

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

POLICY AND REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Report of a meeting held in the James Coe 1, Dowse Art Museum,
45 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Thursday 8 October 2015 commencing at 9.00am and reconvening on
Thursday 22 October 2015 at 9.00am and reconvening on
Monday 2 November 2015 at 2.30pm in the Matiu Meeting Room,
Hutt City Council, 531 High Street, Lower Hutt

PRESENT: Cr M Cousins (Chair) Cr C Barry
Cr A Finlayson Cr T Lewis

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Sewell, Principal Policy Advisor (part meeting)
Mr G Stuart, Divisional Manager, Regulatory Services (part meeting)
Mr B Hodgins, Divisional Manager, Parks and Gardens (part meeting)
Mr L Dalton, Regional Manager, Animal Services (part meeting)
Ms M Pearson, Communications Advisor (part meeting)
Ms J Randall, Administrative Support Officer (part meeting)
Ms K Glanville, Senior Committee Advisor (part meeting)
Mrs H Clegg, Minute Taker (part meeting)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

3. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS ON THE DOG CONTROL BYLAW AND POLICY
(15/1425)

Report No. PRSub2015/4/187 by the Senior Committee Advisor

Lorraine Boon presented submission SDC15/166 and expressed opposition to the proposed dog park in Pohutakawa Street.

In response to a question from a member, Ms Boon considered Ewen Park or the flood plain area along the Hutt River would be more suitable for a dog park.

James Nepia presented submission SDC15/201.

In response to questions from members, Mr Nepia supported the removal of dogs from sports grounds. He reiterated that control of a dog was key and that training courses should be mandatory for all owners.

Gail Rumble presented submission SDC15/200 and expressed support for a dog exercise park but considered the proposed site at Pohutakawa Street too small. She considered that an ideal exercise park would include: an area equivalent to two rugby fields, easy access, nearby car parking, shade, secure fencing and a double gated entry.

In response to a question from a member, Ms Rumble considered that the old horse paddock at Waiwhetu or Hikoikoi Reserve at the river end, would be suitable alternative sites for an exercise park.

Paul Alcock presented submission SDC15/163. He believed more research on dog exercise parks was required and that it was important to encourage children not to fear dogs. He asked that Council consider a registration fee discount for therapy dogs.

In response to questions from members, Mr Alcock believed that there should be separate dog exercise parks depending on the size of the dog. He said that 'dock dog parks' was a trend emerging overseas.

Catherine Petrey presented submission SDC15/205. She asked that the whole of the Belmont domain remain as a dog exercise area and that the policy and bylaw be amended to reflect the Animal Welfare standards.

In response to a question from a member, Ms Petrey said that it was important to provide easily accessible areas to walk and exercise dogs especially with an ageing population.

Allan Sloan presented submission SDC15/212 and expressed opposition to the removal of the southern end of the Belmont Domain as a dog exercise area and queried the justification for the proposed removal. He believed the play ground area should be fenced off or relocated as it was used infrequently and Avalon Park was close by

Trish Cochrane presented submission SDC15/230 and SDC15/229. She advised that the **Avalon Dog Training Club** (the Club) (SDC15/230) opposed the removal of the southern end of the Belmont Domain as a dog exercise area and did not consider that Pohutakawa Reserve was a suitable area for a dog park. In her personal submission (SDC15/229), she believed that the proposal lacked a proper review and relevant data. She said she lived

on Oakley Street and was not directly consulted with regarding the proposed park in the area.

In response to questions from members, Ms Cochrane advised that a dog park should be equal to two rugby fields and that effective signage and education were paramount. She said that the Club suggested McEwen Park or the western end of Petone was suitable for a dog park. With regard to the Jackson Street proposal to allow dogs to be on-leash in the area, she noted that living environments had changed over time and the bylaw was required to reflect that.

Bill McCarroll presented submission SDC15/227 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park on the Pohutakawa Reserve. He said the existing traffic issues would be exasperated by a dog park being introduced in the area.

In response to a question from a member, Mr McCarroll considered that Hikoikoi Park would be a better location.

Duane Boon presented submission SDC15/243 and expressed opposition to the proposed dog park on the Pohutakawa Reserve. He considered the Hikoikoi Reserve would be a better site.

The meeting adjourned at 10.40am and resumed at 11.05pm.

