

Any works that can not be completed due to funding constraints would be prioritised for subsequent Annual Plans and considered by the Community Board in November 2006 for input to the 2007-2008 Annual Plan and the draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009 - 2019.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002: Section 77**

Provision has been made in Council's budget for footpaths and slow streets. The inclusion of footpaths is in consideration of Council's strategic objectives for accessibility and safety, whilst the inclusion of slow streets primarily supports Council's safety objectives. In determining which footpaths are to be constructed and which streets should receive treatment to slow traffic a number of options were considered and assessed against relevant criteria identified in section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002. The recommended project priorities identified in this report are produced from this process.

### **RESOURCES**

Funding of \$500,000 has been provided in the 2006-2007 Annual Plan for footpath construction, and \$100,000 for slow streets.

The funding for these two categories has been also approved in the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan for the next ten year programme.

### **CONCLUSION**

The consultative process with the Community Board has determined a prioritised list of footpath construction and slow streets projects for consideration by the Finance and Operational Performance Committee. The number of sites to be implemented each financial year will be in accordance with the budgets approved in the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan for each year.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the 2006-2007 Waitakere City's Footpaths and Slow Streets Priority Lists report be received.
2. That the lists of priorities for footpaths and slow streets projects included in Attachment A, be submitted to the Finance and Operational Performance Committee for its consideration.

Report prepared by: Hussam Abdul-Rassol, Transport Planning & Design Manager:  
Transport Assets.



## **9 PIHA DOMAIN PLAYGROUND UPGRADE**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update the Waitakere Community Board on the process for the Piha Domain Playground Upgrade.

### **BACKGROUND**

Piha Domain is a City-wide park and therefore jurisdiction for development on this park resides with the City Development Committee.

As part of Waitakere City Council's ongoing playground renewal programme it is planned to upgrade the playground at Piha Domain in 2006/2007. The current facility beside Piha Camp Ground is over 15 years old and provides a limited range of equipment in a comparatively small area (200m<sup>2</sup>).

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

The project contributes to Council's Strategic Priority of First Call For Children and the Council's Strategic Platform of Urban and Rural Villages.

The installation of a new playground contributes substantially to these priorities and strategies through the provision of a new, exciting and challenging facility that will encourage and stimulate Children's play, social interaction, exercise and physical wellbeing.

### **ISSUES**

The playground area in Option 1 (relocated playground) covers 460 square metres which would reduce the open area of the Domain used for informal sports activity and overflow parking by approximately 7%.

### **Consultation**

*A3-A5*

The first survey (attached to this Agenda at pages A3 to A5) which was sent out in April 2006 to all ratepayers at Piha and Karekare sought feedback with regard to the type of equipment and location of the Playground. 74 residents (54%) who responded to this first survey were in favour of having the playground moved to the location shown in the survey form, 44 residents (34%) wanted the facility to stay in its current location and 16 residents (12%) gave no preference regarding the location.

The first public meeting was held on 29 April 2006 at Piha Domain Bowling Club and the majority of attendees similarly supported the option of moving the facility and a concept design was drawn up for a relocated facility.

The second public meeting was held on 20 May 2006 to view and discuss the proposed concept design. A significant number of people who either attended this meeting or who sent in submissions felt that not only should the facility stay in its current location but that a re-siting of the playground on Piha Domain would go against the objectives of the Piha Reserves Management Plan. It was also considered by some that, because the first survey only gave an indicative position of a relocated facility people were unable to make an informed decision with regard to the impact that a relocated playground would have on the Domain.

*A6-A11*

Following this meeting the footprint of the concept plan was reduced in size (attached to this Agenda at pages A6 to A7) and two other options, 2a and 2b (attached to this Agenda at pages A8 to A11), were developed. Both of these are based on keeping the facility in its current position but enlarging it by expanding the footprint of the playground. Option 2a extends the facility across the footpath which runs along the north western edge of the playground as well as expanding out towards the chalets/kitchen in the camp site.

The former would necessitate the relocation of the first line of trees which are growing immediately beside the edge of the existing playground. Option 2b retains all the trees but would expand further into what is currently designated as camp site. The camp site manager, Fiona Anderson, has in principle agreed that should either of these options be approved she would agree to have the boundary of the camp site, as set out in her lease with Waitakere City Council, redrawn.

A12-A13

After consultation with the Piha Ratepayers and Residents Association a second survey (attached to this Agenda at pages A12 to A13) was sent out in August 2006 which presented all three of the options above. These three options contain exactly the same play equipment and residents were therefore being asked to give feedback just on the issue of location.

This second survey firstly asked the question as to whether residents would prefer a relocated playground as presented in option 1 or to see the facility stay in its current position but with an expanded footprint whether this be as per Option 2a or Option 2b.

79 residents (38%) voted for option 1 and 129 residents (62%) voted for option 2a or 2b. It is clear from this result that the majority of residents would like to see the playground remain in its current location.

Those residents that voted for option 2 were then asked to give a preference for option 2a or 2b; 72 residents (56%) voted for Option 2a and 57 (44%) voted for 2b.

This second survey was also sent out to those considered to be in the catchment area.

When considering the type and location of new playgrounds, Council applies the following design principles:

- Provide clear visibility of items;
- Be creative and challenging;
- Be of a high quality;
- Meet the needs of pre and primary school children;
- Be easily accessible to users;
- Meet the needs of both the children and the caregivers in terms of layout;
- Caters for the number of children who are likely to use the playground.

