

Mike Cohen Devonport-Takapuna Board Member's Report To The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

Meeting 21st February 2017

Parks and Reserves

Dog Bylaws

I had a site meeting on Takapuna Beach on Monday the 23rd of January just after 17:00 with locals who were concern with some dog owners who ignored the dog bylaws.

The Devonport –Takapuna Local Board members after considering the submissions made on the proposed dog bylaws in 2015 endeavoured to draw a fair/fine line for the various competing points of view and the impact it would have on our very community valued beaches and reserves.

There were expectations given the fine lines drawn that Council would in fact ensure the rules developed would be complied with and enforced. I suspect the Council has insufficient capacity to meet its obligations and have prioritised accordingly which means our area is short changed compared with others that have for example vicious or maltreated dogs.

Of our beaches Takapuna is the flash point. I believe our other beaches particularly on the Devonport Peninsula are more likely to be used exclusively by locals. People on the beach being locals are more likely to know each other and have greater empathy for non dog owners enjoying the beach.

Lets face who from another part of Auckland would willingly desire to drive down Lake Road to find a beach to exercise their dog. Therefore I suspect Takapuna Beach is seen as an attractive destination from other parts of Auckland to visit in order to exercise their dog.

While I was talking with locals I saw at least 5 people with dogs on the beach during a period when they are prohibited to being there.

Further some dog owner do not grasp the key principle when dogs are allowed on the beach that they need to be under control..**the emphasis is under control**. Some think that by the dog being on a leash that's sufficient. Alas some people have those extended leashes if this makes it easy for the dog

(even if it's a lovely puppy) to jump up on someone or walk over someone's towel the dog is hardly under control.

Understandably someone knock over by a dog and especially if they have been injured feels very aggrieved. Alas in too many cases if they approach the dog owner they are abused.

On our other beaches and reserves the best enforcers are the significant majority of responsible dog owner who have dogs under control who pick up after them and do not want rogue dog owners to let the side down. The basic principle should be if you abuse your rights you loose them. Therefore a fellow dog owner saying something is likely to be better received.

However a small minority of irresponsible dog owners on Takapuna Beach who do not believe the rules apply to them are creating a "wild west situation" and Council needs to step up and fulfil their obligations to address the problem.

I noticed fellow Board member George Wood has put in a Notice of Motion about dog control. It does not need 2 Notices of Motion on the subject it needs **immediate Council enforcement action. A real blitz on Takapuna Beach**

The Board needs to received the facts as to what dog control is actually occurring in our area. The dates, times and which beach or reserves are being policed.

The number of fines and enforcement notices given out over the summer months.

This information ought to be easily accessible and if not that is of real concern as to how this area of Council is being managed.

I suspect there is a real capacity problem in enforcement and therefore I would be supportive of addressing this rather than putting more pressure on great staff who are being" run off their feet" trying to do the impossible

The importance is having Council staff operating at the times when there is most likely to be an infringement eg on a Saturday.

From my Members Report to the Board on the 15th December 2016

Takapuna Playground

Child Safety

“The Takapuna Playground has been a fantastic success for the young people able to use it. However the playground is sited in the wrong location, if one takes account the historic popularity of Takapuna Beach and the added pressures on the area as intensification takes hold.

That notwithstanding, the reality is it is there, and as a result there are safety issues that need to be address now. I have had numerous concerns expressed about the safety to children from vehicles whether it relates to people crossing the road especially the connectivity with Hurstmere Green, but also the relationship of children and the road environs to the playground.

I recommend that DTLB requests with urgency that AT look at child safety in regards to vehicles travelling on the Strand.

AT should seriously consider stopping the road between just below Channel View Road (but still allowing access to the beach ramp and toilets), to south of the Takapuna Boating Club.

This vehicle free space created being pedestrian only would enhance this as a people and especially family friendly space adding immensely to the Takapuna Beach reserve as a safer area to be enjoyed by all. “

Reports from the North Shore Times indicate that Auckland Transport are proposing a pedestrian crossing to connect end of Hurstmere Green and the Beach Reserve. *Given that pedestrian crossings can be dangerous especially if drivers are looking sideways as to what is happening. (at the playground) there is a need for an innovative solution which not only resolves the safety issue while improving the ambience of the area.*

I still stand behind my recommendation made in December (see above) of this part of the Strand to become vehicle free thereby creating a real family friendly space

Devonport Domain Slide

“I draw attention to the **slide on the Devonport Domain** which has had orange fencing around it for many months preventing young children using it.

Apparently there is no funding problem given since 1st July 2016 it is a new

financial year, we are now December nothing has happened.” **I can confirm a new slide has been installed**

The preventing of vehicles especially SUVs driving over the footpath onto the grass at Stanley Bay Beach Reserve.

“This presents a safety issue it was proposed to place boulders, but we are well into summer and its maximum use and still no movement. This continues to attract local frustration in our inability to address their concerns.”

I can confirm that the boulders have been put in place. Good feedback by Local residents for action taken by the DTLB/Parks

Kennedy Park- various projects not moving.

