

Date: Tuesday 28 June 2022
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: The Leslie Comrie Room
Venue: Level One Franklin the Centre
12 Massey Ave
Pukekohe
and via MS Team videoconference

Franklin Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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AWHITU

1. Supports the submission made by the Golf Club and in make the following comments:
 - a. The term investment is misleading and confusing. Whilst Council technically invests in golf through the provision through leases of land, actual investment is made by the clubs through other funding mechanisms and club membership.
 - b. The Club maintains the course with funds from subscriptions, green fees and other income, and any modest surplus is reinvested back into the facilities (course and clubrooms) so any changes or requirements created under any strategy must be achievable for the club and determined through collaboration with the Club and Council including Regional Parks.
 - c. The course is classed in the plan as a “Development Course” which is suited to experienced golfers when in actual fact it is more of a learner course (starting-new-at-golf – SNAGs) as it is generally free of water hazards, sand bunkers and a proliferation of large trees along each side of fairways making it attractive to less “talented” golfers. This is rare in Auckland and should be recognized as actually addressing the desired reduction of disparities in opportunities by providing a learner or easier course.
2. Note that the club was not previously included in either the 2017 review or the 2021 update and thus the data and assessment of membership, activities and environmental management was inaccurate and misleading. In particular:
 - a. The report that “no evidence of additional exotic tree removal and replacement with natives”. There had been no discussion with the club or Regional Park Ranger which would have identified that a large number of exotic trees were removed approximately 2 years ago and subsequently replaced with natives.
 - o Environmental and climate assumptions were used to categorize the course – “dry and brown in summer/wet in winter”. Due to the unique natural environment, soil and grass types of the Awhitu Peninsula the course is free draining in winter, retains greenness in summer including on greens making it different from other courses.
 - o The sustainability of the current maintenance model of the course, and the club’s viability was questioned. There was no engagement with the club committee and thus incorrect findings were reported. The club is an important community hub providing a social centre providing evening meals (Friday nights see up to 50 or 60 locals every week) and event venue for locals and visitors. This was not recognized.
 - o Suggestion that there should be less mown areas was made without appropriate engagement with the club leadership and reducing mowing would impact on the course providing the opportunities for starting-new-at-golf – SNAGs as defined within the draft plan. The comments were actually contrary to the aspirations of the draft plan.
3. The FLB endorses the stated approach of the Club to support a strategy if the following were addressed:
 - o A more up to date Environmental Report based on factual assessment and engagement with the Club leadership.
 - o Recognition of the different needs (beyond equity, participation and sustainability) catered to by the rural clubs in both the criteria for evaluation (community hub).
 - o More appropriate classification of type and category.
 - o Recognition that it is part of a regional park and assessed alongside what happens on the park but also allowing some flexibility in regard to activities

WAIUKU

1. As per other clubs, there are findings and statements in the draft and various reports upon which the draft plan is based that need to be challenged, namely:
 - Membership has increased by over 300 members in past 3 years.
 - The course is able to be and is used by the public for walking and parts of it where there is no direct conflict with golfing activities have been included as part of the Waiuku Trails masterplan through collaboration with the club so they are already providing access to non golfing recreational activities – eg is popular dog walking area in evenings.
 - Contributes to existing biodiversity practices through it's proremoval of pine trees and replanting with natives in several areas as well as various new areas of planting. Their on course practices regarding weed control etc are all based on current industry best practice and they are willing to engage with whomever in Council to keep up to date if there is any variance in approaches.
 - The course is already part of a significant network of both casual and organized recreational facilities in Waiuku and plays a role in complimenting those things and works with other organisations including the schools and sporting clubs to offer facilities for golfing and non golfing activities.
 - With the lease having expired in 2017, are experiencing challenges with outside funding organisations providing proof of tenure. **The Local Board would like to deal with the lease as a matter of urgency as we do not believe Council's internal pontificating over a strategy should impact on the ability of an established and successful community club being able to raise funds elsewhere to provide for the needs of their membership and the wider community.**

CLARKS BEACH

1. The Franklin Local Board endorses the submission of the Clarks Beach Golf Club and makes the following comments:
 - The course and clubhouse plays a significant role in the area which is best described as a semi rural, isolated community with substantial residential development occurring and which is a popular place for retirees and an older demographic, many of whom enjoy the ability to live within short distance of the course and clubhouse.
 - The golf club is the only facility providing regular meals and a club licensed services to members and guests within a large area. The closest being Patumahoe Village or Karaka Harbourside some 20 minutes drive away. It is a community hub used for non golf related functions and events and they support numerous local charitable groups through providing the course for charity tournaments.
 - As per the other clubs in Franklin, they contest the validity of the data with membership nearly doubling in the past 5 years.
 - They already offer numerous golf membership options and have subsets within the club that address many of the desired objectives of the draft plan including a Maori Golf Committee chaired by a prominent member of local iwi Ngati Tamaoho. They also have relationships with other ethnic groups to promote golf to those ethnic groups. The breakdown of their membership is telling reading in both ethnicity and gender.

- They have been contributing to improving biodiversity and environmental management for some years and have a very structured and planned approach to this that does not appear to have been recognized within the reporting for the draft plan.
- The course itself sits in a unique coastal environment and as such their approach is based on that and not on a one size fits all approach. What they do is best practice for that locality and has proven to be successful. They would welcome any expert advice from Council to determine if there is anything different they should be doing.
- Members of the community have access after golfing hours to walk and use the course for the likes of dog exercise. The committee has been involved in discussions in regard to ability to provide walkways and trails within the course area and are supportive of planning and provision of trails and paths that do not impact on the core ability to play golf but provide a safe environment for users of the trails. This is a continuing piece of work as the Local Board continues to develop a trails plan in Clarks Beach which will be largely determined by development and opportunities in and beside the course.
- The club has been involved in Local Board planning for the upgrades of the neighbouring reserve, skatepark and playground and see opportunities for collaboration and future development.
- They are also key to a Local Board supported amalgamation of the nearby Bowling Club with the Golf Club to create a true multi sport and community hub in the village.
- With the lease having expired in 2017, are experiencing challenges with outside funding organisations providing proof of tenure. **The Local Board would like to deal with the lease as a matter of urgency as we do not believe Council's internal pontificating over a strategy should impact on the ability of an established and successful community club being able to raise funds elsewhere to provide for the needs of their membership and the wider community.**