

Mrs Jan Faulconbridge  
Secretary  
Waiheke Croquet Club inc.  
Waiheke Island

Dear Jan,

### **Use of bowling green area in Alison Park**

Thanks for your letter to Mace Ward about the bowling green area. Mace has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Croquet Club have their home at Alison Park and make use of the green several times a week. It's a joy to see the area used so well. I recognise that the club plays a great role in keeping people physically and socially active. I appreciate that the club have invested significant time and money in caring for the green.

In return council has made a shed in the park available to the club, arranged for access to the toilets in the sustainability centre and has installed a tap on the outside of the building.

I understand that you feel that you need a guarantee of tenure (a lease) over the green before you can invest your (or others) money in a watering system capable of sustaining the greens through a dry summer.

The Waiheke Local Board makes decisions about local parks on the island. The board considered the future use of Alison Park through a concept planning process during 2015/16. The board consulted the club and other people interested in the reserve before deciding how each area should be used and developed.

The concept plan states that we will “**Ensure that the bowling green can be used as a multipurpose area for community activities as well as used as a croquet lawn by the croquet club**”. This recognises that as the largest area of flat public land in Oneroa, the value of the green is too great for it to be dedicated solely to croquet. As it stands the club are free to use the area at any time on a first-come, first-served basis unless it is booked for an event. This seems to work well for your current levels of use. There is no reason to expect any change to this situation in the foreseeable future.

If you feel that it would help to have a formal agreement for access to the green then you could apply for a formal lease over the area. This would be negotiated with our leasing team and would require the approval of the local board. Any lease would likely only cover access at given times and would not restrict other uses of the space outside those times. It would document the responsibilities of the club and of council. This could give some guarantee of ongoing future access to the green. Let me know if you would like to progress this.

The best way to progress the development of a suitable watering system would be to put together a proposal outlining the works necessary, the contribution of the club (either in design, installation, money or maintenance) and the funding required, which could take the form of a request to the local board from their grant funding round – see Jessica Morris in the board office for details.

The club should not be paying for mowing of the green. Please outline the standard to which you need the green mown and I will try to get agreement for our contractor to mow the green to this level.

Thanks again for the work that you all put in to the club, the grounds and the green. The club make great use of the green and we support your ongoing use. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need help putting together the proposal for the watering system or the standards for mowing.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Wilton  
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