

Memorandum

To: Devonport- Takapuna Local Board
From: George McMahon - Parks and Places Specialist
Date: Monday, 1st July 2019
Subject: Mr Jack Sheehy and Mrs Betty Sheehy, memorial seat to be installed at Lansdowne Reserve, Bayswater

1. Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to determine whether the Devonport- Takapuna Local Board support Auckland Council staff exercising their delegation to decline an application for a donated park bench with plaque to be installed at Lansdowne Reserve.

2. Detail

In accordance with the “Plaques and Memorials on Parks Interim Guidelines”, an application form (attachment A) from Gerald Sheehy (Son) has been received to provide for a donation of a park bench, at Lansdowne Reserve.

Attachment B to this memorandum is a map showing the proposed location on the ground.

To determine appropriateness of memorials, an assessment of the application is undertaken in accordance with the plaques and memorials guidelines. The key generic protocols and assessment criteria for assessing an application is as follows:

Where there is no policy (i.e. identified in Reserve Management Plan), plaques and memorial structures will only be approved in recognition of:

- i) An important historical figure or important person associated with the park or locality;*
- ii) An important cultural location;*
- iii) An organisation or community group involved in the development of the area; or*
- iv) A significant event e.g. events of civic (national or local) nature.*

3. General

The application has been assessed in accordance with the policy; the information available suggests the application does not meet the generic protocols for plaques and memorials.

An important historical figure or important person associated with the area

An example of this could be Fred Andersen Reserve – Where Fred Andersen gifted land to the local council some 80 years ago to create a reserve, or an important person associated with the park or locality (This is generally accepted as more than simply living in area or nearby to the park, this is where the person has made a significant contribution to either the park or the area, again this needs to be more than a resident or layperson. An example of this could be a member of the public who helped maintain the park or organised volunteers or established a key activity or

fought to save the park- again this highlights the importance of the person or significance of their actions)

4. Implementation Issues

There are no foreseen issues with implementation. The applicant has confirmed they will pay for the seat, plaque and installation.

Auckland Council contractors are responsible for installing and maintain park furniture. The applicant will be responsible for the replacement of the plaque if it is stolen or vandalised.

5. Comments

Jack and Betty Sheehy were long time Lansdowne Street residents for 70 years. Both were involved in the Bayswater community during this time. Lifelong members of Saint Leo's on Bayswater Avenue. Members of the Takapuna Boating Club where Jack Sheehy taught night classes to build P Class yachts. He was also involved in the working bees to dig drainage trenches at the rugby league club which is now known as Bayswater Park. Their four children all continue to live in Bayswater.

While there is merit in the application the Parks and Places Specialist does not support the installation of a memorial park bench at Lansdowne Reserve as per the details, contained within attachment A and B. The commemorating of Jack and Betty Sheehy while both community members do not seem to extensively be associated with the park.

6. Recommendation

That the Devonport- Takapuna Local Board, support the Manager Land Advisory Services, Stakeholder and Land Advisory, Community Facilities, exercising their delegation to decline the landowner approval to the applicant.

7. Attachments

Attachment A – Application Form

Attachment B – Proposed Location of Park Memorial Seat