

F22/55/05 – D24/15333

Date: Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 2.00pm  
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

To hear and consider submissions to the Draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan

### Present

The Deputy Mayor – M McKay (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, E E Hall, V R Jones, W J Sandford and M J Watt.

### In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Parks and Reserve Officer – Mrs M McBain, the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight, the Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Graduate Assets Engineer – Ms K van Hout and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

#### 1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media.

The Deputy Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

#### 2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau and noted from the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu.

#### Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY  
Carried  
P&S/24/86

#### 3. Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Policy & Services Committee meeting. It was reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to hear submissions on the Draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan. Councillors were asked to hear all submissions with an open mind, to restrict their question time to the submitters to points of clarification or issues pertaining to subject matter. Councillors were requested not to get into direct dialogue with submitters.

#### 4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached.

## 6. Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submissions – Pages 17-44

Attached are the 11 submissions received.

### Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan be received.
2. THAT the submitters be advised of the outcome of their submission and notified that the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, and subsequent meetings, will be available on Council's website.

HARRIS/BECK  
Carried  
P&S/24/87

### Recommended Reason

So that each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

## 7. Submitters To Be Heard

There were four submitters wishing to speak.

Each submitter was allocated five (5) minutes to present their submission and allowed five (5) minutes for questions.

Submission #	Name	Organisation	Page Number
10	Eileen Judd and Sheila Masters	Stratford Croquet Club	36
Points noted in presentation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Stratford Croquet club has outgrown the current two court site. It needs four courts and a new club house.</li><li>• It is felt that the empty space adjacent to the new pool complex provides the perfect place as it will enhance and compliment the Portia Street area.</li><li>• This would enable the club to hold national competitions.</li><li>• Croquet has been on a growth trajectory since the introduction of croquet golf for which a game takes between 45-60 minutes. This fits in well with modern day lifestyles and is played by young and old and future growth is anticipated to continue.</li><li>• The club has investigated joining with other sports clubs but, as noted in the submission in 2022, there have been no viable options found.</li><li>• The club will be relying on the TOI Foundation, Taranaki Electricity Trust, Lotteries, NZCT and club fundraising activities for funding and they do not anticipate any capital costs to be on council.</li><li>• The club is asking for council to favourably consider this third request for the move by amending the future projects to include: Stratford Croquet Club to relocate to the empty green space adjacent to Wai o Rua.</li><li>• It was noted that South Taranaki have secondary school 'have a go' days with any interested students joining the club. One of these students attending a 'have a go' day went onto being a world champion.</li><li>• Young people are now starting to play non-contact sports and they learn and develop the skills quickly. There is now a liaison officer within the club to help those willing to learn.</li><li>• If there were four courts the club could host events that will benefit the whole town such as the under 21 tournaments. Croquet NZ and the other clubs in the area are supporting this request.</li></ul>			

