

Date: Thursday 9 March 2017
Time: 6.00pm
Meeting Room: Waitākere Ranges Local Board Office
Venue: 39 Glenmall Place
Glen Eden

Waitākere Ranges Local Board OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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SPORT WAITAKERE

Key successes

- Getting families into their local parks
- Locals getting familiar with what parks exist in their area
- Parents participating with their kids
- The Glen Eden community eating plenty of fruit & water.
- More feedback about what the community would like in their parks for them to utilise them more.
- Local West Community Organisations working collaboratively for community
- Getting to know more about the community and their barriers.

Whānau Day Out

Saturday 18th February, 2017

To work and engage with community to increase physical activity through Sport and Recreation and get families into their smaller local parks.



"I didn't know some of these parks existed in our community"
Glen Eden resident


"I had never walked down to the park with my children"
Glen Eden resident

Next steps...
Continue to build relationships within local community to build sustainable connections with each other and in parks


Park 2 Park Activations - Glen Eden

“Making a difference in West Auckland through sport and recreation in our community”


The Park 2 Park activations consisted of Kangatraining, Zumba, Turbo Touch & Volleyball and a Whanau Day Out event. Park 2 Park ran over 8 weeks from Wednesday—Friday.




Zumba with Kat at Maywood Reserve




Zumba at Prospect Park



Locals Love Volleyball




The local turbo touch boys




Learning to play volleyball for the first time

Mums & Bubs Exercise



Kangatraining West Auckland



Kangatraining specific for mums/dads & their babies

Quote here

Key successes

- Gained innovative and creative feedback from locals about what they would like in their parks for them to use them more often.
- Getting to know the locals
- Locals finding out what parks exist right at their doorstep i.e. Prospect park
- Free, outdoor & local zumba, kangatraining, turbo touch & volleyball available for all ages
- Families getting out & about utilising their local parks through Sport & Recreation
- Physical activation for any & all ages.

To: The Waitakere Ranges Local Board

9 March 2017

Good evening. My name is Paul Goldsmith. I am Chair of the Oratia Heritage Society, which is the community organisation behind the Save Oratia campaign. With me is Michael Mason who is the leader of our technical team.

Both Michael and myself, like 105 other people, face the possibility of being forcibly removed from our homes, as we live on properties that Watercare have indicated may be used to build their new Water Treatment Plant.

We understand that by now you will all be well aware of this situation, but we felt we owed it to the people of Oratia to present a formal submission to you, our elected representatives on the Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

We see today's presentation as an opportunity to introduce the Society to the Board and inform you about our primary concerns associated with the Parker Road option.

The Society has three key messages that it would like to leave with the Board today and I address each in turn below.

1. Assessment of social effects has been lacking

The Society's primary concern with the inclusion of Parker Road in Watercare's shortlist of potential sites is that the assessment of social effects which informed the Tonkin + Taylor longlist report was wholly inadequate and largely misdirected. The site selection processes which have eventuated in Parker Road being shortlisted do not address social impacts appropriately.

For example, the Tonkin + Taylor longlist report states, under social criteria, that Parker Road is "best from a noise perspective" has "low visual amenity impacts if site can be screened" and that there will be "approximately 12 affected land owners for each of the Parker site locations". Further, it states that there are "no consenting issues identified, providing that significant vegetation can be avoided and site can be screened".

It is clear that summary of social criteria is woefully inadequate. Building a new water treatment plant and associated infrastructure at Parker Road will affect more than just the 30 identified land owners within the North and South site boundaries. We discuss separately below the social heritage of Parker Road which goes back generations to the early 1900s. Acquiring so many properties in the middle of that environment and replacing them with an industrial type development will destroy that social fabric.

Further, the plant will require services (raw water pipes, sewerage pipes, power lines) that will directly impact other residents within the Oratia valley. Watercare reports do not detail where these services will go but, by necessity, they are likely to traverse various properties as water is piped down the valley from Scenic Drive.

The Tonkin + Taylor longlist report appears to give greater significance to the social

impact associated with the removal of vegetation at the Woodlands Park site. In relation to Woodlands Park, the report states that there will be "social impact likely centred on removal of significant vegetation in this location" and that there is a "high planning risk due to consent required for vegetation clearance and associated ecological, landscape and social effects".

