

Community Safety and Well Being Group (CSWBG) Report to Parish Council August 16, 2022

Alastair reported to the May 2022 Parish Council the following recommendations coming from the CSWBG (Susan Bansgrove, Susan Fraser (member of the property committees of the Church and the Court), Daniel Fraikin, Terry Wright (Court resident) and Penny Holt.

Signage

We recommend a full review and replacement of signage – some signs we have can be removed others need replacing. Creating cohesive, easy to read and understand signage will give the grounds and buildings a ‘lived in and loved’ feel.

- *Removal of main sign on Quadra, replace with signage attached to brick.*
- *Removal/relocation of signage off parking lot between Court and Parish House*
- *Locating the signage on the left hand side of the building, main entrance, office entrance etc. will build location consistency, which helps to limit the amount of signage needed.*
- *Addition of archway welcome signage in courtyard*
- *Addition of Garden Hours to brick wall or gate on Quadra*
- *Possible relocation of entrance to memorial garden, include similar welcome signage*
- *Additional signage for memorial garden, perhaps on the wall under the stain glass window*
- *Removal of parking signage on corner of church (Mason/Quadra) affixed to the brick*
- *Replace Parking entrance signage for car traffic*

Other immediate recommendations

*Gate to be placed on Quadra street for purpose of access control – this will need secure anchoring, and recommend that it is, as the RU report says, an artistic but solid gate – we have two artists to follow up to request quotes for a ‘Dragonfly’ motif gate. **Need someone to volunteer to do that follow up.***

We recommend considering relocation of benches in Courtyard between Church and Court – with consideration given making sure they are level, and are within ‘sightlines’ to make them feel open and secure.

Borders – a low fence (18 inches or so high) to go around all of the beds on the N Side of the Church, to discourage people from walking on beds and show that the area is cared for. Likewise (possibly) around the ‘Japanese Garden’ outside the East window of the Denson Lounge, and around the beds on the North Side of Memorial Garden. Though these are not ‘barriers’ the recommendation is that making clear boundaries is a discouragement to those who wish to misuse space.

The question of the ‘niches’ outside the Office Door and by the Church Tower is one we don’t have clear recommendations on, a small ‘shed’ or artwork are two possibilities, or even a form of gating in the space. We would recommend Property Team be asked to investigate possibilities. ‘Spiky bushes’ and other forms of deterrent are considered ineffective in contemporary design, often needing frequent maintenance and/or replacement.

We wondered whether a low railing around the top of the Memorial Garden would be something the PC would consider – recognizing that this might entail significant cost, but would prevent rapid ingress and egress to the Memorial Garden area.

At the May Parish Council meeting, I offered to be Project Manager for the CSWBG.

I convened a meeting to discuss the setting of priorities. Susan Bangrove was unable to attend due to air travel delays. Subsequently, I filled Susan in on our discussion. Penny Holt did not reply to the email invitation, but I did talk to her at Church about the meeting.

As result the following have occurred:

- The mounting of the Quadra sign on the brick wall between the tower and baptistry is a low-cost item. However, the information on the sign needs to be updated and until such time it will not be moved.
- The recommended removal of the other signs is also a low-cost item. The work will be done when we have a volunteer prepared to remove them or authorization for a contractor to do the work.
- Garden hours will be posted but effectively only when the recommendations for fencing and gates are undertaken.
- Relocation of the Memorial Garden entrance (contingent on fencing)
- Once the new Memorial Garden entrance is in place, the existing gate will be dismantled (it is in very bad condition) and perhaps the existing welcoming messages and the arch be relocated on the brick west wall under the window.
- Contacted a fencing and gate contractor to estimate the costs of the fencing and gates as proposed.
- Welcoming signs will be developed.
- The relocation of benching will be dependent on the reconfiguration of the entryways.

A further update be made at the September Parish Council meeting.

