

Consideration of Submissions on the Pukenu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan

Significance of decision – The decision to adopt the Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan is significant and has, therefore, been through a consultation process.

Recommendation to Statutory Management Committee

1. THAT the submissions on the Pukenu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan be considered.
2. THAT decisions on submissions be accepted, accepted in part, or not accepted during deliberations and these decisions be incorporated where necessary into the Pukenu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan.
3. THAT under the Statutory Management Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee determines that Council adopts the Pukenu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan incorporating decisions from deliberations.
4. THAT all objections on the change of purpose of Queen's Park Reserve from 'local purpose (site of municipal buildings)' to local purpose (culture and heritage)' be considered.
5. THAT all objections on the change of name of Queen's Park Reserve to include the Māori name Pukenu be considered.
6. THAT decisions made during deliberations in relation to the change in purpose and naming of the Reserve be actioned by notice in the New Zealand Gazette where a change is confirmed.

Carolyn McIntyre, Policy Planner, reports:

Introduction

The purpose of this meeting is for the Committee to consider all submissions and make decisions including any amendments to be incorporated into the Pukenu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan, and consider all objections and make a decision on the change of purpose and change of name of the Reserve.

Background

Preparation of a Reserve Management Plan is a requirement for Pukenu/Queen's Park Reserve under Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

A total of 55 submissions were received (**Ref B**), with 10 wishing to present their submission to Council.

A 'Summary of Submissions' with officer comments and recommendations follows this report (**Ref A**). Based on submitter feedback changes are recommended to the draft Pukenuamu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan, shown as highlighted text (**Ref D**).

Summary of consultation process

Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 in regard to the change in purpose and naming of the Reserve and in preparation of the Reserve Management Plan. This consultation included:

- Home Show (Aug 2016) – ideas from public on future of the Reserve.
- Public notice (Sept 2016) – seeking input into the management plan (1 month).
- Flyers to surrounding property owners asking for input (1 month).
- Online survey (Nov 2016 – Jan 2017).
- Meetings/correspondence with iwi representatives and stakeholders (end of 2016 and throughout 2017). This is detailed in an attachment to this report (**Ref C**).

A two month period for submissions to the draft Plan was provided. The submission period ran from 19 March to 25 May 2018. The document was publicly notified via Community Link, Council's website, and an information sign was placed outside the Whanganui Davis Library. Key stakeholders, including adjacent land owners, and interested parties were sent letters with a website link to the draft document. A further notice about the draft Management Plan was placed in the Community Link two weeks prior to the close of submissions.

A submission form was available electronically via the Council website - *Have Your Say* page and Viewpoint Whanganui. Hard copy submissions forms and relevant information were made available at Council's main Municipal Building and at the Whanganui Davis and Gonville Libraries.

Proposed Change of Purpose

As part of the notification for the Draft Management Plan, the public were also notified of the Council's intention to change the purpose of the Reserve from 'local purpose (site for municipal buildings)' to 'local purpose (culture and heritage)' in accordance with Section 24A of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Council is legally required to ensure the use of Pukenuamu/Queen's Park Reserve is consistent with the purpose for which it is classified. Municipal buildings are considered to relate to buildings for the town or district, or its governing body. This may have been appropriate when the Reserve was first gazetted, however, the term is considered outdated and there are a number of buildings that do not fit that classification.

46 submissions were received, 39 in support of the change in purpose and 7 submissions in opposition. Opposing submissions made the following comments:

- Unclear whose culture and heritage is referred.
- Want all New Zealanders to be represented.
- Don't support additions to buildings or new buildings.

- Status quo is fine, no change needed.
- Concerned about cost of change to ratepayers.

The proposed inclusion of the words 'culture and heritage' to the purpose of the Reserve, relates specifically to culture and heritage elements of the Reserve. It recognises elements such as the heritage buildings and structures (including unique architecture), historical artefacts/stories held in the Whanganui Regional Museum, art works held in the Sarjeant Gallery, halls (St Andrews Hall, Savage Club), theatre, the peace sculpture, and also trees with recorded heritage value. It also gives recognition to the archaeological significance of the site as a Māori Pā and site of the Rutland Stockade.

