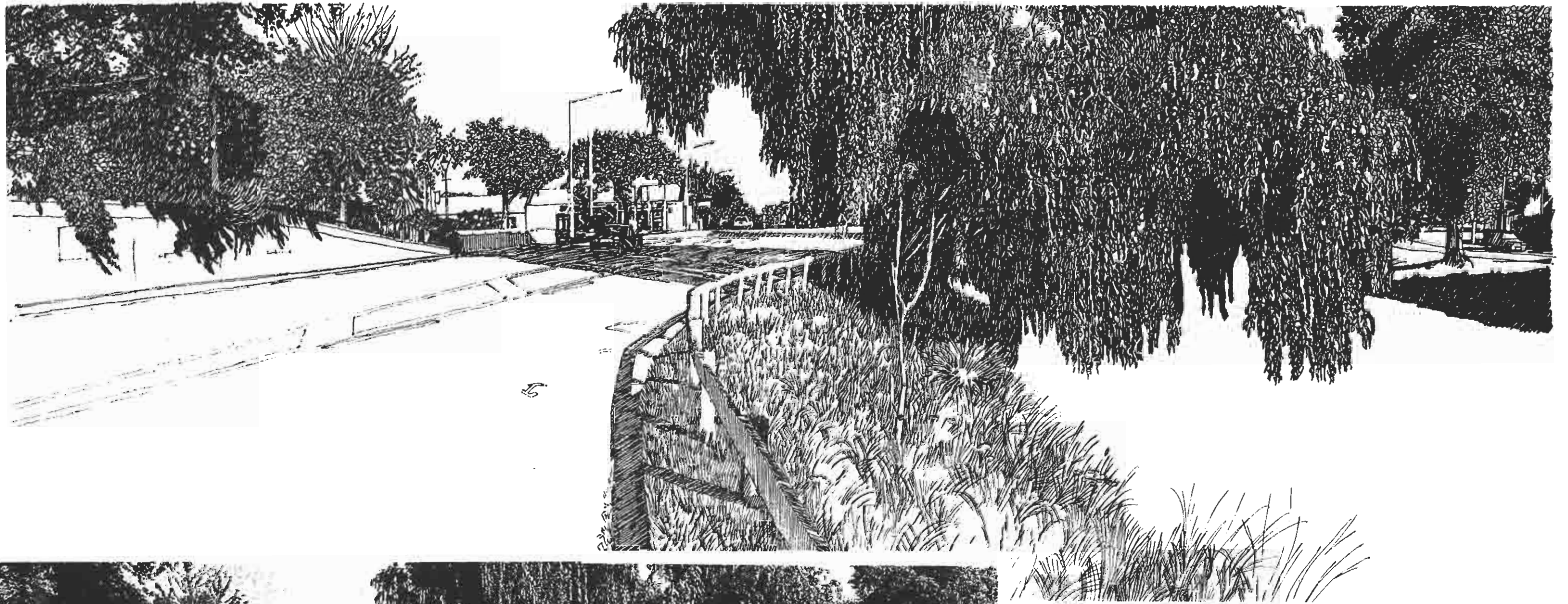
Blocking off Avonside Drive to motorised traffic opens up opportunities for this street and the adjoining streets behind, to be enhanced into "living streets" with a "priority on living and community interaction where residents, businesses, pedestrians and cyclists at the very least have equality with cars".

A riverside park along this stretch of the river could link with the C.C.C. promenade and contribute to a "city to sea" green link from the west to the east. An accessway to the sea for pedestrians, cyclists and boaties.

There is an opportunity for Avonside Drive to become a place for pedestrians and cyclists to travel through, promenade down and for children to play on. More a "park" than a "street". The neighbourhood could also become part of a heritage trail network in the city.

Some picnic areas, seating, landing sites and jettys amidst an open, green parkland could enhance the Avon River as a recreational, amenity, mahinga kai and wildlife resource on the east side of the city. A place for residents, visitors from the rest of the city and tourists.

Views to the river from the streets running north-south could be enhanced if traffic is removed from Avonside Drive.



EXISTING SITUATION:
two-lane, two-way traffic, no pedestrian
and cycle opportunities or riverbank
access

*(all sketches are from the same viewpoint, viewed looking west
from approximately 80 metres from the intersection of
Fitzgerald Avenue and Avonside Drive)*



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ONE LANE, ONE WAY SLOW STREET

with pedestrian and cycle routes, slopes re-graded and naturalised plus riverbank access with possible landing stages etc.



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RIVERSIDE PARK

with road removed, pedestrian and cycle routes, slopes re-graded and naturalised plus riverbank access with possible landing stages etc.



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