

**Minutes of a Hearing of Submissions on the Wanaka Recreation Reserve draft Reserve Management Plan held in the Armstrong Room, Lake Wanaka Centre, Wanaka on Wednesday 18 January 2017 commencing at 10.00am**

**Present**

Councillor Calum Macleod (Chairperson) and Councillor Ross McRobie

**In attendance**

Mr Aaron Burt (Senior Planner, Parks and Reserves), Mr Stephen Quin (Parks and Reserves Planning Manager) and Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Governance Advisor)

**Appointment of Chair**

The Governance Advisor called the meeting to order and asked the panel to determine who would chair the meeting.

It was agreed that Councillor MacLeod would chair the meeting.

**Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**1. Hearing of Submissions on the draft Wanaka Recreation Reserve draft Reserves Management Plan ('RMP')**

Report writer's summary of report

Mr Burt stated that he had nothing further to add to his report which should be taken as read.

Hearing of submissions

*1. Jo O'Connor (Well South) and Marie Roxburgh (Southern DHB)*

Ms O'Connor and Ms Roxburgh asked for the reserve to have smoke-free status. They noted that the Council had originally been a leader in introducing smoke-free initiatives by declaring all playgrounds smoke-free but had recently remained static in this regard whilst other regions had moved ahead. They wished to remind Council of this message and asked for more action. It was simple to install smoke-free signage and signs could be supplied. The government aim was for New Zealand to be smoke-free by 2025 and it was important for 'not smoking' to be seen as the norm.

Smoke-free status could have a large social and health impact and was not costly and councils needed to take leadership and make more environments smoke-free.

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### 2. *Alan Cutler, Wanaka-Hawea Reserves Trust*

Mr Cutler presented a written submission to support his original submission. He raised the following principal points:

- The Wanaka Recreation Reserve is an important and strategically located reserve and its future management is very significant to Wanaka.
- The Reserve Management Plan lacks substance and does not adequately identify, describe and acknowledge social, cultural and environmental values. The failure to record past and present uses, vegetation, structures, infrastructure and scenic and landscape values raises the risk of the reserve being undervalued.
- The plan supports the current main users (Upper Clutha rugby and A&P Society) and seeks to prioritise these activities above others.
- It is a status quo document that does not address future needs or opportunities.
- The reserve has unrealised potential to contribute far more to Wanaka. All three main town reserves should not be considered in isolation and combined can contribute to Wanaka's recreational and environmental values. These reserves can boost the value of each other and should be managed to support each other so that the whole is greater than the three components.
- The draft plan fails to acknowledge the Wanaka Rowing Club's present use of the reserve for storage and the club may have to consider a site on the reserve for long-term storage if plans to develop the Wanaka Watersports Facility are unsuccessful. Any future building on the reserve for the Wanaka Rowing Club could be integrated with the Coast Guard facility which would provide efficiencies in costs and usage.
- He disagreed that water-based activities were not appropriate for the reserve because of its distance from the lake as the lake was only 100 metres away. There were many options available for ensuring a safe crossing of the road.
- Recent use of the reserve for over-flow parking did not seem to have addressed congestion which would be better approached via traffic management plans and improved signage.

Councillor MacLeod suggested that objective 4.2.4 would cover the need for new structures ('Buildings support the uses of the reserve and community and positively contribute to the amenity of the area'). Mr Cutler agreed that this was generally the case but overall he considered that the plan set in train retention of the status quo. He noted that the plan provided no background information which would provide some context for where it could go in the future. He added that at present, the reserve sat vacant for most of the year doing nothing.

### 3. *John Coe*

Mr Coe agreed that the Wanaka Recreation Reserve was the most logical place to site a facility for the Wanaka Rowing Club and he also considered that the draft RMP was too general. He believed that it should consider the impact of three times the number of people arriving in Wanaka, adding that

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Wanaka had previously suffered from a lack of long-term thinking and the plan needed to provide scope for this.

He supported use of the park for long-term parking but did not believe that the site used this year was a good location because no one knew it was there. Councillor MacLeod stressed that the initiative had been a trial and there would be a de-brief to discuss lessons from the experience.

#### *4. Jane Stalker (Upper Clutha A&P Society)*

Ms Stalker agreed with the suggestion that the reserve's historical context should be included in the RMP. She questioned whether the no glass policy impacted just the sports area or the whole reserve, adding that a blanket no glass policy would adversely impact the A&P show. She supported the reserve being smoke-free.

It was noted that the glass policy proposed for the reserve echoed that used for the Queenstown Recreation Reserve where glass was not permitted on the playing area.

#### *5. Loris King*

Mrs King stated that the name of the plan was confusing and it needed also to refer to the reserve as 'the showgrounds' in brackets because it was commonly known as this. She stated that many people had not submitted on the draft Plan because they had mistaken it for Three Parks.