If these principles are taken in isolation then it is considered that option 1 (relocated facility) provides the most suitable location. However, the landscape impacts, the interpretation of the management plan and, most importantly, the views of the residents, as determined by the results of the second survey, also need to be taken into account.

The main issue that came through the consultation process was not a debate about the type or style of equipment that a new facility should include but where the new facility should be located. The purpose of the second survey was therefore about establishing what residents considered to be the best location for the playground.

Listed below are the summarised benefits (drawn from survey forms and submissions) that were associated with a relocated playground (Option 1):

- Clear separation between members of the public using the Domain and users of the Camp Site;
- Playground being clearly identified as a public facility;
- Easy movement of children going from play modules to more informal play and recreation on the domain;
- Clear sight lines and therefore a safe facility;
- Appropriate spacing of equipment;
- Sunny and warm aspect.

Listed below are the summarised benefits (drawn from survey forms and submissions) that were associated with a new facility being developed in the current playground location (option 2a or 2b):

- A people presence around the campsite kitchen area and therefore a safe environment for play;

- A sheltered and shaded area for play;
- Protects the status quo and current landscape of the Domain;
- Ensures that no part of the Domain identified in the management plan for informal sports activity and overflow parking for events is built on;
- The objectives of the Management Plan are respected and followed.

### **Piha Reserves Management Plan**

There were a significant number of people who felt that a re-siting of the playground on Piha Domain would go against the objectives of the Piha Reserves Management Plan. The issue of the Management Plan has been investigated carefully by Council. If a relocation of the facility is considered a 'major change' to the management plan then public notification and a process of submissions would have to be undertaken.

Advice was sought internally from the Parks Planning Department, who compile all the Reserve Management Plans and the Council's Legal Department. Opinion was also sought from the Statutory Management Officer at the Department of Conservation. The opinion given by all of the above is that a relocation represents just a 'minor' change to the management plan and would only require, should the playground be relocated, an alteration to the location of the facility as it is currently shown in the management plan.

However there are members of the Community who were heavily involved in the drafting of the management plan who believe a relocation of the playground on the Domain goes against the policies, objectives and spirit of the Piha Reserves Management Plan that they worked hard to establish. They believe that one of the document's principal purposes was to protect against such development on the Domain.

The final decision of the City Development Committee will be communicated back to the Piha Ratepayers and Residents Association and displayed at the Piha Library and in the Piha News.

Following approval to upgrade the facility by the City Development Committee, the process would involve, wherever the facility is sited, gaining of resource consents and preparation of tender documents. It is intended to carry out physical works in the 2006/2007 summer construction season.

### **Decision-making Process**

Options were identified for the Piha Domain Plan upgrade in consultation with the community. These options have been assessed against relevant criteria in accordance with Section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002. Option 2a provides the best cost benefit analysis.

### **RESOURCES**

Funding of \$120,000 has been allocated in the 2006/2007 Annual Plan for the construction of a new playground.

### **CONCLUSION**

Option 1 fulfils most of the playground design principles which apply to the installation of all new play facilities. However, the decision regarding the best location for the facility must take into account the landscape impacts, the issues surrounding the management plan and most importantly the fact that a significant majority of residents (62%) feel the playground should stay in its current location. With these factors taken into full consideration it is proposed that Option 2a be approved.

This option involves relocating the first line of trees immediately beside the current facility and expanding the footprint across the footpath towards the Domain as well as a small way onto what is currently designated as camp site. Not only did this option receive more votes than option 2b (56% against 44%) but it is considered to have the following benefits when compared to option 2b:

- Less encroachment onto the camp site;
- Better links with the open area of the Domain;
- Freer movement of children from the playground to the open area of the Domain for informal play;
- Improved sites line through to the playground from the Domain.

Piha Domain is a City-wide park and therefore jurisdiction for development on this park resides with the City Development Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Piha Domain Playground Upgrade report be received.
2. That the Waitakere Community Board support the proposed location and development of the Piha Domain Playground as specified in option 2a and recommend to the City Development Committee that the proposed location and development be approved.

Report prepared by: David Barker, Parks Project Development Officer.



## **10 PIHA DOMAIN CAMP GROUND CHARGES**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is for the Waitakere Community Board to recommend to the Finance and Operational Committee new charges for the Piha Domain camp ground, effective 1 July 2007.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Piha Domain Camp ground forms part of the Piha Domain reserve, on the southern side of Seaview Road, near Lion Rock, within easy walking distance to Piha Beach. The camp ground has 122 sites, with 40 of these sites offering power.

Piha Domain is classified as a City-wide park, and approval of these new charges will require consent from the Finance and Operational Committee. The new charges also require approval from the Department of Conservation, in accordance with section 54, the Reserves Act 1977.

The Piha Reserves Management Plan, adopted September 1999, states the following about the camp ground at Piha Domain:

*“The Piha Domain camping ground is seen as having cultural heritage significance to the local community as well as playing an important role in the current community dynamic at Piha. Many current Piha residents and bach owners started out as campers in the camping ground. In addition the camping ground provides a relatively low cost way for people from outside the Piha area to experience the wild and remote beauty of Piha to a greater depth than is possible from a day visit. While there is general desire to maintain the low impact nature of the camping ground, it is recognised that in order to maintain the social and in particular, economic viability of the camp ground, both the longer tenure of lease for the manager and an improvement of facilities is required.*”