

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11 OCTOBER 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PART OF QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks Council approval to accept the transfer of management of part of Queen Elizabeth Park, located between the Tilley Road entrance and the Wellington Road entrance of the Park to the Kāpiti Coast District Council from Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 The recommendations in this report do not trigger the Council's significance policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The land is a smaller part of the larger Queen Elizabeth Park which will need to be surveyed to establish the boundaries from the main park block. The area however is approximately 1.82 hectares . The legal description of Queen Elizabeth Park is PT LOT 15 DP 5751 SEC 99 PT SECS 2-3 BLK II PAEKAKARIKI SD-QUEEN ELIZABETH PK - BAL AT 1540000100 - EASEMENTS DP 63124 and is classified a recreation reserve. It is owned by the Department of Conservation (DoC) and currently managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). Attached in Appendix 1 is an aerial photo outlining the land.
- 4 The Tilley Road area is one of the entrances to Queen Elizabeth Park and is located between Paekākāriki Village and the Paekākāriki campground. The area has an expired grazing lease with GWRC and is on a month to month basis. It is not intended to renew this lease so that development work can commence on the site as soon as possible.
- 5 The Paekākāriki Weaver's Club occupies the building that was previously the bowling clubrooms. They have a license to occupy expiring on 31 May 2013. The group is active and has recently painted the building. This license would be taken over by Council.
- 6 GWRC has indicated its intent to "*relinquish their control and management responsibilities of the Tilley Road area of Queen Elizabeth Park as noted in Appendix 1*" in its report dated 26 July 2012. The report also states that GWRC will prepare the documents necessary for the Minister of Conservation to transfer the land to Kapiti Coast District Council.

- 7 According to Greater Wellingtons Regional Council's report (attached as Appendix 2, "Transfer of management responsibilities to part of Queen Elizabeth Park" dated July 2012), Kāpiti Coast District Council made a submission to the Parks Network Plan in 2009, "*indicating interest to provide more 'informal playing fields' for the Paekakariki community, and that some area on the urban edge of Queen Elizabeth Park may be suitable. This intent was noted in the Parks Network Plan under the Projected Future Changes for Queen Elizabeth Park (page 90): namely, to investigate neighbourhood park for local use at Paekakariki in conjunction with Kapiti Coast District Council.*"
- 8 The Council has recognised for some time there is a shortage of sports grounds in Paekākāriki. The transfer of this land represents the only short to medium term cost-effective opportunity to address this shortage.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 9 Once the land is transferred to the Council, the Council and the Paekākāriki Community Board will plan the development of the land in consultation with Tilley Road residents and sporting user groups .
- 10 Through discussions with the Paekākāriki Sports Club as well as other potential users from the District the intent would be to develop the land to create multiple sports grounds for junior sports and for training There could also be the possibility of establishing a community garden on part of the site if the local community is interested in this concept.
- 11 Parking could be of concern to Tilley Road residents but 20-30 vehicles could be accommodated on the site off Tilley Road. Signage and the walkway/cycleway on the land will continue to be maintained by GWRC. The site is prone to flooding but this would not be an issue for sports use.

Financial Considerations

- 12 The length of time needed to transfer the management to the Council could make developing the site this financial year difficult unless all parties agree the work can start before the legal transfer is complete. There is \$51,000 allowed to develop the site this financial year.
- 13 There may be costs associated with the production of the development plan. This will be accommodated within existing budgets.
- 14 There could be costs associated with surveying the land to create a new title but according to the GWRC report this would be the responsibility of DoC. However it is likely that DoC will seek to recover these costs from Council
- 15 Ongoing maintenance of the land will be approximately \$30,000 per year and this sum has been included in the Long Term Plan.

Legal Considerations

- 16 There are limitations on activities that can be allowed on this site which is subject to the Reserves Act (1977). The sports grounds activities proposed are consistent with the Reserves Act 1977.
- 17 Management changes to be made are provided for in Section 28 (1) and 28 (2) of the Reserves Act 1977 and done by DoC.

Delegation

- 18 The Environment and Community Development Committee can approve the transfer of management according to the Governance Structure and Delegations 2010-2013 Triennium, Part 3:

“7.3 Authority to exercise the functions, powers and duties of the Council under the Reserves Act 1977 or any other statute, regulation or bylaw relating to the management and control, maintenance and operation of parks and reserves, except as delegated to Community Boards or officers.

Consultation

- 19 GWRC have consulted with DoC, the Office of Treaty Settlements, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Ati Āwa ki Whakarongotai regarding the transfer of management responsibilities and both are “generally comfortable with the transfer” according the GWRC’s report attached as Appendix 1. The Chair of the Paekākāriki Community Board has been kept informed of progress regarding this proposal.

Policy Implications

- 20 There are no policy implications.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 21 Iwi have been consulted on this proposal and the land is not subject to any treaty claims.

Publicity Considerations

- 22 A press release will be prepared in conjunction with GWRC as this is a good news story for the sporting community and residents of Paekākāriki.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23 That the Committee:

- (a) accepts the transfer of management responsibilities of part of Queen Elizabeth Park, subject to subject to DoC approval, as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report (CS-12-674) for the development of sports grounds;
- (b) agrees that subject to the agreement of all parties, development of the site will start this financial year;
- (c) agrees to the continuation of the License to Occupy to the Paekakariki Weavers Club

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Lex Bartlett

Tamsin Evans

**Leisure and Open Space Asset
Manager**

Group Manager Community Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1: Aerial photo outlining part of Queen Elizabeth to be transferred to Council for management.

Appendix 2: GWRC's report, "Transfer of management responsibilities to part of Queen Elizabeth Park"

Appendix 1: Aerial photo outlining part of Queen Elizabeth to be transferred to Council for management

Appendix 2: GWRC's report, "Transfer of management responsibilities to part of Queen Elizabeth Park"