

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
DATE: 24 May 2010
SUBJECT: Community Services Manager's Report –RCS10-06-01

MOTORCYCLE BEACH RACE – 3 JANUARY 2011

The Nelson Motorcycle Club have now held two beach races on Rabbit Island's main beach, the first as part of the Club's Centennial Celebrations and again last January and have now applied to hold another event on 3 January 2011. The Club is also applying to host the South Island Beach Race Championships at this event.

The use of Rabbit Island for this type of event does not meet the requirements of the current Rabbit Island Reserves Management Plan, however, as this is up for review, staff consider that holding another beach race in 2011 will provide the opportunity for the public to experience the impact of such an event during a very busy time of the year at the island. Unfortunately the weather in 2010 was not the best on the day of the Club's event which probably resulted in minimal impact on other users.

While it is important not to continue holding events that are contrary to the Management Plan, as mentioned above, the holding of another event will provide both the Council and the public the opportunity to monitor the impact it has on other users of the island at that time of year.

Recommendation

THAT the Nelson Motorcycle Club's request to hold another Motorcycle Cycle Beach Race at the western end of the main beach at Rabbit Island on 3 January 2011 be approved subject to:

- (a) This being the last such event until the Rabbit Island Management Plan has been reviewed.
- (b) The Club agreeing to provide \$1,000.00 of the donations they make as a result of the event, towards the maintenance of the mountainbike track on the island.
- (c) Terms and conditions covering public safety, fire danger, facilities and services for competitors and protection of the foreshore being agreed to between the Community Services Manager and the Club, with the addition of defined carparking areas for the various users.

Note: The Rabbit Island Management Plan is due for a review and this could cover motorcycle events, possible rowing/aquatic course, camping facilities of Rough Island, more use of the island for cycling etc.

LIBRARY DRIVE-THROUGH

When the library first opened on the Queen Street site, the drive-through from Queen Street to the Petrie Carpark was to be closed, however it has continued to be used for some parking and access to the carpark.

While the building alterations have been underway, the drive-through has been closed off so that the builders could make use of it. This has not caused any problems or complaints from the library users as the new Richmond ring road system provides good access to the Petrie Carpark. A copy of the proposed landscape plan is attached.

Council's Transportation Manager has also recommended that the drive-through remain closed to vehicles as it is not good for traffic management in Queen Street.

Staff are currently completing a concept design for this area to become a passive recreation area with a walkway/cycleway from Queen Street to the Petrie Carpark. The work involves removing the existing hotmix drive and creating a new pedestrian path, gardens and lighting. This work is of high priority as the entrance from Queen Street will be shut off as a result of footpath work being undertaken on Queen Street.

Recommendation

THAT the Richmond Library drive-through be permanently closed and that the area be developed as a passive recreation area with pedestrian and cycle access from Queen Street to the Petrie Carpark.

SAXTON FIELD FUNDING

Over the last few months there have been statements made that the maintenance and also capital funding of Saxton Field is inequitable.

With regard to the capital funding, this has been based on a signed agreement between the two Councils that is based on population, with this being 100% of Nelson's population and the area out as far as Ruby Bay and Spooners Hill for Tasman. This was originally based on the fact that Motueka had its own netball centre and facilities that met the sporting needs of that area. The remoter parts of the district were also not part of this funding as they too provide for their own sporting requirements.

However, having said that, with the development of hockey (teams from Motueka and Tapawera are part of Nelson hockey at Saxton Field) and regional facilities such as the cricket oval and athletics track, it has been recognised that the funding split needs revisiting. Both the Regional Funding Forum and the Saxton Field Working Party have agreed to this review. Andrew Petheram (Nelson City Council) and I will be preparing a report with recommendations for both Councils to consider.

The shared maintenance is slightly different in that Nelson City fund 100% of the maintenance costs of the original Saxton Field with all the new areas (ex Alliance land bought by Nelson City Council and the Avery and Sutton land bought by Tasman District Council) having the maintenance shared on the agreed population funding split. It was agreed a number of years ago that the original area of Saxton Field would be shared once a proper governance structure for the total Saxton Field is in place.

Finally, just so Councillors are aware, the statement made in a recent media release by Cr Miccio, that "Nelson ratepayers are having to outlay approximately \$2 million a year in operating costs, while Tasman District Council pays a few thousand dollars" is not correct. As mentioned earlier, the two Councils share the maintenance on all the new areas and Nelson fully funds the original area of Saxton Field (maintenance only). My understanding from Nelson City staff is that it looks as though Cr Miccio is quoting a 10 year figure when he says Nelson is paying \$2 million per year. I have asked Nelson City for the actual figures which I will provide Councillors with once I have them.

For information only.

ASB AQUATIC CENTRE

The February report from CLM provides the following highlights:

- Over 1400 swim school participants in Term 1.
- Visitor numbers for February were 16,844 up from 14,612 in 2009 and 13,964 in 2008.
- Community events including the team's triathlon, gave the facility further coverage with the visit of Hamish Carter.
- During June the pool will be celebrating its 1,000,000th visitor and a publicity programme around this event is now underway.

TEMPORARY SEATS – RUGBY WORLD CUP

Nelson City have asked for the use of Council's 3000 temporary seats for the two Rugby World Cup games, free of any hire charge.

This request is supported by staff for the following reasons:

- (a) The joint submission to host games in Nelson for the Rugby World Cup included the use of the temporary seats.
- (b) The seats were purchased for use at Trafalgar Park and by the local community in other venues around Nelson and the Tasman District. A nominal hire charge was put on these to help with any repairs/replacements etc.
- (c) It was also agreed that the seats could be hired outside the district, provided this did not affect local use and a commercial hire rate was charged. The biggest event they were requested for was the World Bowls Championships in Christchurch, however, this had to be turned down as the Crusaders were playing in Motueka at the same time. This resulted in a loss of approximately \$25,000.00 and they were used in Motueka at no charge. This was in line with (b) above and met the community needs first.

