

7 October 2021

Kia ora

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) (the Act) – reference: OIR 2122-88

I refer to your information request we received on 24 September 2021 for the following:

I am a student interested in town centre development and in particular the planned Whale Song sculptures and Wharemauku Park proposal by the Kapiti Regeneration Project.

I cannot see any reference to this proposal on the council website (<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/projects/>) and I am interested in the council's view or support for or opposition to this proposal.

Can you please put me in touch with someone who can explain the council's position on this project?

Council response regarding your request

Thank you for your enquiry. The Wharemauku Park concept plan, incorporating the Whale Song sculptures, is a community-led initiative. It is not a Council project, although it includes Council land within the scope of the proposed park.

Our Long-Term Plan sets out our direction, our financial and infrastructure strategies and our budget from 2021 to 2041, with detailed planning included for the first three years. This includes our major projects and initiatives. The Current Long-Term Plan for 2021-41 was completed recently and does not include Wharemauku Park, however it does include some initiatives in or near the vicinity of the park concept, such as design and construction of a new East-West Link Road.

Council's position on this concept plan was discussed at the Strategy and Operations Committee meeting of 17 June 2021. The Committee noted that Wharemauku Park appeared to be a very preliminary concept made up of a number of individual projects, with significant uncertainty around the park concept.

The Committee also:

- noted that the enhancement of the Paraparaumu town centre and Wharemauku stream is a complicated and interlinked development involving both Council and private/commercial investment over time
- agreed to support the broad vision of a central park for Paraparaumu town centre only

- agreed to focus support on enhancing the mana of the Wharemauku stream
- noted that Council can consider providing more specific support for individual components of the park in future, when more information is available
- noted that, should Council wish to provide a stronger level of support for the Wharemauku Park concept in future, further investigation would be required.

The Wharemauku Park report on the Committee agenda (item 8.1) provides more details about our views on different parts of the project. The full agenda and minutes for 17 June Strategy and Operations Committee meeting can be found at this link:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/meetings/>

More information on town centre development plans for Paraparaumu can be found here:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/projects/paraparaumu-town-centre/>

Ngā mihi



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