

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
DATE: 25 January 2011
SUBJECT: Community Services Manager's Report – RCS11-02-06

NELSON/TASMAN HOUSING FORUM

The above Forum is made up of representatives of Nelson City, Tasman District, Government agencies and social agencies and meets quarterly. Both Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council have turns at hosting the meetings. This year the meetings will be held at Nelson City.

Stuart Borlase has been the Tasman District Council representative for the last three years and when all the appointments were made to various organisations after the elections, this Forum was overlooked.

It has been suggested that the Chair of Community Services Committee be appointed.

Recommendation

THAT the Community Services Committee agree that Cr Edgar be appointed as the Tasman District Council's representative to the Nelson/Tasman Housing Forum.

NELSON CYCLE TRAILS – RABBIT ISLAND

The Nelson Cycle Trails Trust has officially requested permission to use Rabbit Island as part of the new cycle trail. The attached plan shows the proposed route which utilises existing roading through the recreation parts of the island. Where it passes through the forest the trail basically follows part of the existing cycle trail heading to the Mapua end.

PF Olsen Ltd, the Council's Forest Managers, have advised that the proposed trail through the forestry areas is agreeable subject to conditions covering the trail being closed at night as per the normal operating hours for public access to Rabbit Island, closure of the trail due to high fire danger and the provision of an alternative route being made available in the event that the main trail needs to be closed due to forest operations.

The conditions set as part of the forest operations more than cover the issues in relation to the recreation areas.

Recommendation

THAT the Nelson Cycle Trails Trust be advised that the Council agrees to the use of the recreation areas of Rabbit Island as part of the Nelson Cycle Trail and that this agreement be subject to:

- 1 The track being closed at night as per the normal hours that the gates to Rabbit Island are closed. The timing of closure varies depending on the time of sunset so the Trust will need to coordinate with the Tasman District Council as to publicising closure.
- 2 The track may be closed from time to time due to high forest fire danger. Only on rare occasions has it been necessary to do this and where possible advance notice would be given.

NELSON CYCLE TRAIL

When the funding application was made for Government funding for the Nelson Trail, Council needed to show their financial commitment to the project. Engineering Services had some funds allocated however Community Services only allocation was from the various Reserve Financial Contributions accounts under the headings cycleways/walkways. When these funds were allocated in the LTCCP the cycle trail was not envisaged.

Having said that it was agreed that Community Services could provide up to \$300,000 over a three year period to assist with the Council's share of the trail costs. It was proposed that this be loan funded with the repayments being met from the three Reserve Financial Contribution accounts covering the area where the trail will run.

A request has now been received for the first \$100,000 towards this work in the 2010/2011 financial year with an expectation that the next \$100,000 will be required in 2011/2012 and the final \$100,000 in 2012/2013.

Recommendation

THAT the Community Services Committee agree to the provision of \$100,000 in each of 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 with these funds being loan funded with the annual repayments being funded from the Richmond, Motueka and Moutere/Waimea Reserve Financial Contributions accounts and that this proposal be referred to the Corporate Services Committee for approval.

HODDY ESTUARY PARK

A request has been received from the Hoddy Estuary Park Trustees to vest the land as a Tasman District Council reserve now that all the work is nearing completion.

As a reminder to Council this area of land was purchased by a group wishing to create a reserve. At that time Council was reluctant to accept this area as a reserve as there were considerable costs associated with making it safe and suitable for public use. These included:

- Significant roading works to improve the visibility where the entrance comes off the State Highway.
- The need for significant seal repairs and upgrades over the full length of the accessway.
- The levelling, sowing and planting of the land.
- The issue of safety with the large irrigation pond on the land.
- The need for the provision of toilets.

A Trust was formed and over the years, with limited financial help from Council, they have by various means almost completed all of the necessary work.

The two remaining items are the toilet and the sealing of the driveway. The toilet is all but finished and the Trust has sufficient funds set aside for sealing the driveway with this being left to last to ensure it was not damaged by contractors working on site.

To have the land vested as a reserve the Board will include in the transfer documents a clause stating that upon transfer to the Council the land would vest as a reserve under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

However for that to happen Council need to agree to accept the land as a reserve now that the required work has been completed.

The Trust have agreed that the park would not be made open to the public on vesting if the two outstanding works have not been completed.

Recommendation

THAT the Community Services Committee agree to accept the vesting of the Hoddy Estuary Park upon transfer of the land to Council subject to:

- 1 Staff inspecting the site to ensure that all work imposed in the original conditions have been completed and with regard to the sealing of the driveway, at least a contract has been let;
- 2 The park continue to be maintained by the Trust until such time the area is open for public use; and
- 3 An appropriate handing over ceremony be organised in conjunction with the Trust once all works have been completed.

ASB AQUATIC CENTRE

The October and November 2010 reports have been received from the pool managers, CLM, and they provided the following highlights:

- The SI Masters Short Course Swimming event was held during October.
- The new Learn to Swim Pool opened in October.
- Visitor numbers for October were 17,422 and for November 17,407.
- The Swim Magic Swim School now have over 1,500 registered attendees for Term 4.

PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICERS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2010

Attached is a copy of the above report for information. However, Councillors will note the number of significant fires that occurred between 4 and 25 December during the very dry spell. The rain in late December was needed.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community Services Manager's Report – RCS11-02-06 be received by the Community Services Committee.

Lloyd Kennedy
Community Services Manager

g:\taralagendas\community services\2011\february\racs11-02-06 community services manager.docx