



Otorohanga Community Board

AGENDA

19 January 2017

4.00pm

Members of the Otorohanga Community Board

Mr Alan Buckman
Mrs Katrina Christison
Mrs Liz Cowan
Mr Neville Gadd
Mr Paul McConnell
Mr Peter Coventry

Minutes Secretary: Mr CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor)

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

19 January 2016

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board will be held in the Council Chambers, 17 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga on 19 January 2017 commencing at 4pm.

9 January 2017

DC Clibbery
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

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PRESENT

IN ATTENDANCE

APOLOGIES

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 1 DECEMBER 2016

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

ITEM 12 USE OF DONATION FROM WAIPA NETWORKS LIMITED

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

From: **Chief Executive**

Date: **19 January 2017**

Executive Summary

Use of the donation from Waipa Networks and the results of the associated community survey on this matter are discussed.

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that:

The Board confirms that the \$115,000 donation made to Council by Waipa Networks Limited is earmarked as a potential Council contribution towards the development of a new Kiwiana themed children's playground at the Brett Reserve, provided that sufficient external funding is sourced by the group promoting the project to enable construction of an approved playground to be completed by 30 June 2018.

Report Discussion

219 responses were received to the community survey that was initiated by the Board in respect of residents and ratepayers preferences for the potential use of a \$115,000 donation to Council by Waipa Networks Ltd, which included the development of a children's playground at one of two possible locations in Otorohanga.

Of the indicated 'tick box' preferences, 112 indicated a preference for the Reg Brett Reserve (skateboard park area), 94 preferred Windsor Park (off Haerehuka Street) and 13 indicated a preference for some other type of project. Many comments were also made, and these have been provided to members separately.

That the Windsor Park option was presented as being conditional upon a public toilet being installed there, but without a full explanation of the implications and costs of having such a toilet may to some degree have influenced the outcome of voting, but accompanying comments make it clear that the lack of a toilet at Windsor Park is a significant issue, that does need to be somehow recognised in relation to this matter.

In terms of what decisions might be made based on the survey results, it is suggested that without a significant majority in favour of the Windsor Park location (even with the apparent attraction of a toilet being present) it is difficult to see strong justification for overturning the decision of the previous Community Board to earmark the funding provided to Council by Waipa Networks as being a contribution towards development of a Kiwiana themed playground at the Reg Brett Reserve.

It is however also clear that the support for Reg Brett as a location is not universal or overwhelming, and that a substantial number of people have concerns about the suitability of Reg Brett as a playground area and/or the present infrastructural deficiencies of Windsor Park.

That the Windsor Park playground is now 'old and tired' and lacks a public toilet are not new observations, these are deficiencies that have been highlighted for some time, by a range of

people including previous Community Board members, and it is therefore understandable that these issues have again been raised in this survey, and seem unlikely to go away in the future. Regardless of whether or not it is considered the 'best' location, Windsor Park is still certainly a good location for a playground given its central position in the community, and it should not be forgotten and allowed to deteriorate to a point where it is no longer usable.

Given the apparent division of views between the two sites and the infrastructural deficiencies of Windsor Park it is suggested that caution should be exercised in considering provision of funding to a Reg Brett playground over and above that of the Waipa Networks donation, and making this a case of 'putting all your eggs in one basket' at that site.

The Board is currently in a challenging position regarding the funding of parks and reserves activities in the Community, as nearly all of the discretionary funding that previously existed for capital works has now been committed to various projects, and the District Council is reluctant to invest additional rural-sourced rates in the town, after previous substantial increases. As such the prospect of ratepayer funds being invested in development of any additional playground raises questions regarding how the necessary but less exciting costs of maintaining, improving or renewing existing assets – such as Windsor Park – will be met.

In the longer term it is hoped that the expansion of Waikeria Prison and other proposed major development projects in the District will generate growth in Council revenues that will allow greater investments to be made in activities such as parks and reserves, but as yet these are only future prospects, and current funding is very limited.

Whilst the previous Council and OCB had agreed that the contribution from Waipa Networks should be earmarked for a Kiwiana Playground project it should also be noted that neither body had ever motivated a new playground project, or had made any significant budgetary allocations toward such. The project arose as a proposal of an external group, suggesting that the project would be funded from external (non-Council) sources, and it is therefore unsurprising that Council and OCB welcomed it enthusiastically, despite the fact that there had not been any expression of broader community desire (or willingness to pay) for such a new facility.

For the project to now be presented as one that requires very substantial investment from Council would be a fundamental change, that would warrant Council and the Board's reconsideration of their positions in relation to it. As discussed it does not however appear appropriate to extend this reconsideration as far as overturning the earmarking of the Waipa Networks donation, provided that the other external sources of funding can be found to enable completion of the project within a reasonable timeframe.

DC Clibbery
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ITEM 13 OCB MATTERS REFERRED FROM DECEMBER 2016

**To: His Worship the Mayor & Councillors
 OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From: Governance Supervisor

Date: 1 December 2016

BOARD

1 December 2016

Board members to look at existing situation regarding the lighting of the Village Green

**CA Tutty
GOVERNANCE SUPERVISOR**

GENERAL