

Stay vigilant

STRATEGIES to deter the poisoning of trees in Canterbury are being investigated, however residents are urged to get behind the council and step up efforts to catch offenders.

Cr Linda Eisler moved a motion last week that council investigates strategies to deter the poisoning of trees, such as those used by other councils.

"Too often we see people poison trees to improve their view, access or [due to] rubbish [from trees]," Cr Eisler said.

"There is nothing we can do about it on private land, but we can on public."

Cr Eisler suggested putting barriers around trees until they mature, and investigating what other councils are doing.

Canterbury Council's general manager Jim Montague said perpetrators need to be caught poisoning trees with evidence for a conviction to be secured.

"Unfortunately we can only proceed against an offender if we are provided with incriminating evidence and testimony by credible witnesses," he said.

"We urge residents to remain vigilant and to provide us with any relevant proof, preferably video or photographic, in order to secure a conviction."

Anyone convicted of poisoning a tree faces hefty fines. If you have any info that can assist council, call them on 9789 9300.