On behalf of the CSWBG

Bill Huzar

Appendices:

A: Rethink Urban Territorial Reinforcement

B: On Garden Security – a Note from the Incumbent

C: Plans

Appendix A: Rethink Urban Final Report

A STORY UNFOLDS

A six-month Full Spectrum Community Safety Practitioner in Residence -
St. John the Divine and St. John's Court

Prepared by Rethink Urban Inc.
October 12, 2021



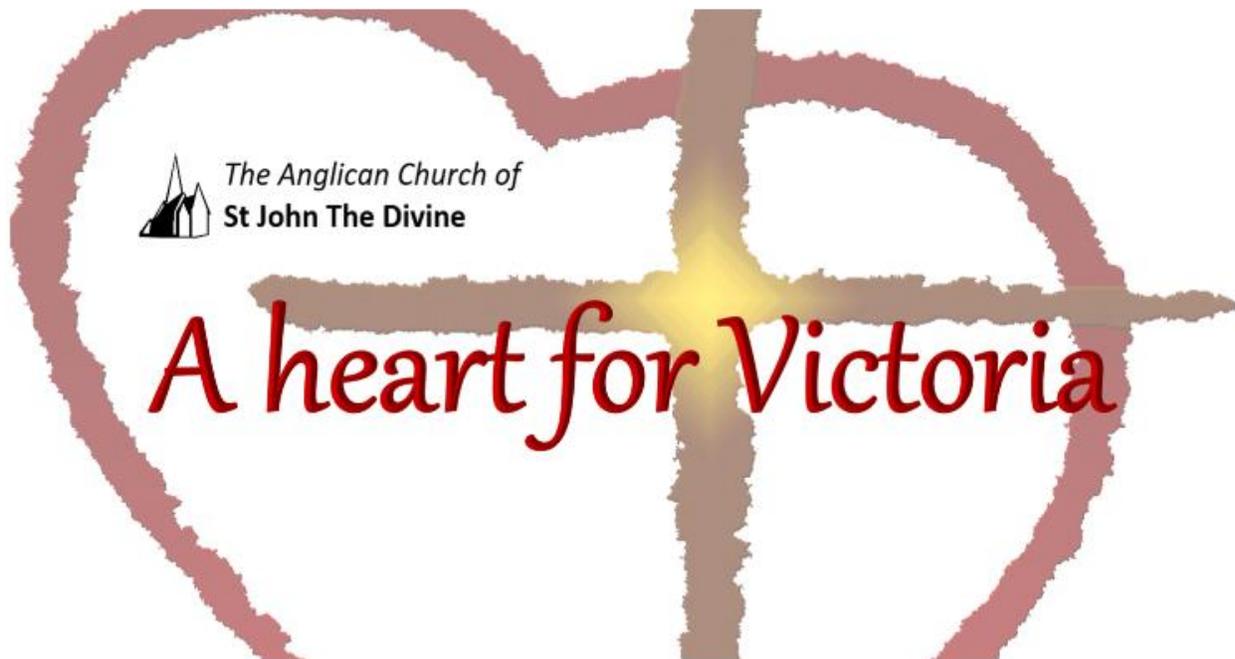
TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT

Physical design can create a sphere of territorial influence. Users then develop a sense of territorial control, while potential offenders, perceiving this control, are discouraged. Defined property lines and clear distinctions between private and public spaces are examples of the application of territorial reinforcement. Territorial reinforcement can be achieved using landscaping, pavement designs, gateway treatments, signs, and fences, which create boundaries without compromising natural surveillance.

Consider installing a gate, thick shrubs or low barrier wrought iron fencing on each side of the entrance to control access into the garden. The gate should be consistent with others that may be used for other areas of the property. This area should not require locking it down, a gate,

fencing or shrubbery suggests there is a boundary (territoriality) and although guests are still welcome, they need to pass through an access point.

Appendix B: Incumbent Blog Sept. 3 2020



There has been much (electronic) ink spilled and much opinion shared about what is happening in and around the church grounds and some misunderstanding of what steps are being taken or not being taken with regards to addressing security concerns at St John's and for the Court.

St John's is part of the wider Anglican Church, particularly this Diocese of Islands and Inlets - which means we have processes to follow, and cannot make

decisions that will irrevocably alter the nature of the church and its environs without following those processes. The Land upon which we are situated is owned in trust by the Bishop on behalf of the Diocese so that finally the decision comes to them (usually, though not always, delegated to the Finance Committee and Diocesan Council, and having to pass through their hands in any case).

A decision that affects the wider community of the church and the neighbourhood also has to go through a meeting of both the Court Society and the Parishioners. Fortunately both are the same body, as membership in St John's (usually taken to mean attendance and/or connection through our mailing list) is membership of the Court Society.