Sally Bain presented submission SDC15/21. She noted that the Eastbourne beaches had wildlife that need to be protected.

In response to questions from members, Ms Bain advised that penguins came ashore from July – February and that there had been incidences of dog attacks in the past. She supported a fenced dog exercise area and considered McEwen Park in Petone a suitable site.

Alice Collard presented submission SDC15/141. She informed members of a proposed Hikoikoi Reserve dog park proposal. She noted that such a park should have lighting, security cameras and agility exercise equipment. She considered that Council's current proposal was creating unsafe areas for dog walkers and noted the importance of safety.

Brent Watson presented submission SDC15/223 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park. He noted that a number of submitters, who also opposed the proposal, were unable to attend the meeting.

The Minute Taker read out the submission from **Paulette Carr on behalf of Massey Avenue Bowling Club** (the Club). The Club opposed the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park due to the parking pressure it considered the proposal would create.

Jo Wilkshire presented submission SDC15/19 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park. She considered that the park was too small for a dog park and it would visibly detract from the qualities of the area.

Terry Hill presented submission SDC15/231 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park.

In response to questions from members, Mr Hill agreed that fenced dog parks were

required but in more suitable sites. He noted that Council was investigating high density housing in the City and that it was important to maintain green space.

Michael Taylor presented submission SDC15/74 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park. He advised that the park floods in winter.

Ken Jackson on behalf of Lorraine Bond presented submission SDC15/211 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park.

Simon Edmonds presented submission SDC15/104 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park.

Philip Deere presented submission SDC15/147. He considered that the Belmont Domain should remain as an on-leash exercise area. He said signage for all areas of the park was required.

Catherine Nash presented submission SDC15/147 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park. She considered it inappropriate for cycleways to allow dogs to exercise off-leash and that wildlife was under threat by unleashed dogs.

Suzanne Willis presented submission SDC15/55 and expressed support for dogs on-leash in Rimu Street, Eastbourne. She also supported the off-leash area north of Days Bay Beach. She said it was important to have accurate and visible signage.

Belinda Moss presented submission SDC15/88 and expressed concern that Lowry Bay had no dog exercise area. Due to the nature of the area, she considered Lowry Bay a suitable site for on-leash dog exercise.

Jill Nalder presented submission SDC15/221 and supported submission SDC15/55.

The meeting adjourned at 1.10pm and resumed at 1.45pm.

Members considered the written submissions and asked officers for further information regarding the following:

- a) suitable sites for a fenced dog park in the City;
- b) clarification about dogs being allowed on sports grounds;
- c) possible restrictions on Eastbourne beaches;
- d) a trial period for Jackson Street and how this could be monitored; and
- e) a discount for therapy dogs.

The meeting adjourned at 2.45pm

The meeting reconvened on **Thursday 22 October 2015 at 9.00am** in James Coe 1, Dowse Art Museum, 45 Laings Road, Lower Hutt.

David Austin presented submission SDC15/204 and expressed opposition to the proposed dog exercise area at Oakleigh Street Reserve.

In response to a question from a member, Mr Austin advised that the reserve had a history of drainage issues.

Casey Diver presented submission SDC15/214. He asked members to consider a proposed change relating to Delaney Park and Speldhurt Park in Stokes Valley. He said that clear delineation was required to separate the dog exercise area and the children's playground area. He asked that clear signage and a security camera be installed to assist in monitoring this.

Delena Wallace and David Waugh presented submission SDC15/68 and expressed opposition to the proposed fenced dog park at Pohutakawa Park.

Trevor Mallard MP presented submission SDC15/216. He noted that the current bylaw was already being breached along Jackson Street in Petone.

Jill Berridge on behalf of Western Community Committee presented submission SDC15/175.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30am and resumed at 10.50am.

Mike Fisher on behalf of Petone Community Board presented submission SDC15/241. He considered that the current restriction on Jackson Street in Petone was not enforced. He said if the restriction was lifted, the Board recommended that it be reviewed after one year.

