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## SANDSPIT RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

### **Minutes of Meeting 7 Pm Tuesday Nov 6, 2018 at the Sandspit Yacht Club**

Present: Greg Doherty, Nancy Doherty, Maya Foster, Warren Churches, Pam Eede, David Astbury and Beth Houlbrooke from Auckland Council. Part way through the meeting Paul Duffy from Auckland Council came to talk about the planting of trees.

1. Apologies: Margaret McCallum. Graham Kearney, Max Freeman, Pauline Franklyn, Bryan Taylor.
2. Minutes of Last meeting
3. That the minutes of the last meeting be accepted Moved Greg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Warren.
4. Matters arising

Graham K advises Dinghies above the high water are handled by parks, Greg has had some correspondence with a parks Officer that will be followed up.

GD has been in touch with a Council Officer for AT in regard to parking up Brick Bay Drive. Still waiting on a response re the matter. Greg said Parks say it is illegal to park on a Reserve unless with permission and there can be an instant fine of \$150 for doing so. SRRRA cannot decide what will happen to the park as there is a council bylaw but we do need to have an action that will stop people from parking on the reserve.

#### **BB Drive and Reserve Parking issues**

On Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Warren Churches, Greg Doherty and Bryan Taylor met on site to discuss the problems and possible solutions.

The chairman submits the following for the committee to discuss

#### **Summary of Various problems re Parking on Brick Bay Drive and Reserve:**

- There is an ongoing issue with overflow parking on Brick Bay Drive reserve.
- Unsafe parking on Brick Bay Drive up to say #58 BB Drive.

Situation: In the summer peak periods the reserve can be full of vehicles and up to 200 vehicles have been counted parked up Brick Bay Drive. Paul Duffy may be able to talk about that – though it is not his main thing. Greg says that in the winter there are many vehicles parked on Brick Bay Drive even though there is ample space available in the AT carpark.

Greg says he has talked to people who park in the AT carpark and they love it. They know their trailer is safe and it is convenient.

There has been numerous discussions and meetings regarding parking on the grass by mainly Vehicle and Trailer combinations going back decades.

Greg says there are 2 things we want to achieve. Put no NSAAT(No Stopping at all Times) yellow lines where it is not safe to park on Brick Bay Drive and to prevent parking on the reserve.

#### Issues:

- In winter the turf on the reserve gets severely damaged.
- Occasionally vehicles are parked on the footpath.
- In summer some vehicles are left long term and the Maintenance of the grass is inhibited.
- The reserve area has a possible capacity for only 10 to 16 Vehicle and trailer combinations.
- Some past meetings looked at all weather surfacing, such as Gobi Blocks to allow parking.
  - This was about 5 years ago. Jeff Lyford told me that at that time AT was considering doing a trial of Gobi blocks and bollards, but the person doing that job left and the new person, dropped the concept.
  - The current thinking of Council Parks department is to not allow parking on Reserve Grass. There is currently no budget allocation for Gobi Blocks.

#### Problems

1. Problem: Trailers are parked on Brick Bay Drive from #26 to # 58 Brick Bay Drive often on both sides of the road. There are only a few places where the shoulder is wide enough to safely park without obstructing the carriageway. As mentioned previously up to 200 vehicles have been counted in peak periods.
2. Problem: If parking is prevented on the reserve it could further exacerbate the problem on Brick Bay Drive

#### Notes:

- The AT carpark is available at a reasonable fee, and is seldom at capacity, especially in the winter.
- Sandspit Holiday Camp has trailer parking for its guests.
- Sandspit Yacht club has members only parking facilities, but these are said to be at capacity.
- Those parking on Brick Bay Drive would appear to be wanting to avoid paying a parking fee. Some of these appear to be Kawau Islanders who park for weeks at a time.
- There is only a limited amount of parking in Sandspit and when it is full it is full. It is not the Community or the Council's obligation to cater for free parking in not legal locations.
- There are other boat ramps in the area with some parking such as:

Below are the following in this area:

1. Scott's Landing
2. Martins Bay
3. Algies Bay
4. Snells Beach
5. Omaha
6. Leigh
7. Baddelys Beach,
8. Ti Point
9. Big Omaha Wharf,
10. Buckleton Bay (North and south)
11. Dawson's Landing
12. Jamiesons Bay

## 13. Opahi Bay

Boaters do have plenty of alternatives.