We are awaiting a ruling as to whether such a meeting can be legally binding if it takes place via electronic means rather than a physical gathering.

Since particular concerns were raised by residents, the Parish Council has addressed them at every meeting and at extra meetings in between our regular meetings. Here's where we are so far:

- We have requested the court explore the securing of the lower patios by means of plexiglass enclosures or similar, or at the very least turn off power to external electrical outlets. BC housing, in partnership with the Court, are also exploring the upgrading of windows to the court building, which is in process.
- The PC have requested that the property group act in putting deterrent devices (known as Scarecrows) and bright sensor lighting (under the advice of a **Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED)** consultant) and that is being addressed.
- We have employed a contractor to remove walls which block lines of sight and create niches for people to hide and use as toilet or other less than desirable purposes.
- We are exploring the moving and enclosing of the dumpsters in the Parking lot (which have already been moved twice to seek to address this).
- We are meeting with landscaping and construction consultants to discuss the reshaping and replanting of the Gardens to enhance the space and make it more inviting to positive, community focussed use.
- We continue to work with Paladin security to address concerns raised by residents of the Court with regards to the efficacy of our contracted security

All of this has been done with advice from two different CPTED consultants, one who works for VicPD and trains the other CPTED consultant officers from the reserve constables, one who has consulted worldwide on these issues.

We have also been recommended work to do that connects us to local community groups and we are considering commissioning a full CPTED consultation which will work to both ameliorate criminal and anti-social behaviour, and to make our grounds better and more usable to the community of the church and court.

All of this has been done so far.

We have also had two security consultations, made up of court and church representatives, who came out with many different possibilities and recommendations and an incremental approach that allowed us to make changes to the garden areas that we could assess as they were implemented. The idea of a fence is only one of those ideas, and is at the end of the process, not the beginning. The reasons for this are that though a fence seems like a simple solution, there are concerns about the efficacy of such an endeavour, the danger of creating an 'anonymous zone' which will increase rather than decrease nuisance, and that the consequences of building a fence could be far reaching and damaging to our work beyond our own community. Such a change to the identity of our community cannot be undertaken lightly, nor can we do so without the endorsement of our landlords, the Diocese.

I hope we will continue to consult with those who do have a broader picture, and PC will be discussing the offer of Steve Woolrich, from ReThink Urban, CPTED consultants, to undertake a full process of community engagement in a couple of weeks. Meanwhile work is being done already on the garden and grounds and I am very grateful to Andrew Gates and Graeme Brown who have been so diligent in researching and acting on the requests of PC along with the Property Group of St John's.

If we did get to the point of needing a Parish meeting:

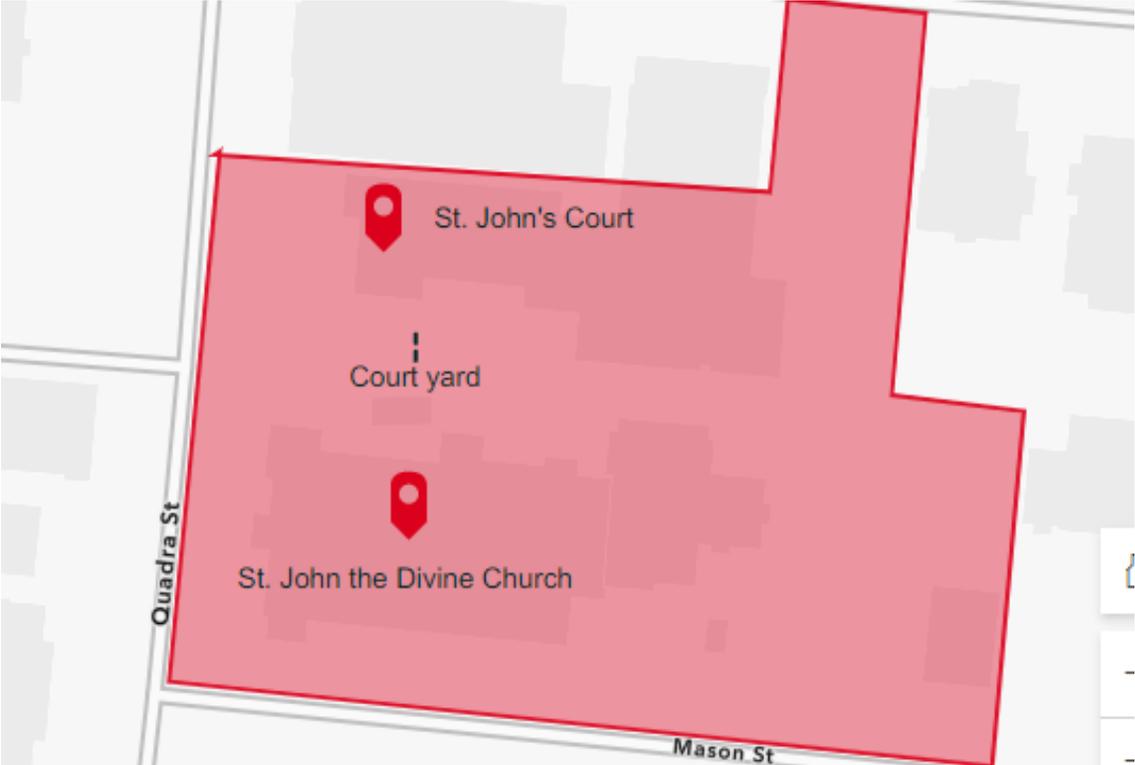
- Once we have a ruling on the legal standing of an electronic meeting and possible vote, we would need to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of parishioners on zoom. This takes at least two weeks and as part of this we would be inviting various groups to make presentations about community impact, and a CPTED consultant to discuss options.
- We would have to have a majority in favour of a course of action.