Members considered the written submissions of those submitters who did not appear in support of their submission.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL - 15 December 2015**4. Dog Control Bylaw and Policy: Information to Assist Hearing of Submissions (15/1421)**

The Principal Policy Advisor, Divisional Manager Regulatory Services, Divisional Manager Parks and Gardens and Regional Manager Animal Services advised the following:

- a) a site visit would be organised for members regarding potential sites for a fenced dog exercise park;
- b) confirmation that dogs are not permitted on sports grounds;
- c) officers had no view on proposed hours for dogs on Eastbourne beaches and did not consider Lowry Bay an appropriate area to exercise dogs due to safety issues;
- d) officers would collect data during the 12 month period, from retailers, residents, the Petone Community Board and Council's Animal Services division, and report the information, including recommendations to the Policy and Regulatory Committee; and
- e) considered that a discount for therapy dogs was a national issue and officers would continue to investigate the matter.

In response to a question from a member, the Divisional Manager advised that the western side of Memorial Park, along the edge of Te Mome Stream, could be used as a dog exercise area.

Following further consideration, members asked officers for further information:

- a) to investigate the wildlife around the Eastbourne beaches and provide options on dog access or dog restrictions in the area;
- b) to amend the map for Delaney Park (Map 1) to include Speldhurst Park that restricts dogs from the playground area; and
- c) options for fencing around a fenced dog exercise parks ie can it be temporary fencing?

The meeting adjourned at 4.00pm.

The meeting reconvened on **Monday 2 November 2015 at 2.30pm** in the Matiu Meeting Room, Hutt City Council, 531 High Street, Lower Hutt.

4. Dog Control Bylaw and Policy: Information to Assist Hearing of Submissions (15/1421)

The Divisional Manager Regulatory Services, Divisional Manager Parks and Gardens and the Regional Manager Animal Services advised the following:

- a) that there was signage in place around the Eastbourne beach areas where wildlife were known to nest and congregate and improved signage could be installed; and
- b) that there were various options for fencing, including temporary fencing but officers recommended fixed fencing for a fenced dog exercise park.

In response to a question from a member, the Divisional Manager Regulatory Services advised that restrictions on Eastbourne beaches could be seasonal based on wildlife activity.

Members agreed to include the Eastbourne beaches on the site visit.

When considering the written and oral submission, members agreed to the following (shown in the amended maps attached as pages 47-103 to the minutes):

- a) Delaney Park (Map 1) – to include a map referring to Speldhurst Park (Map 1A) that outlines the proposed dog restriction areas as it relates to Delaney and Speldhurst Parks;
- b) Kamahi Park (Map 2), Fraser Park (Map 3) and Hutt River Banks: Stokes Valley to Whites Line West (Map 5) – no changes required;
- c) Hutt River Bank: End of Owen Street to Belmont Domain (Map 6) – asks officers to investigate providing clear delineation between the playground area from the dog exercise area (Map 6A);
- d) Kelson Grove Reserve (Map 7), Naenae Park (Map 8), Te Whiti Park (Map 9) and Trafalgar Park (Map 10) – no changes required;
- e) Memorial Park (Map 10A) – allow a dog exercise area (Map 10B) along the edge of Te Mome Stream on the western side of Memorial Park;
- f) Sladden Park (Map 11), Hutt Recreation Ground (Map 12) and York Park (Map 13) – no changes required;
- g) Bell Park (Map 14) – delete the access way off Riverside Drive as a dog exercise area;
- h) Kennedy Good Bridge South to Melling Bridge (Map 15), Melling Bridge South to Ava Park (Map 16), Petone Beach West of Petone Wharf (Map 17), Ava Park (Map 18) and Petone Recreation Ground (Map 19) – no changes required;
- i) Petone Beach East (Map 20) – a proposed fenced dog exercise park at the eastern end of McEwen Park (Map 20B), in accordance to the Fenced Dog Exercise Area Guidelines. The remaining part of the western portion of McEwen Park, up to the internal road, to become an on-lead dog area (Map 20A);
- j) North Park (Map 21), Frank Cameron Park (Map 22), Leonard Wood/Ngaturi Park (Map 23), Pool Crescent Reserve (Map 24) – no changes required;
- k) Hine Road Reserve (Map 25) – delete the carpark and southern side of the park as a dog exercise area due to a proposed extension of the Garden of Remembrance;
- l) Black Creek (Map 26), Pencarrow Hall Reserve (Map 27), Drainage Reserve from Norfolk Street to Nelson Crescent (Map 28) and Drainage Reserve between Momona Street and Mohaka Street (Map

