

11 JUN 2003

**Piha**

PO Box 55, Piha, Waitakere City

Ratepayers &amp; Residents Association

9 June, 2003.

✓ 570437

Mr Grant Jennings,  
Waitakere City Council,  
Private Bag 93109,  
Henderson,  
Waitakere City.

Dear Grant,

Re: Sand Dune Project, South Piha Beach.

The Association is writing to you to express its concerns about the lack of community consultation over the work currently being done on the sand blow-out in front of the car park in front of the Piha Surf Club. The Piha R & R executive has had recent approaches, with respect to the current work being done. Copies of these communications are attached to this letter.

This area was identified in the Piha Coastal Management Plan as needing remedial attention. The Association is fully supportive of that. However, the Coastal Management Plan gives no detail of any proposed remedial work. In June, 2002, a public meeting identified this area as a priority for Council attention. However, since then the community has not seen any detail plan of the work to be done, which began some weeks ago.

The first sign of work the community saw was the appearance of a screen fence, well down onto the beach, at the high water mark, which has subsequently had the sea around it during high tides. This has caused great alarm as the experience of the artificial dune further to the south, built in the 1980s, has been the extension of dunes seaward which have changed the nature of the beach. People who are knowledgeable about the working of the sea on Piha Beach consider this screen fence is wrongly placed and should be removed immediately.

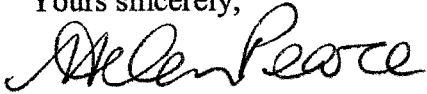
Later, a second sand fence appeared on the dunes further south which also caused concern and which has been damaged.

The Association is the only elected body in Piha who can speak for the community. Therefore, people who are concerned at the lack of consultation and who believe that what they have seen so far is ill-conceived and those who want consideration of the retention of a flat space, have all come to the Association, requesting that we take the issues up with the Council. We have been placed in a very difficult position as representatives of the community, due to our lack of knowledge of the plan for the project. We understand there is to be planting of this area during June.

This morning you rang our President to arrange a meeting on site at 4.30 pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. We would like to confirm that an invitation to all executive members has been given and confirm that our President will meet you on site along with those members able to attend. We would like to thank you for initiating this invitation, as we are sure that this will go a long

way in achieving some form of settlement for those who have expressed their concerns over the current developments.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Pearce  
Secretary

Chief Executive	
Corporate Services	
City Services Moselle	✓
Consultancy Services	
ECO - WATER	
Strategic Group	
Consent Services	
Field Services	

4 June 2003  
Piha R&R Assn.  
Box 55  
Piha

Dear committee,

I wish to express my support as an individual ratepayer for Wildcoast Boardriders Club proposal to provide a public space at South Piha. I am concerned about the current work being undertaken by WCC at South Piha. I would like the R&R committee and Waitakere Community Board to consider the following questions and answers.

**Q: Does the Wildcoast proposal contravene the Piha Coastal Management Plan?**

A: The Implementations and Actions for Piha Beach say:

- ξ Spinifex will be planted on the dunes in front of the two car parks to recreate a vegetated zone and reduce windblown sand. (4.1.9)
- ξ It should be noted that no further reclamation works will be undertaken at Piha. (4.1)

Wildcoast proposal does not contravene the above implementations. The Plan does not give a detailed work plan as to how and where exactly the planting should take place.

**Q: How and when was the current work plan decided upon?**

A: The work plan, which has far reaching consequences, was decided upon by WCC following an impromptu on-site meeting (the meeting was actually scheduled to look at the Surf Tower) at which were present: environment consultant Dr Hesp, 5 WCC officers, 2 Rangers, 1 ARC officer, 4 beachfront residents and the Piha R&R Assn. president. About 5 of these were also Coastcare members. This meeting was not advertised in the community, so there was no opportunity for input by other interested parties such as Wildcoast.

**Q: Does Coastcare represent the wider community?**

A: I understand Coastcare is a group of volunteers who help WCC with the implementation of work plans. They are not an elected body, do not represent the community and have no (and shouldn't have) role in planning issues.