She considered that the reserve should not only contain buildings for the A&P Society and the rugby club as there was a lot more potential (and space) for other clubs to have rooms there.

Mrs King was of the view that parking on the reserve should only be permitted for recreation users. She believed that if the Council wanted to make a carpark it needed to do so through the proper channels. She stressed the importance of protecting reserve land because of Wanaka's growth, adding that it was important to respect the areas set aside as green space.

Mrs King did not support forming the legal paper road on Stone Street but agreed that a pedestrian access would be useful.

She expressed concern about the safety of the vehicle entrance into the A&P show.

Mrs King observed that the pine hedge on the lake-front was cluttered with bottles and other rubbish which needed to be cleared.

#### *6. John Baynes*

Mr Baynes congratulated the Council on the RMP, adding that the reserve contributed to the character of Wanaka and to fostering physical recreation. He noted that Wanaka continued to grow at a fast rate and the Council needed to move to protect its unique qualities. People used the reserve for all

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types of recreational activities and it was important to ensure this did not change.

Mr Baynes stressed the importance of making sure the reserve did not become a storage area and any buildings constructed on the reserve should be in areas where they did not impact on recreational use and aesthetic qualities. Other structures may be necessary but these should be in a similar style to existing buildings and should not be sited in the more visually open areas. Specifically, he considered that buildings should not extend further north than a line parallel with the rear of the rugby club and he would not like to see buildings on the lake side of the reserve.

Councillor MacLeod asked whether Mr Baynes supported developing a new vehicle access from Stone Street. Mr Baynes stated that this would create unwanted dynamics and would take away the reserve's special quality. He did not see any reason for it to be opened up for vehicles.

### Staff right of reply

Mr Quin commented on some of the issues raised in submitters' presentations. He supported the addition of historic information to the Plan as well as a policy limiting the use of glass on the reserve. He questioned whether smoke-free should just relate to this reserve or be a wider Council policy. He acknowledged concerns that the plan was not visionary but stressed the need to have policies that were enabling without being too prescriptive.

*The public part of the hearing concluded at 11am.*

*Deliberations commenced at 11.05 am.*

### Smoke-free Status

This was supported. It was agreed that in principle this should apply to all Council reserves but in the first instance the policy would be applied to the Wanaka Recreational Reserve, in the hope that this would eventually roll on to all Council reserves.

### Signage (4.3.2b)

There was discussion about the establishment of a community information hoarding. It was agreed to delete the specific location: '...in the vicinity of the intersection of Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Road and McDougall Street'.

### Stone Street

It was agreed to add cycle access to policy 4.3.11, namely: 'pedestrian/cycle access'.

### Historical background

It was agreed to add historical information to the RMP's introduction. Some historical detail had been provided in the A&P Society's submission and it was suggested that staff contact the Upper Clutha Historical Society for more information to include.

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### Public toilets

There was discussion about whether the addition of new public toilets should be in consultation with other leaseholders but instead it was agreed to add an over-arching comment that preparation of a Development Plan (4.3.1) would include consultation with the community.

### Glass free

It was agreed that the policy (4.3.8c) should remain as originally proposed ('Prohibit the use of glass on areas of the reserve laid out for sporting activities') as there were wider implications of making it cover the whole reserve.

### Showgrounds

The addition of 'Showgrounds' to the name was supported.

### Camping

Consideration was given to whether parking should be added to 4.3.9. It was noted that the ability to permit short-term camping was to cover occasional situations such as the gypsy fair and scout jamborees, noting that these were also permitted under 4.3.8 (cultural and recreational events). The panel did not support including specific reference to parking.

### Shade provision

The panel considered including shade sails and seating but determined that such detail would be more appropriate in a development plan. Notwithstanding that, shade was already provided by the trees.

### Tree Management Plan

Members asked whether policy 4.3.3c would preclude a community orchard. Staff advised that such an initiative could be examined as part of a Development Plan but they did not support including this in the RMP.

### Fire Service use of the reserve

Any use of heavy vehicles needed to avoid the sports fields. Whilst supported by the events policy (4.3.8) a desire was expressed for any such proposed use to be notified to staff.

### Shared facilities

Support was expressed for the A&P society and rugby club to have a shared facility. Whilst already encouraged by 4.3.5b there was support for making this more explicit: 'Encourage collaborative and non-exclusive use of buildings of community and sporting groups.'

**On the motion of Councillors MacLeod and McRobie it was resolved that the Wanaka Recreational Reserve draft Management Plan as amended be recommended to the Wanaka Community Board for adoption.**

*The meeting concluded at 11.51am.*