There is a limited amount of Green Space in Sandspit and what we have should be protected as an amenity. The area of the reserve borders on a wetland space and birdlife there could be threatened. Proposed new Bylaw amendments would make it an offense to park a vehicle on a reserve. With a \$150 fine.

### **Possible solutions:**

1. Restricted parking on Brick Bay Drive where there is not enough room to park completely off the road (26-58 Brick Bay Drive). This could be in the form of passive restraint such as dashed Yellow Lines and "No parking" signage. Passive restraints such as Large Rocks, Guard rails or Bollards. Both sides of the road are a problem.
2. No parking at all on the Grass Reserve. Passive restraints like Bollards or large rocks.
3. Passive restraints like "No Parking" signs on the Grass.
4. Partial restriction on parking on the Reserve, ie No Parking on the Grass from July to September.
5. Create all weather surface on parts of the reserve, i.e. Gobi Blocks in some areas to allow parking, plus bollards to control where parking takes place.

David says his solution to the problem is: the bollards that go along Sandspit Road should continue up Brick Bay Drive where there is a narrow path so that cars are not parking illegally. Above that where it widens up allow parking. David is opposed to rocks he thinks they are ugly – and cost a lot. He recommends where its wider allow people to park there. It is a long-term problem and people will park further up Brick Bay Drive. However, people will not want to park too far up Brick Bay Drive.

Greg says we should still communicate with AT about the parking and reducing the cost of the parking in the carpark. It is always the same people who park on the road. David says it is not difficult to install bollards – we need a post hole digger and some concrete. David says the bollards are a continuation of what is already done.

**Paul Duffy, Team Leader Volunteering and Programs Community Parks is spoke to the committee re Proposed Planting plan in the area.**

### **Discussion re Parking on the BBD Reserve**

Greg introduced Paul and asked him about parking on the reserve. Paul was going over with us the plan we have for planting around the bottom of Brick Bay Drive. Paul said that the grass on the edge of the road is on road reserve. So that is AT land. The bollards if installed would be on the AT land which is outside of the reserve. The Reserves Act is a powerful tool that the Auckland Council uses to protect Parkland and the Reserves Act would not allow parking to be developed on the Brick Bay Reserve. The Reserve is there for Passive Recreation which could mean just looking at it. He said Gobi Blocks will be a no from the Council. The only way around it is to provide some sort of barrier – the trouble with bollards is sometimes people with Utes will just back over them and you'll find bollards that are knocked over. Another issue is that there is a lot of heritage planting up here and we may need a resource consent to put bollards in – which is why he recommends Boulders because people will not want to park up against them and they won't move them. Also, boulders can be dropped into place – you don't have to dig a hole to put them in. He said it is AT that we need to talk to. He said that in Greater Auckland there are 4000 Regional Parks and he manages a team of people across the region. He says Sinead is in his team and assists him. He has worked with this area of Sandspit for

about 5 years. Paul said that Treescapes had been planting trees randomly and some of the newly planted areas had to have the trees pulled out. Greg asked Paul if he preferred rocks to bollards. Paul said he wasn't a specialist in this area but it could be and we would have to see what AT prefers. People wouldn't move them, or park near to them or mow them down. He will investigate what their preference is. It is easy for people to back or drive into the bollards

He said the problem with the council trying to enforce bylaws is that there is not enough staff to do this.

### **Discussion Re Park Planting et al**

Pauls Planting plan was discussed

Regarding the grassy area to the east of the Marina – there are 3 trees planted along the road. Paul said it was his idea to plant them. However, the trees are struggling and haven't grown for a few years. Paul thought they would be good as shade trees. The members of the SRRA said they would like the grassy area to remain as grass – as many people from the community or staying at the Holiday Park play ball on the grass. It is one of the few areas around where people can play ball. Paul will remove the trees as they are not doing well anyways.

Paul made the planting plan so that the people in the area will know what the plan is for the next 5 years and there will be no surprises for anyone.

#### **Discussion:**

David said he likes the plan. Nancy asked about the ladder fern and jasmine that borders the footpath on the reserve where the grassy area is. Paul said the plants will be removed and natives will be planted.