**Q: What was Dr. Hesp's involvement in the action plan?**

A; Coastcare minutes say that Dr Hesp advised WCC at the onsite meeting on how a dune could be made to work in this area, and this advise underpins the current action plan. However, no written report by Dr Hesp has actually been presented to either WCC, Coastcare or the Piha R&R Assn.

**Q: What does the current work plan involve?**

A; The current work plan involves the reshaping, building, widening and planting of a new dune in front of the South Piha carpark. There is now ample evidence these dunes do not remain static, but are fast growing. As such, it could be interpreted as further reclamation work, which goes beyond, and in fact contravenes, the objectives of the Piha Coastal Management Plan.

With Regards,

Monique Davis  
Ph/fax 818 5588

June 5<sup>th</sup>  
35 Marine Parade  
South Piha  
8128846

Dear Committee Members of the Residents and Rate Payers Association.

We are permanent residents and for the 7 years we have lived here we have regularly contacted council when sand has become a problem and needed to be removed to allow us access to our driveway. In all weathers and winds we have closely observed the movement of sand and the changes to the Dunes. Being directly affected we appreciate efforts being made to address the problem.

However, we have reservations regarding the Dune Building Reclamation work now being carried out in front of the carpark .

The Artificial Dune that the Surf Patrol Platform sits on has grown rapidly. Blow outs ( a natural part of Dune building) are not new but are more obvious now due to their negative impact. The Dune has reached a height and width where it now spills over on to the entrance of the carpark in several places, the grassed public area behind the Artificial Dune is under threat and the Dune has now blocked all views of the surf. The grassed area, the fences on the road and the carpark beside the surf platform traditionally all used to be a good viewing places. Consequently people now go to the top of the dune. Piha is legendary for its surf conditions and its 100's of surfers who enter the water in and out all day long, all year long like to be able to see what's going on. Both these natural blow outs and more foot traffic have contributed to the problems and we face lots of planting, fencing and limiting of public access to the dunes to address this. The height and width of the Artificial Dune will continue grow and other problems may yet surface. Although the Dune beautifies the area it could be at the expense of values that are important to the community. Does the community really want to replicate this approach in front of the carpark?

At North Piha the toe of the Dunes has been extensively cut many times this year. However the predicted cutting of the toe of the Artificial Dune at the South has not happened .The prevailing SW swell hasn't had the push to reach the dunes even on the largest swells and the highest tides 4.6 m .The beach appears to be coming more shelved as the Dunes build. Matt Yallop from the Surf Club has confirmed that the lifeguards now position themselves out on top of the Dune rather than on the platform to clearly see and safely patrol the beach. The right edge of the Dune is continuing to grow out and over the Concrete Pathway used by the Patrols and the Fishing Club making access to and from the beach more difficult.

Dr Hesp had a solution to the growing Dune. Chop the top off. A hard decision to face. Would it really ever be implemented? It is concerning that no one will answer this very important question.

The Piha Coastal Management Plan also foresees some issues .”If the carpark Dune is built and wind blown sand continues then the car park will be removed.” Looking at the present growing Artificial Dune we believe this could well become a reality.

Questions.

1.South Piha has been the beach where people could sit in their cars and clearly view the surf . **When the new Dune grows where will people be able to view the ocean clearly and sit, picnic etc and enjoy the ocean without having to be on the sandy beach?**

2.Surf competitions which require elevated positions to clearly view the surf for both safety and judging reasons have been able to so at South Piha for over 30 years. **Where will surf contests be allowed to position themselves to best view the surf?**

3.The Surf Club has been able to clearly patrol and view the beach .**Will the Platform become redundant and how will they reposition themselves in the future?**

4. There are disabled car parks in the carpark and we often see vans for disabled people and the elderly, who may not be able to get onto the beach itself, watching and enjoying the surfers, swimmers and the ocean views, which they can do even on the wettest wildest days. **At what other West coast Beach can they do this?**

5.The Surf Club members fill the carpark every Sunday for training over the Surf Club season. Tourists, locals and visitors regularly buy food from the takeaway bar then sit over on the fence with a full view of the sea . **How will they be accommodated and if the Dune grows, then spills back into the carpark , will the carpark have to be removed as the only solution left?**

Perhaps it is time to consider other options to solve the wind blown sand. Past District Plans point out that grassed areas on the foreshore were prevalent at South Piha until reclamation work at South Piha began 20 years ago. It appears to hold the sand well and with stands high usage A grassy area could be easily be trialed quite cheaply before such a major step as reclaiming more of the beach to create another artificial Dune takes place and would have many benefits. It would be a step towards keeping South Piha as it has been for the past 50 years rather than converting it into a Karekare or a Bethells.

