

**MINUTES OF THE PIHA RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS
COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, 7 April 2006 – 7.30pm**

Present:

Jan O'Connor – Vice President
Betty Hanson
Sara Carbery
Jacki Houtwipper
Sue Dunne
Simon Brown
Geoff Calvert
Peter Chapman

Monique Davis (Community Board)

Apologies:

Peter Dunlop, Tony Dunn, Andy Higgs, Christine Shepherd, Penny Hulse

Marilyn Perko - resident
Sandra Coney - ARC
Neil Hilton - resident
Bruce Waygood - resident
Pat La Roche – resident
Yvonne Dufaur - resident
Bruce Waygood - resident

Warren Ogilvie – WCC - Parks
Grant Jennings, WCC - Parks
Renee Lambert, WCC - Parks Planning

1. Open Forum

Grant Jennings, Renee Lambert and Warren Ogilvie spoke to report presented at meeting entitled Parks and Open Spaces dated 7 April 2006.

A. Bridge Replacement -

Timeline has been set up (completion Dec 07), artists engaged for the project. A competition between 3 artists - to engage 2 from Piha and 1 from Waitakere area. The three designs will be displayed on the library noticeboard for feedback – no wider/formal consultation. Would like representatives from R&R to be on the group that assesses the designs. Will then go through community board and Council, and engineering design. Initial assessment shows will have to start from scratch to be able to have it 2m wide – likely to be in the vicinity of \$250,000.

R&R gave feedback that would like the design to be in keeping with the environment, and balance spending lots of money for an excessive design against a simpler, more standard bridge.

Peter Chapman and Geoff Calvert volunteered to be the representatives on the WCC sub-committee.

B. Claude Abel Pond Lily Control

Has been partially cleared two times in the last 20 or so years.

Question raised by Pat La Roche about community consultation on the project. Residents directly affected by the work will be notified. Up to resource consent people within the WCC will decide if it will be notified.

Renee clarified that the budget for this project will not go far enough to remove all the lilies. Bigger issues will be discussed with the community when the Piha Management Plan is reviewed – this is scheduled to take place in about 3 years time.

A mail drop will be posted out to all residents and ratepayers informing them about the project.

C. Playground Replacement

Copies of the survey (including map of alternative location) circulated. A meeting will be held at the playground on 29 April, 10-12pm.

Comment made by Committee members that more than just the 300 residents neighbouring the Domain are interested in this, e.g. Karekare residents, others interested in the Domain.

Question of the location discussed briefly. Community will have it's say on this. If at the alternative location, need to check that there is still sufficient space for a sportsground/general area for cricket, etc.

D. Piha Helipad

Westpac Rescue Helicopter pilots have raised issues of safety and difficulty with the current site. The pad will only be used for emergencies. Any other use will require Head of Parks approval (rarely requested/given in recent years). Lighting will only be able to be turned on by the pilots remotely when needed. A concrete surface – it can be coloured (e.g. green or black) - but the H must be white. Aim is to get it in before this Christmas. Question raised about it being notified. This is a question for the planning department. There will be some announcement about it.

WCC offered to have the mail out include details of all that is going on at Piha, e.g. the footbridge as well, and some copies will be sent to the library. Information will be provided to the

E. Campground

Warren Ogilvie spoke to this part of the report.

Conditions will apply to the permanent caravans - likely to include requirements about roadworthiness, tidiness, property kept inside the caravan.

All caravan owners have been notified, so this information is no longer confidential.

F. Rubbish Bins

WCC would like to get feedback of R&R/community on the redesign of the bins on the foreshore.

Committee raised question of the emptying of the rubbish bins – comment that some are not cleared regularly enough e.g. Sunday morning often full, and needed at the end of the weekend. Warren will follow this up with relevant Council personnel.

G. Coastcare Projects

Renee Lambert spoke to this.

The Little Lion Rock corner bunds etc were put in about 1 year ago. It was done as a trial. Now time to review. There will be some consultation open days to get feedback on the various issues. Included in this is the plan of action for the rest of mid-beach e.g. questions of accessways, amenity of the car park areas.

Some planting on the bunds will be replaced – some is still getting established, but going well. Was late to get on the maintenance schedule, but is there now and benefits being seen.

23 April proposed for an initial open day on site to get feedback on this project and any further work in mid-beach area. Renee will then use that feedback to pull together some ideas, will report to the Committee on those, for feedback in time for the Community Board decisions (June).

Committee feedback – cars tend to park close to the bund. The passengers get out and can't see the entrance or have room to work in front of their cars, so either walk behind the cars or climb over the bund. Poles with reflectors on them look quite ugly – they are supposed to have been shortened – Renee is following this up. Also suggested having a second feedback session with plans and one inside so that people can discuss it easily. Also suggested the mid-beach is consulted on separately.

Pat La Roche made comments relating to how accessways are marked e.g. rope versus wire. Need some sort of definition otherwise people ignore the accessway and the planting etc is degraded. This is the established/scientific position from ARC, Councils, dune vegetation networks, eco/environmental groups. She suggests posts and thick wire as a compromise. Pat La Roche suggests that the accessways at Little Lion Rock become permanent. There is evidence that one accessway in that area should perhaps be relocated because people are persisting on using a particular alternative path over the dunes.

