

**Subject:** Annual Plan 2010/11 Activity Report - Reserves & Open Spaces

**Prepared by:** Terry McMillan

**Meeting Date:** 5/6 May 2010

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## Report to COUNCIL for decision

### SUMMARY

Fifteen submissions to the draft 2010/11 Annual Plan contained comments relating to the Reserves & Open Spaces activity. Detailed officer responses and recommendations to these submissions are attached. The issues covered by these submissions were grouped into the following areas:

- Cemeteries and Crematorium (1)
- Public Conveniences (1)
- Parks and Reserves (13).

The following overarching issues/themes have emerged from the submissions:

- Requests for increased provision of services and facilities
- Requests for reductions or no increase in services and facilities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. receives the report
2. approves the officer responses contained in Attachment 1 - Reserves & Open Spaces submissions and responses
3. makes one change to the draft Annual Plan 2010/11 to include reference to the decommissioning of the Waihirere Pool with the estimated cost of decommissioning covered within existing budgets.
4. resolves to:  
  
refer consideration of whether to support the summer opening of school swimming pools to the Finance & Monitoring Committee.

Terry McMillan  
Activity Manager

Peter Higgs  
Department Manager

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Council manages an open space network that provides community and recreational opportunities, as well as cultural, landscape and ecological protection and enhancement. This network includes

- neighbourhood reserves, sportsfields and walkways
- harbour, port, coastal and esplanade reserves, passive reserves and natural areas
- historic reserves and specific heritage sites
- jetties
- cemeteries and crematorium
- public conveniences

## **2. DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS**

A submitter supports the initiative to excavate and display the headstones buried at Makaraka Cemetery. Before the project can commence the views of relatives of those persons' headstones are being sought. External funding for the project is required. The Gisborne Branch of the Society of Genealogists is leading this project.

A submitter requests a public toilet at the Waerenga o Kuri store. There is no evidence of a need for a public toilet in this location. This site could be reviewed in the next 10 year plan together with other requests for public toilets.

Submissions on Parks and Reserves cover a wide range of facilities and services. Some request increases in the provision while others feel there is adequate or over supply. Each requires an individual response and are largely part of ongoing operations.

Some of the requests for new infrastructure and the disposal of other assets should be considered as part of the next ten year plan development. The decommissioning of the Waihirere Pool requires final notification and some work to make the area safe and accessible for other possible uses. A request for financial support to open the Illminster School Pool during summer is referred to the Finance and Monitoring Committee for further consideration as part of a larger strategy.

## **3. SIGNIFICANCE**

This activity is considered towards the less significant end of the scale.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

Reserves and Open Spaces activities tend to be emotionally sensitive and require a level of local consultation where changes are proposed. This provides a positive opportunity for the community to shape and influence their immediate and wider environment.

## **5. COMMUNITY OUTCOMES**

The contribution to community outcomes by the Reserves and Open Spaces activities remains unchanged.

## **6. LEVELS OF SERVICE**

Submitters seem divided on whether the existing levels of service are too high or too low. National benchmarking and customer survey data show that the Gisborne District is at the lower end of provision of parks and reserves in terms of services and facilities.

## **7. FINANCIAL**

The estimated \$3000 cost of decommissioning the Waihirere Pool can be met from the existing Waihirere Pool activity balance. There will be additional costs required to address the issue of financial support for the summer opening of school pools.

## **8. LEGAL**

There are no legal implications for these issues.

## **9. POLICY**

There are no policy implications at this time although some issues may influence future Council planning and policy development.