The change in purpose is not intended to change the process for erection of new buildings or additions. The change seeks to acknowledge the cultural and heritage value of the Reserve and more accurately reflect current Reserve use. The change proposed does not result in additional costs to Council. Consultation has been undertaken as part of the management plan review.

The change to the classification will not result in any change on the ground nor will it limit proposed future development.

Proposed Change of Name

Although not a legal requirement, Council also sought feedback on the proposed change to the name of the Reserve to include the Māori name, Pukenuamu. Changing the name of the Reserve can be carried out under Section 16(10) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Pukenuamu, meaning Sandfly Hill, is the name Māori gave to the sand hill, which includes Queen's Park. Dual naming of Reserves is common practice around the country and is seen as an important way of acknowledging the cultural history of the site. It gives people the option of using either name. There is little cost to Council to make this change. Consultation has been undertaken alongside the review of the management plan.

47 submissions were received, 38 submitters in support of the change in purpose and 9 submitters in opposition. Opposing submitters made the following comments:

- English is the International language of the world and visitors understand it.
- Think Council has made up its mind already.
- See a change in name as disrespecting Queen Victoria.
- Concerned about cost to ratepayers.
- The name is well known and is what we have always known Reserve as.
- Interested in what the Reserve was called before the Māori name.

Supporting submitters made the following comments:

- Dual naming is preferred, which name will come first?
- Preference for changing the name entirely instead of dual name.
- All Māori sites should return to their original names.
- It is the name local iwi gave to the Reserve.

- The road past the Library is already called Pukenamu Drive.
- It is fitting to acknowledge the cultural history of this site.

The Sarjeant Gallery Trust questioned whether the proposal had been agreed in consultation with Whanganui Iwi. Te Rūnanga o Tūpoho are mana whenua of Pukenamu. They were consulted in regard to the name change and are understood to be generally supportive of the change.

If a decision is made to change the name, Council is required to gazette the name change.

Draft Reserve Management Plan

The draft Pukenamu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan provides an outline of Council's general intentions for the use, development, maintenance, protection and preservation of Queen's Park Reserve (as required under Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977). Council is required to keep its management plan under continuous review. The current management plan is dated 1992, so a review is necessary.

The key issues raised in submissions include:

- The Whanganui Story – give more explanation of what this means and ensure story reflects more than just Māori history;
- Incorporate input from iwi;
- Improve Library courtyard and provide a playground;
- Concern over future of Savage Club;
- Too many sculptures and art features;
- Parking in the Reserve and on the perimeters;
- Pathway to the Reserve from Ridgway Street;
- Further planting of natives;
- More information about existing vegetation and future planting options;
- Interest in Landscape Plan and allowing public input into it;
- Concern over placement of planting and structures on area of high archaeological significance;
- Clarification around archaeological authority requirements; and
- Plan lacks detail in certain areas.

Conclusion

All requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 have been completed for the:

- Proposed Change of Purpose from 'local purpose reserve (site for municipal buildings)' to 'local purpose (culture and heritage);
- Proposed Change of Reserve Name to include the Māori name 'Pukenamu'; and
- Draft Pukenamu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan.

Officer recommendations are provided in relation to submissions received on the change in purpose, change of reserve name, and the draft Pukenamu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan. Recommendations from the Committee to Council are now sought in relation to each submission, together with a recommendation to adopt

each of the changes. The changes reflect core functions of Council in accordance with both the LGA 2002 and Reserves Act 1977. Suitable consultation and notification has occurred in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

References – Agenda Attachments

- A Summary of Submissions including Officer Comments and Recommendations.
- B Submissions to Pukenamu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan.
- C Record of engagement with iwi representatives and stakeholders.
- D Pukenamu/Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan (showing tracked changes).