Questions/Points of Clarification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The District Mayor commended the really detailed submission. He noted that the costs to establish the courts would fall on the club and not council but asked about the increase in maintenance costs once they are built and if the club would take on the mowing and weeding? It was clarified that the club hoped to have some support from council as it already maintains the two courts now. The District Mayor noted this was a substantial cost now which will double with four courts and needs to be discussed.</li> <li>It was noted that one croquet court fits two field tennis courts if the courts were surplus to requirements and looking for another use.</li> <li>It was clarified that the TOI Foundation, TET and Sport Taranaki have been approached by the club, but they were advised to return after a decision had been made by council.</li> <li>The Deputy Mayor asked if there could be expansion in the times the courts were used to meet the increased usage requirements? It was clarified that the courts are used three mornings a week but outside of these days they were used for competition days and practice. It was also noted that golf croquet and association croquet cannot be played at the same time on the current courts but would be able to be run alongside each other on four courts.</li> </ul>			
3	Bruce Jamieson	Stratford Scouts	21
Points noted in presentation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The speaker noted the first issue was the “dog shit” at the scout den which was getting worse and worse. There is a bin in front of the gate which encourages people to bring dogs and contradictory signs with one saying dogs on a leash and the other being a free for all.</li> <li>It was not an issue that dogs were using the park but it needed to be curbed a bit. Currently people pull into the parking area and their dog goes straight onto the grass and marks its territory.</li> <li>He noted he had been part of the scouts for 35 years and remembers playing outside 60 years ago which the kids still do but are having to content with the “dog shit” which then gets traipsed all through the scout den. The area also includes the netball courts so it is a high volume youth area.</li> <li>There were other areas that could be used such as Windsor Park which is an area without kids.</li> <li>The second issue was freedom camping. Google currently tells visitors to park at 78 Portia Street where the scout den is. This creates issues with unloading kids and gear, especially on wet nights, when the parks are used by caravans and cars. The other night there was also two truck and trailers parked there. He asked if there was a way to fix people being directed to this address.</li> <li>Mr Jamieson provided photos of both issues to pass around the councillors.</li> </ul>			
Questions/Points of Clarification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was clarified council did not have a freedom camping bylaw or policy so there were no set rules for freedom camping.</li> <li>It was noted that google, NZMCA and the camper mate app all pointed campers to the address noted so all three needed to be corrected.</li> <li>Councillor Boyde noted that the trucks take up about 10 parks outside the netball courts when they park there.</li> <li>Councillor Beck noted that dogs were not permitted within 20 meters of children’s play equipment so suggested something like that could work around the scout den. Mr Jamieson said that could be a big help.</li> </ul>			
11	Nathan McDonald	Stratford Eltham Rugby and Sports Club	43
Points noted in presentation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The submission was to suggest the green space next to Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre be used for a sports training facility, but he noted he was open to the croquet club suggestion as it was about seeing the grassed area used for sports and activities.</li> <li>As rugby is a winter sport the weather can mean limited areas available for training.</li> <li>He also noted that the fees for using the Page Street fields were \$400 for a season but \$160 for a one-off/day event and thought this should be looked into.</li> <li>He noted the aim was to provide a high quality sports field for both senior and junior sports, but that his perception of high quality will be different to someone else’s perception. This wording creates a grey area and he asked what a high quality sports field actually looks like and what does that entail around maintenance.</li> <li>He felt that some of the maintenance needed to increase to get the fields back up to standard, such as regularly aerating and fertilising Page Street to help it get back to a high quality field.</li> </ul>			

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked what Mr McDonald's view of a high quality facility was, acknowledging that Yarrows Stadium was at one end of the spectrum or was it similar to other parks around the province. He noted that an increase in a level of service will increase costs. Mr McDonald understood that a field serviced more regularly would impact fees, but that Stratford has been the poor cousin compared to other clubs with the field being damp and wet. Other clubs have longer, greener grass due to fertilising and aerating. He noted Tukapa (Saunders Park) and the field at The Hub in Hawera have improved their fields over time. He saw high quality as being on par with the other club facilities in Taranaki.
- When asked if he felt the maintenance schedule was not quite up there, Mr McDonald felt that he was not sure it was being maintained as it should be.
- It was noted that Tukapa and the Hub were council owned fields.
- Councillor Beck asked if the use of the area beside the pool would need lights? Mr McDonald noted it would but that fundraising would be undertaken like it was for Page Street. He noted soccer have the same issues around field space when it gets damp and cold so it could be used by them for winter training as well.
- The District Mayor asked if consideration had been given to using the synthetic turf for fitness training? Mr McDonald noted that the tennis courts had been used for training and fitness on nights where the fields have been too wet but that they had not used the hockey turf. It was noted the surface would be suitable for this.
- It was clarified there are about 120 senior guys doing training two nights a week and every second weekend there are games with about 30 guys and around 100 spectators. The junior boys and girls do training at Page Street as well but also have to play some of their games at the Stratford Primary School as they cannot sustain that amount of activity at Page Street. There are about 200 juniors with about 600-800 parents/grandparents spectating. He noted this was also 600-800 people coming to town and stopping at the dairies or supermarkets to get supplies as well.
- It was noted that the space beside the pool could host two junior rugby games at a time.
- It was noted that the green space beside the bike park was just used for warming up on Saturdays. There is a light pole there and this could be used for training if the power to the light was reconnected. This would only fit one team though.