Warren asked how will stop people from parking on the newly planted trees. Paul said he will look into that.

Nancy asked what would be planted in the wet area at the bottom of Brick Bay Drive. Paul said Manuka, which are primary growth- and quick growing Native Plants.

Paul said that when there is any planting to take place in this area that he will let the SRRA know about it. He said because the bottom of Brick Bay Drive is a wetland planting can be done throughout the summer. Greg asked if the grass would be restored where it had been sprayed.

Greg said to make a motion as per discussed that we like the planting plan and that the 3 specimen trees on the reserve to the east of the Marina are removed.

Paul said they are not allowed to plant any more pohutakawa trees in parks due to the Myrtle Rust disease. It really affects the young plants with new growth. A number of larger trees have this disease. It affects the new growth on the trees. This time of the year when there is active new growth that the tree is affected. Feijoas are also affected by it. Manuka and kanuka don't seem to be so affected by it.

Maya asked about the removing of the Flame Trees. Paul said the Flame Trees grow tall and then fall over. Where they fall roots shoot out – so they are layered and spread vigorously. Nancy commented that many invasive weed plants like jasmine, morning glory and flame trees are beautiful to look at but are devastating to the native plants.

Warren asked Paul about the importance of the mangroves. Paul said the mangroves are important for the protection of the Banded Rail and they feed in the mangroves. They hide in them. David said the days of removing mangroves and reclaiming the land are over. He said there is a plan to remove the Flame Trees which are not native - they will be replaced with Manuka . Manuka likes wet area and are fast growing. There will be a continuation of the current planting. Kaikatea need to have an association of their roots with other plants so they will be planted with the Manuka. The Manuka are a primary growth. There will be a little bit of flax planted. Paul said you hardly ever see the Banded Rail as they hide in the mangroves. He said the days of removing mangroves are over.

Paul said that Warren's idea of removing the mangroves and creating a wetland by planting other trees won't happen. For one thing – it's a salt water environment and not much else will grow in that area. Paul says the mangroves protect many species of birds.

Paul said that the rock retaining wall between the Marina and the mangroves in the lagoon encourages the growth of mangroves. He said if you slow down the flow of the water the mangroves increase. End of discussion.

A motion to support the Planting plan with the exception of the Three Specimen trees shown on the reserve on Sandspit Rd is supported by the committee

Moved by Greg seconded by Warren

Greg D suggested we recommend no parking on the grass reserve as per discussion.

SRRA Committee motion: That we recommend to Auckland Council, no parking on the grass reserve at Brick Bay Drive. We don't support partial restriction or creating an all-weather surface for parking. The committee supports a permanent barrier of either bollards or rocks. Moved by Greg Doherty 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Astbury. All in Favour.

## 5. Correspondence

-  20181008 Park Furniture Upgrades.pdf
-  20181023 ACC Development Contributions Policy Review.pdf
-  20181024 Moluk Bins Update.pdf
-  20181026 Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw proposed changes.pdf
-  20181101 Matakana Link Rd.pdf
-  20181101 Rodney Play Provision.pdf

There was a discussion about the picnic tables at Brick Bay Reserve. The picnic table that the SRRA had paid for had been replaced. Pam was concerned about the fact that SRRA had paid for a table,

it had been replaced and we had not been advised. The consensus is that it is a good thing if the council is checking on the status of the tables and upgrading them as necessary. It is a positive if we do not have to complain about items to get them upgraded. Greg said he likes the macracarpa benches, but they are a poor design as a lot of end grain is exposed.

Beth said that it could be that the original table was macracarpa and it was replaced with tanalized pine. Warren said macracarpa will last 20 years above ground. The new table is on a concrete pad and the previous one was in the sand. Beth said a bench seat has been replaced also.

Greg said we can't complain about upgrades that we have not complained about – its progress.

Beth says she now has a program of work and is advised of any upgrades that are going to be done. They have 3 yearly cycles. There is an asset register and it will read “this asset is due for replacement”. They do not need to get the local board's approval to do that. They will come back to the local board if they want to replace the asset with something different and if they need more money to do it. Greg asked if the asset is inspected before it is replaced. Beth said the assets are inspected before they are replaced and are only replaced if need be.

