

APPENDIX 1



Ōtaki basketball court briefing December 2015

Background

The young people of Ōtaki have requested a new basketball court to be built – preferably at the beach.

Ōtaki currently has three basketball courts at Matai Street, Haruatai Park and Domain Road. The amount of use of these courts is unknown.

A full size court was built at Ōtaki Beach but over time ceased to be used. This is thought mainly to be due to seagulls using the hard surface to break shells, resulting in the court constantly being covered in broken shells.

Consultation was undertaken with young people living in Ōtaki about the use of basketball courts and where a new court could be located.

To build a new court at the beach is problematic due to a number of reasons;

- The seagulls will continue to break shells on the hard surface
- It's likely that neighbouring residents will not be supportive of a new basketball court being built
- There is no other space suitable at the beach for a court
- The boating club has an agreement to use the space of the original court for parking

A keyhole court is a court ideal for practise and three on three player games. These courts prove popular around the district. A full size court requires more players meaning that a keyhole court is more practical. During the consultation process, young people identified the court as being a keyhole court.

Consultation Methodology

Council staff carried out a series of engagement activities with young people. This included:

- Preliminary discussion with Youth Council
- Speaking at the Ōtaki College assembly
- Talking with students during interval time at Ōtaki College (including two new members of the Youth Council)
- Meeting with young people at Ōtaki Library
- Talking with young people occupying the Ōtaki Beach area and Haruatai Park area
- Talking with kura kaupapa (Te Rito) at Ōtaki Pool

Questions asked were:

- The existing three courts – How often are they utilised?
- As one option, would it be more preferable to upgrade existing courts?
- Why did the basketball court on Marine Parade stop being used causing seagulls to drop shells on the surface?

Large maps were used to identify each site so that the young people could visually identify the court and use post it notes to write their comments.

In addition, we have also spoken with a few key people (adults) within the community who are significantly involved or interested in basketball. Each having different views but agree that upgrading an existing court would be ideal. One person in particular who works at the Wananga wanted the Domain Road court re-configured.

Findings

Where: Ōtaki College

When: Monday 19 October

Number of young people engaged: 20 approx spoken to directly and presented to the whole school in assembly.

Average age: 14-18

What they said...

Whilst walking around the college young people talked about how the **Domain Road** courts are not used that much and that the position of it is not great because you get the sun in your eyes. There is also no fence around the back, causing the balls to go on to the field.

Matai Street is not used due to safety concerns of Temuera Street and not many people are aware it is there.

The court at **Haruatai Park** is too hard to play a proper game on as it is too small. They said that a bigger court would be better. There was a discussion with the group talking about how they will walk to a court if need be, hence why one would be good at the beach. They acknowledged the issue with the seagulls breaking the shells on the court at the beach, but didn't know a way of stopping that.

Where: Ōtaki Library

When: Wednesday 21 October

Number of young people engaged: 10-15

Average age: 13-16

What they said...

The existing court on **Domain Road** is ok but balls always go onto the field behind it.

The **Matai Street** court needs more lighting as people don't feel safe using the courts let alone walking down Temuera Street as they are scared. Despite that, young people also don't know where it is.

It was discussed that a bigger court would be better at **Haruatai Park** and that it would be well used. There was also discussion about how the existing court is an odd shape causing problems when trying to play a proper game. They also agreed that a court at Ōtaki Beach would be good but understood that the seagulls may cause some issues. For some of those young people, it is closer to home.

Where: Ōtaki Pool

When: Thursday 22 October

Number of young people engaged: 10-15

Average age: 14-16

What they said...

Leave the **Domain Road** one as it is as people do use it.

If the court at **Haruatai** was made better, they would come and use it.

A court at the beach is definitely a good idea, especially if other items such as chairs and water fountains were included. There was also talk about not needing to build a whole new court and instead re-vamp one of the existing courts.

Other things to consider

- We have also spoken with a few key people (adults) within the community who are significantly involved or interested in basketball. Each having different views but agree that upgrading an existing court would be ideal. One person in particular wanted the Domain Road court re-configured.
- I have informally spoken with Angelo Robinson from the Kāpiti Basketball Association who has expressed interest in supporting organised competitions at a court. He did not have any comment on a location for a new court.
- Young people spoken to at all different points of consultation talked about the need for water fountains and seats for them to use around basketball courts.
- With the upgrade of the Pool and new SplashPad, Haruatai Park is going to be even more of a destination park. In addition, the playground is being upgraded in 15-16, and the Lions Club are funding a pump track. All of these activities combined with a basketball court would enable the park to become a social hub.

Conclusion

1. Whilst the beach remains their preference, it is understood that any court at the beach is at risk of being used to drop sea shells by seagulls and becoming unusable. The small court at Haruatai is in the wrong location and an odd shape. If it was made into a larger key hole and in a not so “closed in” space, it would meet their needs and be used.
2. Young people expect a correctly sized keyhole court.
3. Young people agree that Haruatai is a central like location which they would walk to.
4. Basketball events should be investigated to encourage use.

Recommendation

5. Further investigation be given to building a full sized keyhole court in Haruatai Park. This investigation would include:
 - a. Discussion with the direct neighbour
 - b. Further engagement with young people regarding the position of the court
 - c. Confirmation of cost and timing

A communications plan would be required prior to starting further investigation

Depending on the outcome of further investigation, a report be brought back to the Ōtaki Community Board for a decision on the location of the court.

APPENDIX 2



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Otaki Beach - Marine Parade



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APPENDIX 3: DRAFT Haruatai Park plans