7	Marina Healey and Michael Carr	Sport Taranaki	27
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Points noted in presentation:

- Sport Taranaki acknowledged the work that has gone into putting this plan together.
- They thanked officers for considering and including the original feedback provided on collaborating for the active spaces strategy, using data from the strategy to justify decisions, walkway signage to provide information before entering the park, dedicated cycleways and additions to the amenities that will support accessibility. It was noted the language in the plan encouraged active and optimum use of the facilities and was open with the definition of play and what can be used to incorporate other types of play such as water play and sensory play.
- The plan talks on the ability for users to develop facilities, particularly at the page street sports ground, and noted that these should be approached more collaboratively so the park doesn't become cluttered with facilities – these could be a joint changing and storage facility to enhance use.
- There is minimal mention in the plan of climate change and given the problems we are facing it would pertinent to consider how this can be acknowledged through the park such as water capturing, resilience planting or LED lighting. It is recommended to see a sustainable and future proof plan encouraging collaboration from within the community and promoting sustainability.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted that part of looking at recreation in parks across the region includes looking at the user experience. He noted other submissions received raised issues about dogs being able to run off the leash in the park and asked if this was consistent with assessing user experience? Ms Healey noted that part of advocating for a number of uses within a park is educating the community how all users are able to use the park in a successful way that meets all needs. Education is needed to co-use the space together. Mr Carr noted that there are individual situations where there are appropriate times to have a dog off the leash and times when it is not appropriate. The more spaces are cohabitated then the more explanation of the expectations is required.

8. Decision Report – King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan – Hearing and Deliberation

D24/7187

Page 8

Council needs to consider submissions as part of the consultation process.

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received
2. THAT the committee considers submissions received on the *draft* King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan.

BOYDE/DUDLEY  
Carried  
P&S/24/88

3. THAT the committee adopt the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan with recommended changes.
4. THAT the commencement date of the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan be 1 July 2024.

HARRIS/BECK  
Carried  
P&S/24/89

**Recommended Reasons**

The *draft* King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan has gone through the public consultation process, required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Eleven submissions were received. The committee is now required to hear and consider these submissions to inform their decision to adopt (or not) the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Parks and Reserves Officer confirmed there is a sign that encompasses the front of King Edward Park stating dogs need to be on a leash. Dogs within the park are governed by the bylaw and not this management plan.

Points noted in discussion:

*Submission 2*

- The District Mayor noted this submission raised the issue of dogs in the park and the fact that dogs can be unleashed in some areas but leashed in other areas. It moves into suggesting another area for an allocated dog park but also triggering the conversation if there should be unleashed dogs in the park at all which would be a bylaw discussion. If the view was to not allow unleashed dogs in the park then that would create an argument to have an unleashed area, such as a dog park. He suggested that a review of the bylaw be held.

*Submission 3*

- Councillor Boyde asked if it was time to look at a freedom camping bylaw if it is going to become an issue? The Chief Executive noted this would incur operational overheads such as an after hours patrol. It was clarified that the trucks parking there is a direct parking violation and could be dealt with under the existing parking bylaw, however this is currently not being patrolled out of hours.
- Councillor Sandford noted that trucks were becoming an issue in town and it was timely to look at the bylaw.