Excerpt from Bylaw proposed changes *“A person must not park any vehicle on a park except in a place set aside and subject to any conditions Council specifies.”*

*Regarding ACC development policy is being reviewed. It is looking at how developers can contribute more. This is funds that developers pay into developing sections – footpaths, roads, street lighting stormwater etc. This policy decides how the money is collected and divided up. It could be that developers will have to pay more money. Money collected goes into a central fund – anything north of the bridge stays north. So much of the fund goes into parks acquisition, some transport, etc. Beth said if we have an interest in how the funds are divided, we can go read it. Beth said the suspension bridge from Kowhai Park is being funded by the development contributions. A community that requires infrastructure north of the bridge could receive funding from this account.*

*Regarding Moluk Bins update. A Waste Vehicle will be at the Sandspit Wharf everyday and they will check the Moluk Bins and report back to the Foreman of the Waste Management.*

Move that the correspondence be accepted Greg 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam

**Discussion on the correspondence**

There is still the issue of illegal dumping at the Moluk Bins. The Moluk Bins are soon to be moved and Charter Boat skippers will need to take responsibility for dumping their own rubbish. Apparently, the consent for the moving of the Moluk Bins will be at the beginning of the New Year. Beth says we will need to educate the public on the new bins.

Beth will see about the advertising of the change in rubbish disposal at the Sandspit near the wharf. People will need to be educated. Greg recommended a handout that is given on the ferry. Beth recommended giving out to the Kawau Boating Club members and the Sandspit Yacht Club.

There was a discussion on how there used to be a rubbish barge in the summer off Kawau Island.

6. Treasurer's Report- Margaret McCallum

Report is attached Move that the Report be accepted Warren 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam

7. Social Media Report- Margaret McCallum

A few new posts regarding the filming on the Wharf and a glorious Sunset. Please feel free to add anything of interest.

8. CCTV Subcommittee Report Nothing to Report

9. Parks & Reserves Reports

i. Tracks- David Astbury

First retaining wall close to completion. Good looking job.

Very much doubt it will all be done by Xmas.

Warren suggested that a writeup be done about the work on the tracks.

The track is closed – but no doubt people will walk on it on the weekend. It is a huge job and only 2 people are working on it.

ii. Predators & Weeds- Warren Churches – no report. Nancy has been trying to contact Rebecca Kemp about the weeds between Green Point and Lees Boatyard but no success as of yet.

iii. Mangrove Control - Mangrove Culling Nov 4<sup>th</sup> A stalwart band of Mangrove cullers pulled young plants generally about 150mm or so in height, continuing on from last session towards Green Point and around to the small Beach. Our continued work on this has now resulted in control of new young plants from Green Point reserve to about 1218 Sandspit Rd. There is no doubt that this is a valuable action to control the spread of mangroves in the estuary.

## Discussion arising

Greg said they would like to remove the juvenile mangroves in the lagoon near bottom of Brick Bay Drive. Paul said to be careful doing that because if you remove all the mangroves the area will turn into a stink pond of sludge. Greg clarified – he only meant juvenile - not adult mangroves. The ones we take out are short. Paul says if you remove the adult mangroves it will turn into slop.

David said we need to control the young mangroves – not remove the full-grown ones.

Warren said he has lived in Sandspit 30 years. He said previously the lagoon had sand and his daughter used to use it for a dressage area. He said there was flax growing. Before the breakwater the mangroves came and took over.

Greg told Paul that the decaying low wooden barrier along the grassy area in the reserve East of the Yacht Club is unnecessary and difficult for the maintenance people to weed eat around.

Greg also mentioned that there is a helipad along the left of the spit but there is nothing marking it. Paul said it is not to be planted out – and there is no parking along there. There is no plan to mark it as a helipad.

Paul said the barrier planting is to mark an area of no parking and to keep dogs out. He said the Council is looking at developing a pest free catchment for the lower Brick Bay Drive area. Greg told Paul about the Matakanakana study group looking at the Catchment area.

Greg thanked Paul for coming and said we are very much interested in the amenities of the Sandspit area.

David said it is important we all know what is going on with regards to the planting. Warren said the SRRA represents 60% of the community and we need to know what is going on. We all appreciated Paul Duffy coming to our meeting.