The report concludes that Parker Road presents "no significant hurdles or particular limitations ... in terms of the environmental, social and cultural criteria" whereas the Significant Ecological Area at the Woodlands Park site means that the "social impacts are potentially high".

These statements do not accurately represent the order of magnitude of social impact at Parker Road in comparison to other sites. They do not acknowledge that displacing families is the highest order of social impact that there is.

2. Options have been narrowed too early

As a corollary to the above, Watercare seem to have taken a great deal of care to avoid ecological impacts but do not seem to have adopted the same level of care to find a vacant site devoid of family homes. If Watercare does not wish to use its existing designated site then it should have looked for sites that have neither trees nor houses, thus avoiding the social impacts discussed above.

The national importance of the Waitakere Ranges is recognised in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008. That legislation recognises not only the ecological values in the Ranges but also the social and landscape values which are so strongly represented in Oratia. Watercare appears to have disregarded the social aspects protected by the legislation and to be conscious only of its obligations in terms of ecology.

The Society considers that a detailed social impact assessment should have been included as part of the longlist site selection process. The fact that the Tonkin + Taylor longlist report was not informed by a comprehensive social impact assessment has resulted in a flawed site selection process where options have been narrowed too early.

If more detail on social impacts was obtained at the initial stages the shortlisted sites may not have raised the same level of social issues currently being encountered.

3. Parker Road is a 'human ecosystem'

The social impacts of development on the Parker Road are particularly severe because of the number of properties that will be directly affected (though purchase), the location of the properties in the core of the Oratia community, and the importance of those properties and their occupants in terms of historic and current links through the community.

Parker Road is an integral piece of an historic human ecosystem with roots that go as deep as they do wide. Those roots stretch back well over a century to pioneering days when the main arteries were nothing more than dirt tracks and Auckland was a

day's journey away. The families residing on it then - forging it in fact - are still there today, their connections to each other span generations. The ancestors of these families built the dams, the churches and the schools that still serve the Oratia community today.

There exists on Parker Road an intricate weave of social connectivity that extends far into the wider community and makes Oratia a unique and precious part of Auckland's, indeed New Zealand's, heritage. Parker Road is the heart of that social fabric.

There is a community spirit within Oratia that is rarely encountered within Auckland environs, its intensity and depth is evident in the way its people have rallied together to rapidly respond to Watercare's proposed Parker Road site. On Parker Road you will find six generations deeply embedded in a mutually sustaining culture. An invasion of the magnitude proposed will have a profoundly damaging effect upon the integrity of the whole community within this vital and important segment of Auckland's story.

The complex and rich history of Oratia has been recognised at a policy level, most notably through the development in the 1990s of the Oratia Structure Plan, which recognised the presence of that historic community and the pressure that it was under in terms of land-use economics, and which enabled and intensification of the community through subdivision and development. That was the first structure plan in the Waitakere Ranges and, as intended, has led to ongoing enrichment of the Oratia community including on the land subject to the Watercare proposal.

The Society considers that the social heritage of Oratia is a resource management matter worth fighting for. There has been much effort over the years by Council and the community to put in place regulation and legislation to protect the heritage and environment of this area from inappropriate development. A designation would completely undo this long-held intent by Council to protect this historic community.

4. Conclusion

The Society understands the need to protect the water supply. But Watercare do have other alternatives that don't involve displacing families, tearing a community apart or significant loss of ecological heritage. Watercare own and have set aside land which is designated and consented specifically for this purpose. That site is known to have been mainly open paddocks in the 1940s but Watercare have failed to maintain the designated site fit for purpose. Should Watercare choose not to use that site then it ought to have undertaken a site selection process that would have acknowledged both the ecological and social values in the Waitakere Ranges, which are all recognised in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area legislation.

Finally, we understand that as a Local Board you are not the decision makers in this process. However, the Auckland City Council website makes it clear that the Local Board is responsible for a) providing input into CCO plans and initiatives b) communicating the views of local people on regional strategies and plans c) supporting strong local communities.

We are a community living with significant distress. People are not sleeping, children are upset and worried. It is clear this is a problem impacting the wider community. Our question to this Board is, how do you intend to deliver on your responsibilities and support the people of Oratia in this matter? What formal acknowledgement of support is this Board prepared to make?

Regards

Paul Goldsmith
Chairperson Oratia Heritage Society