**The Piha Coastal Management Plan states pg 25 and elsewhere. “It should be noted that no further reclamation work is to take place on this area.” So we wonder why a huge dune that will bury the tall posts is proposed at all?**

The effects of the 1st Artificial Dune are now becoming apparent and maybe the Committee could consider canvassing the Community on these issues.

**When it comes to Dunes once they are in place there is no going back.**

Regards,  
Rob and Liz Hawker

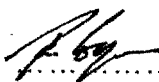

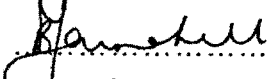
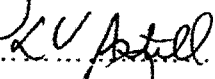
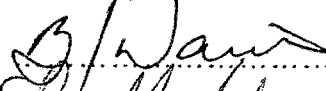
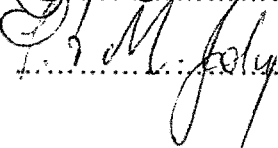
24 May 2003

The Piha Ratepayers & Residents Assn.  
Box 55  
PIHA

Dear Committee,

We are concerned at the lack of consultation within the wider community regarding WCC's plans for the foreshore at the South Piha Surf Club car park. We fear that earmarking the entire foreshore for fenced-off dunes will leave no space for people to sit and enjoy the beach and the view of the bay. We ask the committee to support investigating the idea of a flat and grassed area between carpark and slope for public use. We suggest the flattened area to the right of the ramp would ideally suit this purpose. We also suggest some benches in this area for people to sit on.

With Regards,

1.  ..... R. COOPER
2.  ..... Sherin Cooper
3.  ..... BLAIR TANNAHILL
4.  ..... Leigh Astill
5.  ..... BARRY DAVIS
6.  .....

2 Pendrell Rd,  
Piha,  
Waitakere City.  
19 May 2003.

To the Secretary  
Residents and Ratepayers Assn.  
Piha.

Dear Madam,

I wish to bring to the Association's attention the hideous eyesore that has been erected at South Piha Beach. It is a shade cloth fence attached to 2m high posts approximately 30-40m in length. I fail to see how this can be a legal construction considering it was illegal for any sand to be moved from the carpark without Resource Consent. The construction will inevitably change the shape of the beach by creating a sand dune 20m in front of the area shaped by workers moving sand out of the carpark just before Christmas.

At what public meeting were the people of Piha allowed to voice opinions on such a radical and beach altering proposal?

Who, or what group are responsible for the design of the construction that is in complete disregard of the expensive N.I.W.A. report furnished a few years ago?

When has the council legally approved such a construction, that disregards common sense, the aesthetics of such a highly used and photographed area, and the City Council's policy of retaining the natural look of our area?

It is without doubt that the area behind the construction is a high usage area, but a retaining wall 6m in front of the carpark travelling parallel to the carpark and stretching from the natural dune at the north end of the carpark and tapering into the boatramp would have been far more aesthetic, would have allowed for a grassed area, 6m wide, to allow people eating, relaxing or participating in surf club or other events to congregate, and would have been in keeping with high usage foreshore areas all around New Zealand.

All

The South Piha foreshore is not a east coast estuary under threat of erosion, (well documented by the N.I.W.A. report), and one can only assume that the recent construction has been designed and implemented by people who have little knowledge or experience of South Piha . Building another dune so far down the beach will not only alter the entire shape of the beach, but will only increase the amount of sand blowing into the carpark.

Whatever is decided on, it must be done once and done well. The area in question is unique due to the frequency of human activity. It therefore requires a unique solution. To employ solutions that have worked in other places on the West Coast foreshore, or to apply the South Piha solution to elsewhere in Piha, would without doubt be showing a fundamental lack of understanding and knowledge of the area's history.

I appreciate the Resident and Ratepayer Association's immediate attention to this problem.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Wallis.