

Mayor and Councillors  
**COUNCIL**

**11 NOVEMBER 2010**

Meeting Status: Public

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS ANNUAL RENTAL**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 To seek approval to reduce the annual rental of Community Gardens sites for their first year of operation.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 Council's Significance Policy is not triggered by this report.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 3 The policy that allows Community Gardens to be established on Council land was adopted by the Environment and Community Development Committee at its meeting on the 4 February 2010. Before the policy was adopted each Community Board considered the draft and made suggestions which included the inclusion of an annual charge.
- 4 Interested community groups who asked for Community Gardens to be established were also consulted and involved in the process and attended Council Committee and Community Board meetings at Waikanae and Paraparaumu when this item was considered.
- 5 At the 22 July meeting of the Environment and Community Development Committee a report seeking approval for Menzshed to be granted a licence to occupy a shed on a public purposes reserve in Rangihiroa Street, Waikanae was presented and approved. This report also suggested a peppercorn rental of \$1.00 per annum be charged for the use of this shed for a one year term. A signed licence to occupy is now in place covering this activity.
- 6 The Community Gardens Group who want to establish their garden also on the Rangihiroa Street site have asked officers for the same rate of \$1.00 per annum.
- 7 Within the adopted Community Gardens Policy an annual rental of \$170.00 was approved for the use of the site. This is consistent with other similar groups who use or occupy reserve land.
- 8 Council officers do not have the authority to agree to a reduction in the Community Gardens \$170.00 annual rental as it would not be consistent with the adopted Policy, so can not make this suggested change without approval.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Issues

- 9 Both community groups who are setting up operations on the Rangihiroa Street site have limited resources and obtain the majority of their funds by grants.
- 10 This matter highlights an equity issue regarding rental charged to similar community groups on the same reserve. Rental charged for other leases on reserves uses the same formula to ensure consistency as what was suggested with the Community Gardens Policy rental.
- 11 Both Groups' tenure is subject to a one year lease with a review after a year. Rather than change the recently adopted Community Gardens Policy, it is suggested the rental for the Community Gardens is reduced to a rate of \$1.00 for the duration of its one year lease.
- 12 At the end of the one year lease period, if the lease was to be extended, then the rental for both the Community Garden and the Menzshed would be brought into line with the fees and charges across the District for the use of reserve land.

### Financial Considerations

- 13 The financial impact will be minimal.

### Legal Considerations

- 14 There are no legal considerations.

### Delegation

- 15 Council is asked to consider this report today in order to provide a timely resolution for both groups.

### Policy Implications

- 16 There are no policy or other considerations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 17 That the Council approves that for their first year of operations the rental for Community Gardens and the Waikanae Menzshed will be fixed at \$1.00, noting that at the end of their one year rental period both activities will be reviewed and rental charges amended in order to align with actual lease rates across the District.

**Report prepared by:**

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