*The Revenue Manager joined the meeting at 2.58pm*

- The District Mayor noted Mr Jamieson had made these comments time and time again, and that everyone has seen the campers pulling up there and letting their dogs out who straight away do their business. He thought a freedom camping policy would be too heavy handed and the best way to approach this was to contact google, camper mate and NZMCA to ensure this address was not

listed as a preferred spot. If the War Memorial Carpark was the preferred location then this should be listed. He noted council needed to make an earnest attempt to educate these external online agencies.

- It was noted that a sign for 'no freedom camping' could be erected but it couldn't be enforced without a bylaw. It would be practical to direct them to the war memorial carpark though.
- Councillor Hall noted this was frustrating as it was a personal responsibility when taking a dog for a walk and to try and find a solution to deter people from doing a wrong thing.
- Councillor Watt noted a recent issue with a person parking outside a personal property for six months and felt a bylaw would provide a way to combat problems. Mr Sutherland noted this particular example would be controlled under permanent occupation of a recreational vehicle.

*The Services Asset Manager joined the meeting at 3.04pm.*

- The District Mayor noted that camping bylaws around the country tend to say where they cannot go and by directing people to certain spots the need for ablution blocks arose.
- Councillor Sandford noted his sympathy for the issues and felt that a sign would be a way to help and genuinely show council has listened. Councillor Beck supported this and noted he would be prepared to pay for a sign himself.

#### *Submission 4*

- Councillor Hall noted it was nice to see the feedback where the submitter is happy with what council has come up with and given good positive feedback.

#### *Submission 6*

- It was noted that the lighting project had been removed from the budgets.
- There is allocated funds to go towards seating.

#### *Submission 7*

- Councillor Boyde noted it was great to see Sport Taranaki taking a big stake in this plan and that officers had adopted some of their recommendations already.

#### *Submission 8*

- It was good to note that council is working collaboratively with the Taranaki Regional Council, particularly on the predator free project.

#### *Submission 10*

- The Deputy Mayor noted this had been an ongoing request. She noted her concerns that they have outgrown their facility but are still not accessing the facility as much as they could be and felt with better efficiencies they could get better use of the current courts. She also noted her concern on the cost for maintaining the greens and how they would be able to contribute towards that service as she wouldn't be comfortable leaving it with the club to maintain. She noted there was no other green spaces around Stratford of the requested size that would be for exclusive use.
- Councillor Dudley noted they are a small club but acknowledged they are growing, however she felt it was a huge amount of money for such a small club and for only one use. She was worried that it would be sitting there unused and was not supportive of this going through.
- Councillor Beck noted the objectives were to provide additional facilities where council is satisfied there is a demand and will be of benefit to the community. He acknowledged while they are a community club, it would only be a specific group of people using it with the space currently lending it self to a large part of the community. He wondered if there were other areas that could be used.
- Councillor Boyde supported this request but asked for the cost to fund the maintenance of four courts and two courts. He noted about \$200,000 a year was spent on maintaining the cricket and rugby fields. He noted that shifting the courts would provide the opportunity to develop the youth space at Victoria Park. He did not think it would be a closed area as they had talked about adding petanque and noted they had not asked for anything additional such as lights. He felt more work was required to see the ongoing operational costs. He acknowledged the funding for the whole project was high but also that council had lent \$7.8 million to the Stratford Park. This issue has been pushed for a while and he would like to see the numbers grow, particularly with youth numbers.
- Councillor Hall noted she was conflicted in this decision particularly regarding the space they currently resided and the opportunities that could present for that space in the future. There are better opportunities where the croquet courts are to grow that space. She commended the submission which shows they have taken on the initial feedback. She was hesitant about the maintenance costs and the lost opportunities for the space next to the pool.
- Mr Hanne clarified that if this is included in the Reserve Management Plan now it would not require further consultation, however if it was not included and it is decided to permit the move then it would

require additional consultation. Or the plan does not need to be adopted and could be held waiting for the additional costs requested.