## Summary and Response by Issue

For: Annual Plan 2010/11 - RESERVES and OPEN SPACES

Issue	Submitter
<b>Parks &amp; Reserves</b>	
8	Thorpe, Margaret Ann
<p>Why did Waihirere pool close? What happened to the grant the staff obtained to repair the pool? The mayor was going to consult the community. Can the submitter see a copy of his report and his recommendations to Council? What has happened since he reported back? Why in the 10 year plan is there no mention of operating, or conversely decommissioning? What progress has been made for a proposed performance centre at the domain? Recommends that Council finalise the fate of the disused pool at the Waihirere reserve.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: The Waihirere Pool closed because operating the pool for a small number of users became uneconomical and environmentally unsustainable. The pool required a large amount of capital to bring it up to standard. The grant obtained contributing to the upgrade was returned to the benefactor when the shortfall of funding could not be found to complete the project. The Mayor consulted the community over the pool closure and alternative proposals. The community was to develop a proposal for Councils consideration. That has not been submitted. The ten year plan assumed that this matter would have been resolved. A decommissioning proposal is to be discussed with the community shortly. Decommissioning may be with the assistance of a Community Max work team at little extra cost to Council. The main cost will be the filling of the pool shell for safety reasons. Officer Recommendation: That the following change(s) be made to the draft Annual Plan - increase the operational budget for Waihirere Domain by \$3,000 to cover the cost of decommissioning the Waihirere Pool.</i></p>	
9	Lawson, Julie Mamae
<p>Submitter requests a boardwalk along the length of Onepoto Bay to improve disabled access.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: There is no evidence to support the need for a boardwalk in terms of usage or current environmental impact. It is unlikely that this project would be a high priority. Consideration for this project should be part of the township plan currently under development. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
11	Schollum, Norma Muriel
<p>Told that the trees in Rua Street would be removed, but they have not. She would like them removed.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: Tree removal in Rua Street will commence July 2010 in a staged manner. All trees will be removed and some replaced as part of a three year project in consultation with residents. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
13	Basil Rosie
<p>Gisborne is not a "friendly motor home city". There are few places to park overnight for a couple of days cheaply. Council has lots of land and it would be nice to have a place with a dump station and water for self contained motor homes close to town. Many visitors would use these facilities and it would bring money into town, and many visitors do not need a campground and all its infrastructure</p> <p><i>Officer Response: Commercial facilities already exist for motorhomes in the city. It would not be in the interests of fair competition for Council to provide subsidised motorhome facilities. , , Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
20	Molly Evans

## Summary and Response by Issue

For: Annual Plan 2010/11 - RESERVES and OPEN SPACES

Issue	Submitter
<p>The vacant beachside sections should be sold off as they are of little use to the general public, except as a walkthrough for a few who could reach the beach a few blocks in either direction. Money could go towards the walkway.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: This is an option that has been considered. However, for the long term future of this highly valued local and tourist destination the current preferred option is to retain these assets for the future. , , Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
27	Tony Barnby
<p>More flowers in hanging baskets in town like those in Wanganui would be a benefit. Turn Bright Street/Gladstone Road junction into a "focus area" with sails as in Rotorua.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: Hanging baskets were trialled some years ago with limited success in the city. Since the CBD upgrade it is not considered necessary or complimentary to the street scape. Investigations into a suitable location for a "town square" were undertaken in 2009 and this site was considered. Traffic flows and other issues together with the limited success of the Rotorua development has not identified this as a likely site. The search for a suitable space continues. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
30	Julie Hathaway
<p>Cleaning up reserves, planting and seating in Wainui would be great.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: This work is planned as part of the actions identified in the WD Lysnar and Wainui Beach Management Plan. Work will be staged over a number of years to meet budget constraints. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
33	Davie, Ronald Fraser
<p>Too much money is spent on recreation and leisure.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: In comparison with the national average and with other similar districts, Gisborne is well below its peers in spending on recreation and leisure. Studies have shown many benefits arising from recreation and leisure. This is an essential component of any community and a factor in attracting people to our district. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
38	Easton, Lois Margaret
<p>Would like council to introduce a community street tree planting programme in the less leafy areas of the city as undertaken in Waitakere. The community would submit proposals for trees, the council would provide them, and the trees would be planted by the community with council assistance.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: This is a worthwhile suggestion and something that is currently being planned. A lot of effort to date has been spent on getting existing trees under control. Any new planting requires investigation and approval to determine suitable spaces for trees to avoid current problems with overhead and underground services. In some instances it may not be possible to plant street trees. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
47	Creative Tairawhiti

