



Otorohanga Community Board

AGENDA

10 March 2016

4.00pm

Representatives of the Otorohanga Kiwhouse will be attending at 5pm

Workshop to be held at 3pm

Members of the Otorohanga Community Board

Mr R Prescott (Chair)
Mr NS Chetty
Mrs EM Cowan
Mrs AC Laws
Mr PD Tindle
Mr DR Williams

Meeting Secretary: Mr CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor)

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

10 March 2016

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board will be held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Thursday 10 March 2016 commencing at 4 pm.

3 March 2016

DC Clibbery
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

VISITOR ATTENDING THE MEETING

5pm Representatives on behalf of the Otorohanga Kiwihouse

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PRESENT

IN ATTENDANCE

APOLOGIES

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 28 JANUARY 2016

REPORTS

Item 78: Pest Control in Rotary Park and Bob Horsfall Reserve

**To: Chairperson & Members
Otorohanga Community Board**

From: Chief Executive

Date: 10 March 2016

Relevant Community Outcomes

- Ensure services and facilities meet the needs of the Community
-

Executive Summary

The current program of pest control in the Bob Horsfall and Rotary Park reserves is relatively expensive and apparently not very effective, and it is suggested that it should not be continued.

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that:

The existing program of rodent poisoning within the Bob Horsfall and Rotary Park reserves is not continued.

Report Discussion

Since mid 2014, and in response to concerns expressed by the Otorohanga Kiwi House, Council has been funding control of rodent and possum pests within the Rotary Park and Bob Horsfall Reserves.

The initial proposal was for ECO FX Ltd to conduct an initial year-long campaign of poison baiting for rodents and possums in these areas, which might be followed by further controls implemented by community groups or volunteers, including those associated with the KiwiHouse.

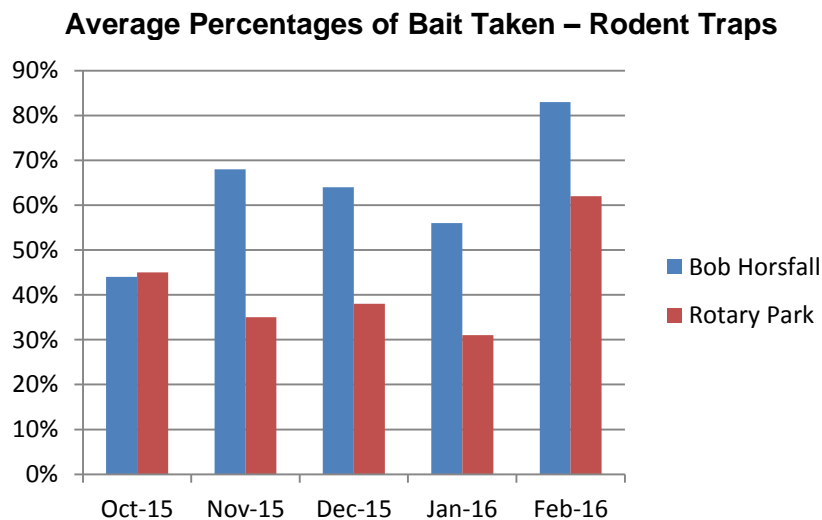
The initial year-long campaign had a cost of approximately \$11,000 + GST.

The recent budget estimates has however brought to management's attention that ECO FX are continuing to undertake pest control in these areas, for which ongoing charges to Council in the order of \$10,000 per year are being indicated.

This is not what was initially envisaged, and had not previously been reflected in budget estimates.

Furthermore recent reporting of the extent to which poison baits are being taken from the 73 bait stations being operated in these areas suggest that whilst Possums appear to have been completely eradicated by the 13 bait stations placed for that purpose (and it was always believed that very few possums were present there) relatively high (and recently rising) levels of baits taken from 60 rodent traps suggest the current strategy is not effectively controlling rats and mice.

Recent average levels of bait take from the rodent bait stations in the Bob Horsfall and Rotary Park areas are shown in the following graph. These levels of take, and the recent pronounced increase suggest that the current baiting strategy is far from being successful. The pronounced rapid recent increases in bait take (in particular between January and February 2016) show that rodent numbers are highly volatile, despite the control program.



As such the current program appears to not be meeting the objective of reducing the number of rodents to a very low (and stable) level. Whilst the high levels of bait take clearly indicates that many rodents are being killed, and that rodents levels might be significantly lower than what they otherwise would be, it is far from being a rodent free or even 'low rodent population' area. As was recently discussed in relation to the proposed piping of an open drain on Domain Drive, even just a few rats can do significant harm to the Kiwi House operation, and as such the levels of control being achieved in the reserves do not appear to be sufficient to make them worthwhile.

Examination of the levels of bait take from individual rodent baiting stations show some very high levels of take both inside and on the fringes of the areas, suggesting that there may be a significant flow of rodents into the areas from the surrounding private properties.

That there may be a significant flow of rodents from outside should not be considered particularly surprising as many of the adjacent properties are not intensively developed and have significant vegetation or are in close proximity to open countryside. There are open fields on the northern side of Mountain View Road, with as little as 25 metres separating these fields from the reserves. It should therefore not be unexpected that the control of rodent populations in these areas through baiting is much more difficult than exercising similar control in reserves within larger urban centres, where the separation from countryside is much greater.

Overall it is suggested that on the basis of its high cost and the apparent lack of effectiveness the continuation of the existing commercial baiting programs within the Rotary Park and Bob Horsfall reserves cannot be justified.

In terms of the needs of the Otorohanga Kiwi House, the construction of a predator proof fence around their premises appears to be a better alternative than attempting to control rodent numbers on the adjacent properties.

Dave Clibbery
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Item 79 : DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015

**To: Chairperson & Members
Otorohanga Community Board**

From: District Accountant

Date: 10 March 2016

Relevant Community Outcomes

- Ensure services and facilities meet the needs of the Community
 - Promote the local economy and opportunities for sustainable economic development
 - Foster an involved and engaged Community
-

Executive Summary

The Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2015 are attached under separate cover.

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended:

That the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2015 be received.

Brendan O'Callaghan
DISTRICT ACCOUNTANT

Item 80: OCB MATTERS REFERRED FROM 28 January 2016

**To: Chairperson and Members
Otorohanga Community Board**

From: Governance Supervisor

Date: 10 March 2016

Executive Summary

1. BOARD

28 January 2016

- i. To hold a workshop on the establishment/continuation of Community Boards.
- ii. To hold a workshop with Council and Otorohanga Kiwi House representatives on the future of the Kiwi House.
- iii. To carry out an inspection of the community, visiting various council facilities and projects.
- iv. Members to individually look at the railway station area to provide suggestions to enhance the area.

2. CHAIR

19 November 2015

- i. To approach Mr Kerr-Bell to obtain drawings and specifications of the Otorohanga Domain concrete exercise path proposal,

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

28 January 2016

- ii. To arrange for Council's IT Manager to explore how other communities use Wi-Fi as a promotional tool.

4. ENGINEERING MANAGER

19 November 2015

- i. To arrange for a report to be prepared on the Ed.Hillary Walkway covering the following issues, including associated costs:
 - a) Installation of shade cloth
 - b) UV treatment of glass cases
 - c) Installation of two additional fans

CA Tutty
GOVERNANCE SUPERVISOR

GENERAL