- Councillor Watt noted there was nothing in the submission about who would demolish the old building or re-purpose the old site. Mr Hanne noted this could be made a requirement that they need to remove their asset.
- Councillor Sandford did not support the move. He noted council has been advised of the growth several times but the memberships was still 34. The main reason for more space is to hold competition but he did not see how this could be justified. They have been offered other sites which have been refused. He supported leaving this area as a green space which could perhaps become a dog area.
- Councillor Jones noted the plan says there are no future plans for this area and that there could be other options. He felt council look at the other options and was happy to leave it as is or amend to further investigations being undertaken.
- Mr Hanne noted that consultation with the Stratford Primary School would be required as they use the area for events during the year.

*The Property Officer re-joined the meeting at 3.24pm.*

- It was clarified that the four courts would fit within the area but there would be no way for future development of the pool, such as hydrosleds.
- Councillor Hall noted she would like to see what their plan b would be as she knew other options have been declined.
- Councillor Jones noted it was also important to consider what other sporting codes could see that space being used for.
- Mr Hanne noted that the demolition of the TSB Pool Complex would provide the perfect location for croquet.
- It was clarified that they would be installing fencing along the Wai o Rua side of the courts if they were in this requested space.
- Agreed to not include in the reserve management plan and to hold a workshop on the totality of the information that is required.

*Submission 11*

- Councillor Boyde felt this sat in the same category and shouldn't be in the management plan specifically. He felt that the opportunity is there for further investigation for the area.
- Councillor Jones noted the submitter had made a valid point about defining the quality of what council wants its fields to be. He requested further information on what was needed to get to those levels and define the base level so the clubs know what they are going to be getting. The Deputy Mayor asked for some options and pricing.
- Councillor Harris noted that the performance measures don't say high quality sports fields. She also noted that Tukapa pays \$6,000 a year and Southern pays \$8,884 a year. The Stratford Eltham Rugby and Sports Club pays \$1,386 a year.
- The District Mayor noted that 'fit for purpose' could just as easily be written. They want a surface that is playable and flat and it is not unreasonable to ask that, however fit for purpose will capture that level. Fixing the lights at Victoria Park could mean that area could also be used for training. To bring the fields up to a higher standard would mean increased costs for the club which they will want to ensure is being spent on the fields. Mr Hanne clarified that only a portion of the costs for these facilities are recouped through fees and charges.
- The Director – Asserts noted that the new performance measures had been approved by elected members and the words 'high quality' had been removed to just maintaining parks, however the document will be adopted as it is now unless the words are changed.
- Councillor Sandford noted that the winter sport codes were experiencing unparalleled levels of growth. Hockey now has a third women's team and the rugby club was growing at a fast rate. He would let them use the area next to the pool to practice on as it would mean the land would still be there to do whatever council wanted with it. This could mean staying off the number 1 field for practice as well.
- It was noted the points regarding the full season fee and the one day fee should be submitted on as part of the Long Term Plan discussion.
- It was agreed to leave the area beside the pool with no specific use for the plan.
- It was requested to update the club name throughout the document to Stratford Eltham Rugby and Sports Club (Specifically 4.5).
- It was noted that the club have asked to extend the current amenities at Page Street for new changing rooms for the women, but that they are still in the process of creating a plan so nothing has progressed from this. Including this in the plan allows us to make the changes to this facility when required.

#### General Discussion

- Councillor Hall noted that comments made regarding Climate Change by Sport Taranaki. She asked to clarify council's consideration of climate change when looking at future amenities and facilities. Mr Hanne noted that council can start to recognise climate change at any point, there is no current policy or strategy but once they are completed it will be a whole lot harder to not include it in the decision making process.
- It was noted that the document had been created prior to the changes to projects and budget, therefore there were projects included that needed to be removed. This will be updated.

#### 9. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 20

The closing karakia was read.

*The meeting closed at 3.51pm*

M McKay  
**Chairman**

Confirmed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2024.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**