

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

Meeting 21st March 2017

Parks and Reserves

Three on Three Basketball Court Milford Reserve

As per the direction given by the DTLB's Resolution at its 21st February Business meeting ... *"pending a site visit convened by Member Cohen (to which all board members and stakeholders will be invited) for the purposes of determining the exact scale of the project to complete the 3 on 3 basketball court at Milford Reserve as per Resolution DT/2015/206(b), and that an update be provided to the March business meeting"* a site meeting was held on Monday the 6th of March 2017.

It was great that we managed a good cross section of stakeholders to come at short notice. It did highlight a deficiency that needs to be addressed for other projects (retention of names and contacts of people inputting into projects from the inception and beyond) that with staff changes the list of those involved previously was no longer available. That notwithstanding by good luck we ended up with a fair representation: namely students and their parents, representatives from both the Milford and Castor Bay Residents associations, Milford Village Forum, Milford Mariners, the wider basketball, relevant Council staff, and of course it was invaluable having board members there.

It was great that Council staff before the weekend of the meeting was able to mark out the location and size with red dye of the proposed international 3 on 3 basketball court. As well as the original location for the neighbourhood court. This provided an opportunity for people in the community to have a good look before the meeting.

A visit to the site clearly put into context both, the large size of the international court and the scale of the required retaining walls, the implications they would have on the Milford Reserve. The students were comfortable with having a neighbourhood scaled 3 on 3 so we reviewed the original agreed site. Unfortunately this also required excavation and retaining walls whether solid or grass banked. Having the various interests there the dynamics of the meeting allowed us to look afresh at using one of the beach

volleyball courts, the one with the net and closest to the road parking. There was unanimous support (or they could live with it) from all *of* those present. This location have a number of attractive features. It was flat, by using the current court space it was not introducing a new intrusion on to the park, the size was generous. Council staff agreed that they could report back in 10 days namely the 16th March as to whether there were likely to be obstacles for locating it there. The desire of people there was to see a 3 on 3 basketball court by summer 2017.

Resolution:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

- 1. Request that the Milford Reserve 3 on 3 basketball court be located where the current beach volleyball court (that is closest to the beach parking) is.**
- 2. That Council works on the court being finished by December 2017**

Trees on Reserves

It is frustrating that we have insufficient parks capacity to review and resolve tree issues on our reserves both from the point of view of the tree and the wider community implications. The Cheltenham Beach issue has been over 6 weeks and the state of planted trees in Queens Parade as to whether they are under stress or are they being poisoned have not been attended to.

Health and Safety Implications for Sports Clubs on our Reserves

Sports clubs and community organisations especially those in a governance role are feeling vulnerable to the perceived implications and risks stemming from the Health and Safety legislation. Especially sports clubs on our reserves and community leases, who have or contemplate having services contracted out or holding events. It is important for us to gain a better understanding of the situation that has wider implications.

Resolution :

**That the Devonport Takapuna Local Board
Request Council legal advice regarding any implications or obligations for
council leases under the terms of community leases stemming from the new
health and safety implications.**

Community Development

Bayswater Community Committee

A meeting on the 1st of March to review the options and the way forward relating to the Takapuna Boat Club building in Bayswater.

Castor Bay Residents and Ratepayer Assoc.

Devonport Peninsula Trust

Environmental Network Meeting held on 9th of March

Aside from the valued community and Council involvement was the encouraging presence and committed to be an actively involved going forward was Ngati Whatua o Orakei's investment organisation Whai Rawa our largest property owner on the Devonport Peninsula.

There was an update on our Dirty Rat Campaign and other pest initiatives.

There was a real desire to progress the strategy project. Initially that requires a scoping document that the DTLB can then consider for allocating funding

Mt. Victoria/ Takarunga

From my February members Report reporting on the February's Community Network Meeting

"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. “

We now discover that the iconic Devonport Folk Club after 46 years is no longer able to use its home the bunker on Takarunga due to reported fire risks. Council staff are to be commended for speedily finding a temporary location at the Takapuna Point Barracks.

It was reported that Auckland Council had requested the check, but it may of been initiated from another source, which given the secrecy is of concern.

The bunker was built to withstanding shelling from foreign warships if they managed to enter the Waitemata Harbour.

Other fire experts have investigated the bunker and complying could be relatively easily achieved. It is hope that all parties will be able to collaboratively and constructively work together to return the Devonport Folk Club back home.

The Maunga Authority is truly fortunate to have such superb, caring and trusted by the community staff working for them. Sadly the Maunga Authority governance have not earnt that respect and having absolute power requires a higher level of wisdom, empathy and need for genuine engagement with the relevant Local Board and their local communities.