Review of last summer and up-date on proposed rubbish collection for this summer on our most popular parks over the summer season.

Still awaiting data and analysis

Devonport’s King Edward Parade Iconic Clock Tower where time stands still

Since the time change last April there has been a continuing saga with the 3 clock faces. Two were in sync and the third facing Torpedo Bay was initially still remaining on summer time and the second attempt some weeks/months later ended up being 15 minutes slower. No attempt was made to put it in sync with the other 2 that were on the correct time.

Council did not think they were the ones making the changes for daylight saving. It seems it was AT who has been doing it for a number of years.

Obviously locals continued to make comments as to the issue of the accuracy of the clock tower and how long it was dragging out. After further prodding it seems someone took all the clock faces away for about 3 months. So I was thrilled last Friday to see that all 3 clock faces had returned. Alas the clock face towards Torpedo Bay was now even more out of step with the other 2 clock returned faces that were still in sync with the correct time. So in 3 months after taking all the time mechanisms away the situation remains the same, 2 correct the other on another time cycle altogether.

I can confirm that all 3 clock faces now reflect the same time

Community Development

Summer Events Programme of the Devonport Peninsula Trust (DPT) todate in 2017:

The Devonport Peninsula Trust's Community Co-ordinator Maria Teape as you can see below has been very successfully working various events and happenings in the first 6 weeks of 2017. This is a snapshot and does not include all the things that the DPT was involved with in this period. Aside from the summer fun pre- school programmes I have I either participated or visited all these happenings. This provided a vital dimension, especially if we are analysing the value we receive from our community delivery arm, which can't be captured by just any raw data that the Board receives, namely to gauge the atmosphere and enthusiasm of all those participating in the happenings.

Movie on Windsor Reserve held on Friday the 10th of February

Attracted over a thousand to Labyrinth a film enjoyed by all ages there. A great night with pre film activities from 18:30.

It will be invaluable for the DPT and youth forum who were partnering Auckland Council in putting on this successful event to have a debrief with relevant Council staff who don't seem to have a good understanding of the DPT and how they are our delivery arm for events and community development (of local government) on the Devonport Peninsula in one form or other for the last 20 years.

DPT Community network meeting 9th February 2017:

They had Scott DiSilva from the Maunga Authority to enlighten those present on the decision to ban vehicles from Mt Victoria/Takarunga. Mixed views from the audience on the ban. Obviously locals highlighted the practical issues like for example:

- Given that the Maunga Authority by banning vehicles for supposed safety reasons, which were not supported by evidence in the last 20 years, the Maunga Authority were now creating a very unsafe situation in the narrow Kerr Street, especially the inter-action by confused visitors arriving by car with parents and young children from the Playcentre and

of course the Devonport Primary School both situated on the lower slopes of the Maunga.

- No obvious place to park and finding a park in Devonport in general can be a challenge.

Folk in the Park held in front of the Band Rotunda on Windsor Reserve on Sunday the 12th of February

Attracted a larger audience than previous years. Given the applause for the various performances the audience thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment

Sunnynook Community Assoc.

Continued to make real progress at its Lyford Bush restoration project with another community work-bee to be held on Saturday the 18th of February .

North Shore Croquet Club's Grand Opening of New Petanque Terrain held on Monday the 13th February

The DTLB was well represented with Jen, Jan and George driving down Lake Road first thing on the Monday morning to celebrate with club members and those experts involved in the project the opening of the new petanque terrain which had received Local Board funding for the club's initiative.

What was interesting is the club is attracting people from the other side of the harbour given it's the closest formal pentanque terrain and the ease of getting there by ferry and then bus.

Horse and carriage in Devonport and the unwanted horse droppings

The previous operator for over 15 years of the horse and carriage which took visitors on a tour around Devonport passed away last year. The Devonport Community Board at the time gave permission to operate but each horse had to have an apron (which I had seen overseas) to catch the droppings.

Unfortunately the new operator while having an apron, it is proving to be inadequate. We have had a number of complaints.

By chance over a tree issue I bumped into on site the bylaws inspector who brought up the horse issue. I was able to give him the history and the agreement made with the Devonport Community Board/North shore City Council re the apron and the zero tolerance for horse droppings. With the best endeavours of the bylaws inspector and local people to sight them the horse and carriage currently are proving elusive.

It is anticipated that this health and safety issue will be resolved.

Benjamin the Cat formally resided in Devonport Library

A thank you to Devonport library staff for organising a very moving farewell for Benjamin the cat. Who had decided to adopt the Devonport Library as his place of residence. He was no ordinary cat. He touched many lives in his 17 years and not surprising his farewell attracted at least a hundred plus local people across the whole age spectrum including our Chair and immediate past board member Dianne Hale. Benjamin met his demise as a result of a traffic accident. A loss of another colourful Devonport character.

Benjamin typified how libraries have evolved from the austere place of 60 years ago where children were seen and not heard to a warm, fun, exciting place to be.