## Summary and Response by Issue

For: Annual Plan 2010/11 - RESERVES and OPEN SPACES

Issue	Submitter
<p>Creative Tairawhiti supports the development of a multi-purpose civic space in the city centre. Creative Tairawhiti supports the objective of this project, to improve the vitality and function of the city centre. We agree that it is necessary to incorporate the feasibility, design and construction phases of the library extension with the development of a civic square, wherever possible.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: Initial investigation has not revealed a suitable site for a multi-purpose civic space (town square). Investigations will continue in conjunction with the planning for the re-development of the library. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p>	
<p>60</p> <p>Kapai Kaiti</p> <p>We reaffirm our recommendation that Council support to fully utilise the existing community pools, particularly the one at Illminster School that with Council support can continue to provide an affordable, accessible, safe and secure swimming facility for Kaiti families and reduce the attraction of bridge jumping. It costs approximately \$10,000 to open the pool over summer and we have over 2,000 swimmers who all pay to swim. We request that Council includes \$5,000 in the 2010-2011 budget toward the cost of running Illminster Pool over summer.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: The Illminster School pool contributes to the provision of safe affordable swimming facilities in our city. Travel to the Olympic Pool may not be an option for many in this community. A contribution of \$5,000 towards 2,000 swimmers is comparable with swimmer contributions associated with the Olympic Pool. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan. That the item be referred to the next Finance and Monitoring Committee for further consideration.</i></p>	
<p>65</p> <p>Thorpe, Margaret Ann</p> <p>Can the district afford "more green space per capita than any other place" as the mayor has stated when it has such huge bills for wastewater, roads, drainage and rubbish? Recommends council undertake an audit of its green spaces and the rising cost to maintain and improve them. Improvement should be done from sales of surplus reserves.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: The park provision of hectares per 1,000 population for the Gisborne District is 5.12 compared with the national average of 22. GDC has currently the lowest provision per population of Councils surveyed as part of the Yardstick benchmarking group. Reserves have a high level of legislative protection so that selling a reserve is not a simple matter. Progress on the sale of surplus property is related to the resources allocated to this project. It is not currently a high priority. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p> <p>Stop wasting staff time and ratepayers money on the notable tree list. Don't spend ratepayers money on trees unless they have real historic value, e.g. oaks at Kaiti park.</p> <p><i>Officer Response: It is difficult to identify and protect trees of note unless a register is compiled e.g. oaks on Titirangi Reserve. A large group of mainly volunteers is working on the preparation of a list to be assessed against national standards. Much of the work to date is at no cost to the Ratepayer., The protection of notable trees on Council property is already part of operational costs. A notable tree register will focus spending on significant trees rather than all trees. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i></p> <p>Within a mile along Waikanae beach there are 3 paved free council car parks fronting the beach. Council should revisit the 6 reserves. They are used in peak period but at least 2 could be released for house and sections and could be earning rating income all year round.</p>	

## Summary and Response by Issue

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Issue	Submitter
<i>Officer Response: The city beachfront from Waikanae Beach is a significant asset and tourist attraction for Gisborne. While the sections may not be fully utilised at present the long term benefit of retention of these open spaces is considered to outweigh any short term benefits from their sale. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.</i>	

66	Te Puawaitanga O Ruatoria/Ruatoria Trust
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Submitter highlights the following priority actions in the Ruatoria Township Development Plan: 1. Establishment of a public native garden on Waiomatatini Road. To include a picnic table shaped like a waka. 2. Removal of existing trees from the main road and replace with well spaced native trees. 3. Installation of hitching posts at both ends of town. 4. Erecting of poupou with carved name and welcome sign. 5. Community recreation centre. 6. Renaming the Ruatoria Reserve. 7. Complete paving of the footpaths in the main street. 8. Replace and reset lifting cobblestones. 9. Stock Route completion. 10. Waiapu River. 11. Planting of native trees alongside riverbank and on Manutahi Hill to help slow erosion. 12. Compulsory stop sign at Barry Avenue and Te Huinga Avenue. 13. Speed hump opposite TRONP and before the Kai Kart at entrance into the main street.

*Officer Response: 1. This work is underway and will continue as budgets permit. 2. These street trees have been damaged in the past and require community ownership and protection to succeed. 3. Hitching posts will be installed before July 2010. 4. A carved poupou will be installed on Waiomatatini Road before July 2010. Welcome signs yet to be finalised. 5. Council supports a new community recreation centre and has indicated that they would make land available if the project receives external grant funding. 6. The process to rename the Ruatoria Reserve will require formal consultation and approval. 9. The stock route is due to be completed this year. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan. That the item regarding the renaming of the Ruatoria Reserve be referred to the next Operations committee for further consideration.*

### Cemeteries & Crematorium

24	Hamon, Janis Marion
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Strongly supports any council initiatives to dig up the headstones that were removed (from the Makaraka cemetery) and buried in a pit in the 1970 s. Historians will be delighted.

*Officer Response: There has been strong support for this initiative to display the headstones buried at Makaraka Cemetery. Before the project can commence the views of relatives of those persons headstones are being sought. External funding for the project is required. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.*

### Public Conveniences

46	Charteris, Martin James
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Public toilet needed at the Waerenga o Kuri store.

*Officer Response: There is no evidence of the need for a public toilet at this location for the general use. The store is expected to provide facilities for its customers. Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan.*