Plants near the footpath are going to get run over. There is no point in putting plants where they will get run over by people parking on the grass.

The Council is developing pest free planting for the area.

Beth said Parks do not approve of parking on Reserves. They don't approve of Gobi blocks. AT believe there is enough parking on the Sandspit area. They don't like rocks – as they need to spray around them. They prefer bollards but say they don't have the funds for them. The cost of putting in bollards would be an AT cost but they say they have no budget for them. They say if we want bollards we have to figure out where we are getting the money from.

She said they will look at the costs of parking – and that regarding bollards the money will have to come from somewhere. It is possible that even if the fees are reduced in the AT parking lot on the spit that people will still park on Brick Bay Drive. AT will look at yellow lines – AT will have to approve the yellow dotted lines. There is a legal process that must be followed before yellow lines can be painted on the road. People ignore yellow lines and drive over them and park on the berm. The council will look at installing the bollards and have a talk about that. Beth said they can get a price on bollards. AT says that if we are going to have bollards the money needs to be taken from some other maintenance budget. Beth will refer back to the Local Body Transport Committee and the SRRA and let us know.

Paul likes rocks – David prefers bollards. Bollards are neat and tidy. David is against rocks – they are harder to place, it is difficult to mow around them. He says you can't mow right up to rocks.

Greg said we should get a price for bollards and a price for rocks. The committee can look at volunteers placing them. It needs to be decided how far they will go up. Greg is in favour of bollarding off almost up to the overflow parking on Brick Bay Drive. The committee has not come to a firm opinion on how far the bollards go up. Greg said the committee could contribute to the cost.

David said the bollards should go on the narrow portion of the reserve and stop on the wider part and people can park there. Greg says he's in favor of

bollarding the whole reserve off. Almost up to the overflow parking lot on Brick Bay Drive. Greg said local timber yards could be asked to donate. The locals could put the bollards in themselves. Greg said it wouldn't be difficult for locals to install bollards. We need a person with a posthole digger on a tractor; dig a hole, put the bollard in; put a bit of readymix around it and it's installed.

Beth said AT has cracked down on Health and Safety and it is not easy for volunteers to do jobs. Greg said perhaps we can find a local fencing contractor who can volunteer some hours. A licensed contractor could do the job. Beth said we would need to know the distance required between bollards and how deep they need to be in the ground. Greg said once we have the specifications on the bollards we should get the pricing as the Council will get charged more than the SRRA. David said we need to be aware that there will be a public outcry if bollards are put up so we need to be aware that there needs to be approval.

She said we need to investigate installing bollards and find out the cost and the process. Greg asked if we need a resource consent. Beth will investigate.

Greg recommended we get costings on the bollards as they will not charge us so much as they would the council.

David said we need to be aware that there will be an outcry if bollards are put in. He does not recommend volunteers as there will be an outcry. Some locals will be parking down there. It was said that when the bollards were put in there had been deep trenches along the edge of the road from people parking in wet weather.

There was a conversation about why the Sailing Club needed to have a Resource Consent to use the Reserve at Algies Bay. Beth said she wished they had consulted her before they paid the bill. It is hard to do anything after the money is paid. Greg asked if Algies Bay is an outstation of the Yacht Club. The answer is yes.

Greg will follow up with AT about parking along Brick Bay Drive.

**Foreshore Enhancement** – Graham Kearney is busy with his new job and is unable to attend meetings on a regular basis. Greg has been in touch with him and he may have some information that he can provide.

GD suggests that we purchase the property file for the SYC/ Marina consents in order to be clear what the consents are. Cost is \$62. Greg Doherty will organize the purchase of the SYC/Marina consents.

10. **Liaison with Sandspit Harbour Catchment Group**—Bryan Taylor No Report
11. **Civil Defense Report**-- Max Freeman - No report.
12. **Social Functions/Membership Report**-- Pam Eede Pam has organized with the Holiday Park about the Christmas BBQ is Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Greg to organize with Mike Smith to put the sign up about the BBQ.
13. **General Business** – David asked Beth if there is going to be a Sandspit Link Road as there is going to be a Matakana Link Road. Beth said in the future.

Meeting finished 9:10 pm.

Next Meeting Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup> 7 PM Sandspit Yacht Club