


OIR: 2526/374

4 May 2026



Tēnā koe ,

**Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your email of **20 April 2026** requesting the following information:

- 1. Can you confirm that the Kāpiti Coast District Council has no plans to establish open space such as a playground on the northern side of Waikanae East?***

Council has no current plans to establish a playground in the area referred to on the northern side of Waikanae East. Any future provision of open space would need to be considered against the Open Space Strategy, identified service needs, and available funding

- 2. Has the Kāpiti Coast District Council received or approved any new subdivision or infill housing requests that could create new open space in northern Waikanae East?***

Council regularly receives and processes subdivision and development applications. Whether a particular development results in new open space being provided is assessed on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the relevant planning framework in force at the time, including the Open Space Strategy, the nature of the proposal, and the characteristics of the land.

- 3. What is the criteria for adding open space in areas that lack it?***

The current criteria Council uses when assessing land for acquisition as open space are set out in **Appendix 2 of Toitū Kāpiti: Kāpiti Coast Open Space Strategy**. Appendix 2 states that Council will consider the Strategy's Ten Priorities when assessing land for acquisition as open space, and that acceptance of land is at Council's discretion.

*Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.*

**4. What progress has been made to implement the findings of the 2022 Open Space Strategy and specifically to address the lack of open space in the north of Waikanae East (around Huia Street)? i.e. Has there been any testing, implementation or planning?**

The 2022 Open Space Strategy treats open space as a wider network, including parks, reserves, transport corridors, urban spaces, streetscapes, greenbelt areas and streams. It also provides for growth-related reserve acquisition and upgrades through land or cash contributions, depending on identified need. At this time, no specific testing, implementation or planning has been identified for a new playground or other new open space provision in the Waikanae East area. However, as new development proposals arise, open space needs and any associated reserve requirements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**5. Can you provide the reasons and record of the decision making process for the decision to not provide open space as part of recent infill housing developments in northern Waikanae East at:**

**1) on and around Matenga Street and Kārearea Avenue, adjacent to the train tracks;**

This development was assessed under the 2012 Open Space Strategy. No separate detailed record has been identified that sets out a standalone decision-making process for not providing open space at this location. However, the available information indicates the land was affected by ponding and inundation, and would likely have required significant works such as filling, drainage and earthworks to make it suitable and manageable for public open space. Under the 2012 strategy, matters such as suitability, manageability, strategic fit and cost were relevant considerations.

**2) on and around Kotare Street and Wilson Way,**

This development was also assessed under the 2012 Open Space Strategy. That strategy used a 400 metre walking distance standard for access to public open space, but also recognised that some gaps could be mitigated by access to alternative open spaces such as local schools, Department of Conservation land, or Greater Wellington Regional Council land. The available record indicates that while provision of land for a playground or similar facility within the subdivision would have been a desirable amenity, there was insufficient budget for that purpose.

**6. Has the KCDC required developers of the homes built 1) on and around Matenga Street and Kārearea Avenue and 2) on and around Kotare Street and Wilson Way to pay a fee for an open space and how much was this fee?**

**1) on and around Matenga Street and Kārearea Avenue**

Yes. The reserve contribution paid was \$480,627.08

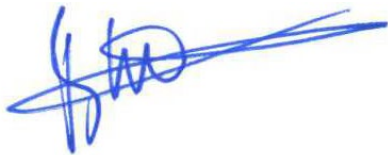
**2) on and around Kotare Street and Wilson Way to pay a fee for an open space and how much was this fee?**

No reserve contribution was required. The recorded position was that the earlier vesting of Hemi Matenga Reserve to the Crown by the original developer had been accepted as providing adequate land for reserve purposes. However, it was also noted that provision of land for a playground or similar facility within the subdivision would have been a desirable amenity for the area. The developers indicated they were amenable to selling a lot to Council for that purpose, but Council did not take up that offer because it did not have sufficient funds to purchase the land or develop a playground at the time.

**7. What safety and risk mitigation measures were considered as part of the decision to not provide open space for these two developments?**

These developments were assessed under the 2012 Open Space Strategy, relevant considerations included whether land was safe, accessible, manageable, fit for purpose, and resilient to natural hazards.

Ngā mihi,



**Brendan Owens**

Group Manager Customer and Community  
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū - Kiritaki me te Hapori