Dog signage and regulation enforcement

Marilyn Perko raised questions about dog use of the beach and the signage notifying dog owners what they can do. The signage does not adequately notify people of the areas where dogs are permitted (e.g. at Little Lion Rock, the sign indicates dogs on a leash are permitted but does not explain that they can be walked to the North but not the South), and some signs are incorrect e.g. South Piha says no dogs, but that is not correct for after Daylight Savings. Useful to have the information about penguins that used to be on the dog signs as they previously were. Another suggestion is that the WCC Ranger is given dog control authority and fisheries authority.

Locals also need to be educated, as feedback given by the Committee that they are some of the worst offenders.

Warren Ogilvie reported that Animal Welfare at WCC say that they do have patrols at the West Coast Beaches. The Committee may want to make a submission that the frequency of these are increased. The WCC Ranger report indicates that dogs are a large problem and a time-consuming part of the role.

This issue is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Stream-side/riparian planting issue

Jan O'Connor circulated email from a resident concerned about stream-side planting blocking views. Sandra Coney commented that the flax has in all likelihood seeded itself, as no knowledge of actual planting of flax.

A workshop is to be held at the Library at 10am on 30 April for the Piha Streamside Restoration Project.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 3 March 2006 - Confirmation

Simon Brown moved that these be received, Sue Dunne seconded.

No matters arising from the minutes.

4. Correspondence

Resolved:

Betty Hanson moved that the correspondence be received, Simon Brown seconded.

5. Post Office – Telecom – Offer of \$5000.00 to shift building expires 14/6/06

Discussed an appropriate response.

We accept the offer, however our president, who has been doing the negotiations, is away for a number of weeks. In addition the new owner is still determining what it is doing with the site and we need more time to find a suitable alternative location.

Resolved:

Betty Hanson moved that Jan O'Connor to draft a letter along these lines, and circulate to the committee to confirm before sending. Jacki Houtwipper seconded.

6. Financial Report

Report discussed.

Resolved to roll-over the term deposit.

Special note made and thanks given to Geoff Calvert for efforts made to clarify the reports and manage the finances effectively.

Resolved:

Geoff Calvert moved that report be received. Simon Brown seconded.

7. Planning Issues with WCC (refer to email Ms McAlley WCC)

Notify her that the President should be the point of contact.

Ask the Council to identify the stages of work and projects they fit into within Council that address each of the areas covered by our report, and indicate who is dealing with each within Council. Ask her to come and speak to us to update us about each area, the first being local natural character.

Sandra confirmed that the original motion at the prior AGM about this related to planning protection in the District Plan for Piha, and the lack of consistency and other related process issues. The first process Carolyn referred to (a local natural character area) is the step that will address this issue.

The Sub-committee report will be circulated to the current committee.

Jan O'Connor will ring Carolyn McAlley to discuss the above.

8. Ward Boundaries – shall we make a submission – closing date 26/04/06 – has been extended to 5 May.

Resolved that the Committee make a submission, and most committee members interested in making submissions in their own names.

Monique explained that there is only one option – either vote for or against. Council will make a final decision in June. Can be appealed. The appeal will go to Local Government Commission – but is limited to issues raised.

Monique to provide suggestions for the submissions to the Committee members.

Resolved:

Motion that:

- Jan O'Connor to make submission on behalf of the R&R to oppose option 1 in line with the suggestions by Monique.
- R&R fund a mail drop to all with a submission form and suggestions for people to fill them out. Jacki Houtwipper to request Council to send out sufficient copies of the colour submission form.

Moved Jan O'Connor, seconded by Sara Carbery.

9. Report on Piha & Karekare Water Quality Meeting 4 April – Simon Brown

Resolved:

Simon Brown's summary is included in the next Piha News, provided Simon gets it approved by Tony Miguel in WCC. It should make the point that the extra charge in our rates is vital to our health and safety.

Moved Geoff Calvert, seconded by Jacki Houtwipper.

The Committee acknowledged Simon for and endorsed all his work in this area.

10. ANZAC Day Parade – who is available to represent the Association

Geoff Calvert agreed to be the representative.

11. Submission to Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill

Closes 21 April.

Sandra to email some points to Jan O'Connor and Jan will circulate a submission.

Resolved:

That a submission be made supporting the bill.

Moved Betty Hanson, seconded Sue Dunne.

12. Invitation to North-west Wildlink Workshop

This is an initiative to have a healthy and safe habitat for native plants and animals from Hauraki Gulf Islands and Whangaparaoa through to Waitakere to allow bird life etc to move through the city.

Sara Carbery to email them indicating support and requesting to be kept informed.

13. General Business

Submissions to the WCC Annual Plan

Open 24 April. Simon Brown will review from a waste water perspective.

Sandra will provide a list of ARC Long Term Plan projects has relevant to Piha.

Vector network upgrade

North Piha area. Work expected to occur in May. Will be some minor disruption – generators will be installed to reduce this (minimum noise models have been chosen) – there will be a 6 hour shutdown to install them. A small amount of lines will be undergrounded as a result of a customer /resident initiative.

Resolved:

Jan O'Connor replies to the Vector email, suggesting that notices are put in the store, Library and Post Office notifying people of the work being done.

The Meeting closed at 10.45pm.