- Any plans we make would have to be costed, formal planning drawn up, three quotes from construction companies procured, need for permits explored with the city (we are a heritage building) and these would have to be presented to our own finance group and Parish Council. We would also need to have the Diocesan Asset Manager as part of these discussions and planning.
- A presentation would need to then be made to the Finance Committee of the Diocese with firm details of how funding would be procured.
- Finance would refer details on to a meeting of the Diocesan Council for resolution with a recommendation for action, or not, attached.
- The council will decide on whether they will allow or not any changes to the church or hall grounds.
- The Bishop or Administrator of the Diocese might make a contribution or pronouncement in the debate.

This is just the bare bones of the process, and a glimpse at the work that has been done by many people in addressing this situation. As with so much of the work that goes on in our church community - pastoral, liturgical, administrative - so much is unseen and we generally only see the end product rather than all the effort that has brought it about. Please recognise that the whole community is concerned that these needs for all of our community are addressed thoughtfully, effectively, compassionately.

We will keep the community informed of progress and changes to be made as they occur. We recognise that feelings are strong where the well-being of the community is concerned, and those of us in leadership do care, we are acting, and we are working towards what we hope will be an equitable, secure, sustainable, and gracious end to this process.

Appendix C: Plans



Fence proposed from Mason Street existing stone wall to new entrance to Memorial Garden. (Examples of proposed fencing follow)



Fence proposed across garden at parking lot entrance to walkway to the Church and Church Office.

to



Gate and welcome sign at the walkway pictured here with fence around Magnolia Tree Garden Court/Church walkway.

Gate at the walkway to the Court and fence from gate to Court building.

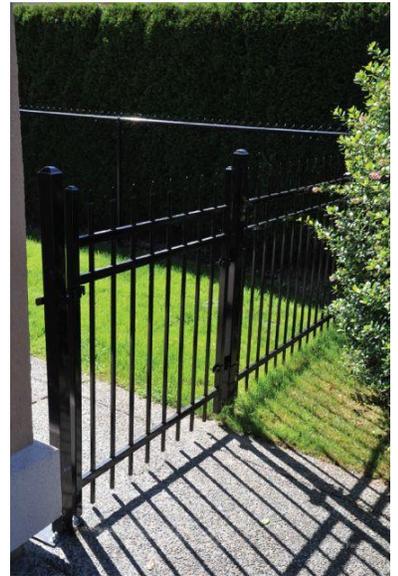




Gate, similar to the three others at the Memorial Garden, and walkways at the Quadra Street entrance.

New welcoming signs inviting people to enjoy the private St. John's Courtyard and open to the public from dawn to dusk.

Example of a three- and one-half-foot wrought iron fence and four-foot-wide gate.



Concept Pictures:

