

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL



**AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PROJECTS SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN,
WAITAKERE CITY, ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2004
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM**

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1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) and (7A) of the Local Government Official Information Act and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the item is a minor matter; and
- (ii) the Chairperson has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting; and
- (iii) the Committee resolves to deal with the item.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer the item to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary -Wednesday, 4 February 2004

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Projects Special Committee held on Wednesday, 4 February 2004, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



4 **PRESENTATION - WAITAKERE SPORTS COMPLEX**

A presentation to update the Projects Special Committee on the progress of the Waitakere Sports Complex Project, covering arts, environmental features, user groups and the all weather track, will be made jointly by Ross Dallow in his capacity as Chairman of the Waitakere Sports Complex Board and Suresh Nagaiya in his capacity as the Waitakere Sports Complex Board Projects Manager.



5 **HENDERSON CREEK FOOTBRIDGE**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from the Projects Special Committee regarding the Henderson Creek Footbridge project.

BACKGROUND

A1-A4

The Henderson Creek Reserves Management Plan was adopted by a Subcommittee of the City Development Committee and the Henderson and Massey Community Boards in July 2003. One of the facilities proposed within the plan is a footbridge across the Henderson Creek linking the walkway/cycleway on the eastern side of the creek to the Waitakere Stadium, as shown on the plans attached at pages A1 to A4.

Council has included a budget of \$30,000 in the 2003/2004 financial year for preliminary design works associated with the footbridge and a budget of \$500,000 in the Long Term Council Community Plan (hereafter referred to as Long Term Council Community Plan) for the 2004/2005 financial year for construction of the footbridge.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The reserves along the Henderson Creek provide significant recreational opportunities for the public and the provision of a footbridge across the Henderson Creek is consistent with one of the objectives of the Parks Strategy, to increase the use and enjoyment of parks. The bridge also increases the connectivity and usability of the cycleway identified along the Creek in the cycle strategy recently adopted by Council.

ISSUES

Design concept

Council has engaged the sculptor/artist Virginia King to develop a preliminary concept design for the footbridge in association with an engineer and Waitakere City Council staff. This appointment is consistent with the Council's desire to continue with the 'art bridge' programme already developed within the City.

A presentation of the concept will be provided to the Committee at the meeting.

Initial consultation regarding the project has begun and Te Kawerau a Maki have confirmed their support for the project and the design concept.

Boffa Miskell (landscape architects) have been separately engaged by the Waitakere Regional Sports Trust to carry out a landscape design for the Waitakere Sports Complex site and esplanade reserve area. (Note: Waitakere City Council will be meeting the cost of the professional services works associated with the esplanade upgrade). The esplanade upgrade project includes provision for a jetty and launch ramp into the Henderson Creek adjacent to the proposed footbridge location. As with the footbridge, the jetty was identified as a priority in the Henderson Creek Reserves Management Plan to provide access to water recreation on the Creek (i.e. canoeing). The design of the jetty has been carried out in conjunction with the footbridge design to ensure that the structures complement each other. Funding has already been included in the 2003/2004 Annual Plan for the construction of the jetty as part of the esplanade development budget; however, this budget does not provide any funding for art components for the jetty and launch ramp.

A5-A6 The concept design statements for both the footbridge and jetty are attached at pages A5 to A6.

Footbridge Costing

A7-A12 In order to develop a cost estimate for the footbridge concept design, Virginia King has engaged an engineer to carry out some detailed design and get specific costings from the construction industry. It was considered necessary to go to the construction industry to confirm costs as the fabrication of the bridge requires specialised expertise. The cost estimate for the footbridge is attached at pages A7 to A12. The cost estimate is \$791,000 excluding professional service costs and consent costs. This estimate is obviously far in excess of the budget included in the Long Term Council Community Plan and hence the reason that direction is being sought from the Committee on the project.

The footbridge, at present, is a 50m span to ensure that no supports/piers are required within the Henderson Creek. The cost of the footbridge could be significantly reduced if the span of the footbridge were reduced; however, the Creek would need to remain navigable by boat and it is likely that Auckland Regional Council requirements would govern the placement of the supports/piers.

Consultation/consents

Through the Henderson Creek Reserve Management Plan, the public demonstrated a high level of support for a footbridge across the Henderson Creek. No significant opposition was raised to the proposal; however, since the adoption of the plan Council has been contacted by a Sherwood Ave resident who advised that he, and a number of fellow residents object to the proposed footbridge, and would oppose the project. It is likely that this change has been initiated through the realisation of the sports complex project, which was not consulted as part of the Creek management plan. Issues relating to parking and access across the bridge to the complex are likely to be the main issues relating to the project. As both the Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council consents necessary for the footbridge are very likely to be publicly notified it is therefore reasonable to expect that the consent process will require hearings and will be opposed by some submitters.

Options

There are various options for proceeding with the project. These include:

1. Proceed with the existing concept and recommend to Council that additional funding be allocated in the 2004/2005 Annual Plan for the project.

2. Abandon the existing concept and develop a standard suspension or simple span footbridge design to ensure that it can be constructed within the budget allocated in the Long Term Council Community Plan. This bridge concept would not have budget available for significant art components.
3. Abandon the bridge development in this location and re-allocate the bridge funding to other Henderson Creek projects identified through the public consultation for the Reserve Management Plan including incorporating significant art components in the jetty and launch project and provide for a water link by also re-allocating the bridge funding to providing a second heritage jetty at the Tui Glen old jetty site.

Due to the inherent costs associated with the Resource Consents required for the bridge and the identification of the new issues relating to the bridge and impacts on neighbours it is considered that options 1 and 2 should not be progressed. The proposed bridge location is within 0.5 kilometres from the Central Park Drive road bridge which provides public access between the two sides of the creek. It would seem that providing the bridge link across the creek at the sports complex location, although desirable is not imperative to the continued use and enjoyment of the creek reserves and does not warrant the level of expenditure or public dissatisfaction associated with continuing through a notified consent.

Option 2, as detailed above, will have consent issues similar to Option 1 and in addition will not provide the continuation of the art bridge concept within the city.

Option 3 ensures that a significant art component can be incorporated in the jetty structure (which is going to be a significant feature in itself), thus progressing the desire to continue the art bridge (in this case jetty) concepts within the city and also providing a beautiful structural feature within the esplanade reserve adjacent to the sports complex.

One of the main issues identified in the Henderson Creek Management Plan was to provide much better water access to the creek. The bridge at Henderson creek and a number of jetty proposals were the main projects identified to address this community desire. The proposal to re-allocate the funds from the bridge to undertake two of these other projects as identified in the Management Plan and development of a further water link at the Tui Glen old jetty site will ensure that the desires of the community consultation are addressed, while also providing a high degree of recreation potential within the creek environment. This project will link well with proposed upgrades of Tui Glen reserve scheduled for 2004/2005.

It is anticipated that the funds allocated for the bridge in 2004/2005 will provide sufficient funding for both the projects outlined above.

It is suggested that the concept only for the bridge (which has already been undertaken and funded) be retained and could be investigated as a possible project in another location i.e. Corban Art Centre, providing the identified link to Henderson Valley Road. It is not proposed to put forward any Council funding for this project at this stage with the preferred option being to investigate outside funding providing the resource level required for the implementation of such an innovative and impressive art bridge concept.

RESOURCES

Council has included a budget of \$30,000 in the 2003/2004 financial year for preliminary design works associated with the footbridge and a budget of \$500,000 in the Long Term Council Community Plan for the 2004/2005 financial year for construction of the footbridge.

CONCLUSION

The Henderson Creek Reserves Management Plan includes provision for a footbridge across the Henderson Creek; it also provides for jetty access to the creek. A concept design for the footbridge has been developed by Virginia King however the current cost estimate is significantly in excess of the budget allocated in the Long Term Council Community Plan and issues relating to consents have highlighted that the project may become difficult to implement. There are various options for progressing the project. It is recommended that Option 3 be progressed as this allows development to occur within the existing Long Term Council Community Plan budget, while also progressing the art concepts and providing implementation of further projects identified through the Henderson Creek Reserve Management Plan.

It is also recommended that when appropriate, investigation could be undertaken into possible alternative locations and funding options for the suspension bridge concept.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Henderson Creek Footbridge report be received.
2. That it be recommended to the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Special Committee that the Henderson Creek Footbridge project be cancelled and that the funding of \$500,000 be reallocated in the 2004/2005 to the following Henderson Creek Projects: Henderson Creek Jetty and Launch Ramp Art Components (\$150,000) and Tui Glen Heritage Jetty (\$350,000).
3. That possible alternative locations for the bridge concept, together with likely external funding sources be investigated and further reported to Council.

Report prepared by: Renee Lambert, Service Manager Parks Planning.

