

CHURCHILL PARK SITE VISIT 24TH APRIL 2017

On Monday 24th April together with OLB fellow member Ros Rundle I met with Eric Walton – Chairman of the Friends of Churchill Park.

Eric lives adjacent to the park in Glendowie and leads a team of local resident volunteers who meet on the first Sunday morning of every month to do weeding in the tracts of native planting and alongside the stream that runs alongside what is known locally as the 'pink path' – a concreted walking track. In addition to this, Eric and other Park neighbours put in many more man hours weed eating, spraying, and general park maintenance. Eric is a long -standing resident and has a wealth of knowledge about the history of the Park, the Management Plan and the current issues in the Park that need addressing.

The Friends of Churchill Park Public Planting Day has been set down for Saturday 20th May at 2.00pm. I have advised our OLB communications person to suggest coordination with Eric to help promote the event via our facebook page.

Regular weeding days are held throughout the year on the first Sunday of every month (except January) at 9.00am. Again there is potential for the OLB to help promote awareness of this activity via its facebook page.

On behalf of the Friends of Churchill Park, Eric has provided the following list of desired initiatives:

1. Gorse control in pasture.
2. Re-metalling of gravel paths following Auckland's extreme weather events.
3. Re-designation of pink pathway to on-leash area for dogs.
4. Landscape/Development Plan for former clubhouse site. Including kissing gates to ensure access to the Park and tracks while ensuring containment of stock . Consideration of a haha as opposed to fencing to keep out cattle.
5. Evesham Gully extension – Re-vegetation as outlined in current Landscape Plan. Involving removal of pines, chipping of non-millable for mulch, erection of appropriate fencing, weed removal (in particular Zantedeschia) establishing new path network through the Gully and planting. Development not to include a bike trail.
6. The opportunity for "off-set planting" to accelerate revegetation initiatives.
7. Examine possibility of extending the current area planted in deciduous trees 9 to create a woodland) and under-planting with daffodils (area situated adjacent to access road to Churchill Park School)
8. Linking the bridges from Bay Rd & Glen Oaks into the wider path network.
9. Replacement of Athlone bridge this financial year.
10. Friends/Local Board/Council public meetings to educate residents/community -what's going on in the Park, build support for the Friends (ensuring it is

representative of the wider community) and gain more “working-bee” participants.

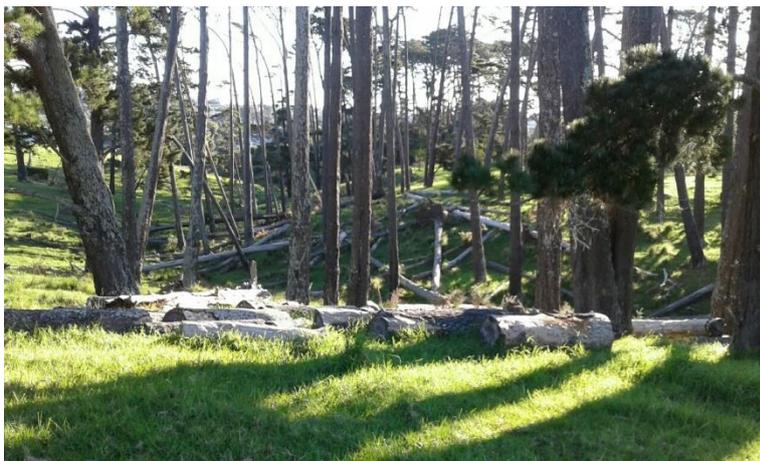
11. Speaking opportunities with the Local Board about activities of the Friends to implement the Landscape Plan.
12. Ensuring the Friends and Local Board/Council have a good relationship and work closely together with shared vision.

Track Maintenance Required:

Immediate work on exiting walking tracks is necessary to mitigate the damage caused by the recent heavy rainfall events. A number of well-used tracks have been scored out as below and will deteriorate further if they are not re-gravelled. They pose a safety risk to users in their current state.



This is an example of one of many tracks throughout Churchill Park damaged by the recent heavy rainfall. Eric has indicated that Volunteers would be available for spread of gravel. I have notified Council staff of this issue and it has been logged for investigation and action with an update/response date allocated on or before 11th May – **Case Reference CAS-451848-F3Y1G7**



Pine Tree Grove in mid-section of Churchill Park – Evesham Gully and area identified in Landscape Plan for re-development. Some Pines are aged and no longer healthy – potentially posing a danger to Park users during high winds.

Fencing:

There are a significant number of waterways throughout the Park that are currently unfenced. Cattle grazed in the pasture areas therefore have access and the health of these waterways are severely compromised by contamination as a result.

Exacerbating the problem are the felled pines in the Evesham Gully which should have been milled and/or mulched and removed from the creek. Ideally all waterways throughout the Park should be fenced off from stock.

Parks staff have been contacted to advise that there are now lines of fencing in re-vegetated areas that are redundant and can be removed. There is also a section of cut fence that needs to be secured and tied back. The Park is a large one and it would be advisable to liaise with Mr Walton to identify the specific location of the fencing issues.

Resident/Community Input

The residents of Glendowie, particularly near neighbours to the Park clearly value it highly. Those living on the Robley Cres boundary have through their own efforts, and contribution through weeding/planting/rubbish removal etc, created an extraordinarily beautiful and tranquil space out of an area that was previously largely inaccessible and weed-choked. It is very important that the work this community puts into the Park is recognised and valued and that the Board continues to work closely with these motivated people to realise our shared vision.

