Local Board Chairs Forum/ Parks Maintenance

Hi Colin

I see from the agenda for your Chairs' Forum on Monday that there is an item on Parks/Community Services. I have just returned from a soggy jaunt around Waiatarua Reserve.

As I have mentioned in the past, I know this Reserve well and visit on average 5x/week.

On the upside the bins are being emptied more often and we are no longer getting dog refuse spillage. There has also been an attempt to mow the grass in the past 48 hours.

On the downside I note the following:

1.   At the pedestrian entrance to the Reserve on Grand Drive opposite Rosepark Crescent, the machine has left about 2 metres unmowed adjacent to the planting. They have simply not gone in close enough to do a good job.

2.   The grassed areas through the park have been mowed in a haphazard fashion. Some areas have been done entirely . Some areas are only mowed alongside the tracks. Many have been left entirely unmowed. The result is a bit of a shambles quite frankly.

3.   Because of the excessive length to begin with, there are now large swathes of cut grass lying on top of the mowed areas. They are therefore unusable for recreational purposes, and will continue to be even after everything dries out – unless frolicking in hay is your thing.

I understood that we were to have a briefing from Community Services on the performance of Ventia after giving them a couple of months to transition from the previous contractors, where we would have an opportunity to provide feedback on the quality and level of service. This was supposed to be part of a more accountable reporting regime and I am disappointed that we have not yet heard from them.

Is the issue of the service level and lack of reporting to date something that could be raised at the forum on Monday ? I would be interested to know how the new contracts are panning out for other Local Boards.

Carmel Claridge
Orakei Local Board Member
Shop 25 Meadowbank Shopping Centre
35 St Johns Rd, Meadowbank, Auckland
Tel: +64 9 521 7021
Mob: 021 701 062