- (d) A second game at Motueka this year was also at no charge, although Council will benefit from some of the profit from the game.
- (e) Rugby World Cup games are a community event, similar to the Motueka games.
- (f) The seats are also required for the 2011 Masters Games at Saxton Field which will be held immediately after the two games at Trafalgar Park but before the World Cup semi-finals and final. Therefore, the seats could not be hired to other venues hosting World Cup Games without affecting two locally run events.

Recommendation

THAT the Council's temporary seats be made available to the two Rugby World Cup games at Trafalgar Park free of hire charges, however, the cost of any damage caused to the seats as a result of this event will be recovered from Nelson City Council.

MOTUEKA BEACH RESERVE

The Motueka Community Board received a proposal from Mr Bob Cooke to open up extra areas of the above reserve next to the Saltwater Baths to allow for more of the freedom campers to have somewhere to stay. The proposal included the need to employ someone on a part-time basis to collect camping fees. Mr Cooke considered that the estimated income from campers should make the system self funding.

The Board resolved that Council Officers be requested to do basic costings on the idea and report back to them. A copy of the report prepared by Jean Hodson is attached for information.

The report states that there are some practical issues in regards to the suggestion that the reserve could be used as a "budget camping area". These include:

- (a) Many people holidaying in non-self contained vehicles often deliberately choose to not go where they have to pay.
- (b) The proposal has implications in regard to the need for compliance with the Camping Ground Regulations 1985. Even if a case could be made for some exemptions from the full camping ground requirements, certain basic facilities would still be seen as necessary eg:
 - Adequate ablution facilities ie correct number of male and female toilets, handbasins and showers, including hot water.
 - Basic landing facilities eg tubs.
 - Basic kitchen facilities eg bench areas and sinks.
 - Lighting.
 - Refuse disposal.

- (c) As there is another camping ground in Motueka, setting up one in opposition on a budget basis could be seen as unfair competition.

No work was done on the possible costs of providing the minimum facilities as it was felt that:

- (a) Providing for a limited number of extra small vans and cars as suggested by Mr Cooke, is only the tip of the iceberg and while every little bit helps, this could be quite expensive to provide.
- (b) As Councillors are aware, other avenues are being investigated to help with the problem of freedom camping throughout New Zealand.
- (c) No budget has been set in 2010/2011 for such work and until the outcome of (b) above is known, any facility upgrades may not be required in the future.

Whilst this was indicated to the Board, they still requested a report from staff covering the cost of providing the basic requirements and the ensuing operating costs. Before staff undertake this work, I would like some indication from Council whether they would entertain the idea of providing the basic facilities at the Motueka Beach Camp considering the possible costs involved, the need to provide staff/contractors to manage, the opposition this could be seen to be to the Fearons Bush Campground and before the outcome of representation are known.

Recommendation

THAT consideration be given to the request from the Motueka Community Board for further work being done on the provision of basic camping facilities at the Beach Reserve.

DOMINION FLATS

The Mapua and District Community Association has provided an updated report on its proposal that Council should acquire land surplus to requirements for the Ruby Bay Bypass in the Dominion Flats area. This land is proposed to be developed as a multi-purpose reserve.

The attached report clearly provides the Association's reasons for acquiring the land and discusses options for obtaining ownership.

The Manager Property Services has commented on the Association's opinion on the use of Section 50 of the Public Works Act. A copy of his comments are also attached. To put it simply, Section 50 provides a mechanism to enable property held for a public work to be used for another public work. Unless the Crown wishes to gift the land to us, we will have to purchase it. The Crown has offered to sell Areas A and B pursuant to Sections 50 and 20 of the Public Works Act 1981 at market value, therefore gifting is unlikely to be an option.

The earliest the land is likely to be available would be in 2011/2012 and this provides plenty of time for funds to be allocated in the 2011/2012 Annual Plan.

The other issue that needs to be considered is the Association's proposal that Council purchase Blocks A and B and also Block C on the plan attached to the report. Block A has already been agreed to as it provides linkages for the walkways from Chaytor Road, Dominion Road and Dawson Road.

A valuation has recently been received for Blocks A and B, however Block C was not part of this.

Councillors will need to consider whether they wish to acquire all three areas by purchasing the land with the possibility of subdividing off parts of Blocks B and C to fund the purchase. This has been suggested by the Association.

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1 Staff prepare a case to acquire Blocks A, B and C on the plan attached to the Mapua Community Association report for the purpose of a public work.
- 2 A valuation for Block C be obtained.
- 3 Staff investigate the option of subdividing a section off each of Blocks B and C should Council purchase the land.

LIBRARIES MANAGER

It is with regret that I advise that our Libraries Manager, Catherine Bryham, has resigned and will be leaving in early July.

During her time at the library, Catherine has taken on the role of managing the building process and the many issues and inconveniences this has created for staff during this time.

Catherine has shown great skills in managing the building project, and staff and library users will benefit from her work for many years to come.

Catherine has also worked very hard to ensure the Tasman Libraries were in a position to support the LMS (Library Management System) and as can be seen from Catherine's report in today's agenda, we along with 23 other libraries, have now signed a letter of intent to subscribe to the LSynCNZ consortium.

I would like to thank Catherine for her support and work she has achieved in the short time she has been with us and wish her all the best with her shift back up north to be closer to her family.

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager

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