- 29) - no changes required;
- m) Karaka Park (Map 30) - asks officers to investigate providing clear delineation between the playground area from the dog exercise area;
 - n) Drainage Reserve between Wainuiomata Road and Fraser Street (Map 31), Burden Avenue Riverbank Reserve (Map 32) and Richard Prouse Park (Map 33) - no changes required;
 - o) Eastbourne Beaches (Map 34) - delete south of Miro Street as a dog exercise area due to the risk to wildlife in the area;
 - p) Wood Street Reserve (Map 36) and Rotary Park (Map 37) - no changes required;
 - q) Oakleigh Street Reserve (Map 38) - delete the proposal of a dog exercise area at Oakleigh Street Reserve;
 - r) Pohutakawa Park (Map 39) - delete the proposed fenced dog exercise park;
 - s) Hutt River Bank: Western Bank/Manor Park Road to Benmore Crescent (Map 40) - no changes required;
 - t) Jackson Street (Map 41) - allow dogs to be permitted on-leash along Jackson Street subject to a one year review. Members asked that officers and Petone Community Board to monitor this during the year. Members asked officers to amend the Dog Control Bylaw to include a clause that would allow a dog prohibition area for the period of an event in Jackson Street i.e. ban dogs from events unless they are part of an event;
 - u) Petone Beach (Map 42) and Percy Scenic Reserve (Map 43) - no changes required;
 - v) Rimu Street/Oroua Street (Map 44) - allow dogs to be permitted on-leash in Rimu Street/Oroua Street, subject to a one year review. Members asked that officers and Eastbourne Community Board to monitor this during the year;
 - w) Pumping Station Days Bay (Map 45) - no changes required;
 - x) Beaches Eastbourne/The Bays (Map 46) - allow dogs to be permitted at the north end of the wharf, subject to a one year review. Members asked officers and Eastbourne Community Board to monitor this during the year;
 - y) Queen Street (Map 47) - no changes required;
 - z) The Strand (Map 48) - remove the dog prohibition areas on both sides of The Strand;

- aa) Norfolk Street (Map 49) and No.6 Ruthven Road (Map 50) – no changes required;
- bb) No.157 Wainuiomata Road (Map 51) – remove the dog prohibition area to allow dogs on-leash in this area, subject to a one year review. Members asked officers and Wainuiomata Community Board to monitor this during the year;
- cc) Mitchell Park (Map 52) and Avalon Park (Map 53) – no changes required;
- dd) Days Bay Beach (Map 54A and 54B) – allows the dogs exercise area at Days Bay Beach subject to a one year review. Members asked that officers and Eastbourne Community Board monitor this during the year;
- ee) Redvers Drive Reserve (Map 55) – no changes required;
- ff) Kennedy Good Bridge South to Melling Bridge – Map 56 is now Map 6A;
- gg) asks officers to discuss with Greater Wellington Regional Council the possibility of allowing dogs to be exercised off-leash, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm but not during school holidays, at Butterfly Creek Loop and the Belmont Regional Park from Oakley Street through to Cornish Street;
- hh) notes that due to safety issues there was no dog exercise area at Lowry Bay in Eastbourne;
- ii) notes that a discount for therapy dogs was a national issue and officers would continue to investigate the matter;
- jj) asks officers to add a clause in the Dog Control Bylaw that allows the establishment of a fenced dog exercise area by Council resolution and that a list of criteria used to identify suitable sites within the City be developed as part of the supplementary information to the Bylaw;
- kk) asks officer to investigate a user-pays system for fenced dog exercise areas at the time such a facility had been established; and
- ll) asks officers to ensure that the proposed changes, particularly the changes subject to a one year review were adequately advertised via various media.

RESOLVED:**Minute No. PRSub 15401***"That the Subcommittee:*

- (i) notes the summary of oral submissions attached as Appendix 6 to the report;*
- (ii) accepts the late submission from Massey Avenue Bowling Club; and*
- (iii) considers the full submissions (which have been circulated as a separate document)."*

RECOMMENDED:**Minute No. PRSub 15402***"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:*

- (i) agrees to adopt the amended Hutt City Council Dog Control Policy, attached as Attachment 1 (separately circulated); and*
- (ii) agrees to adopt the amended Hutt City Council Dog Control Bylaw attached as Attachment 2 (separately circulated)."*

3. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

Cr MJ Cousins
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record

Dated this 15th day of December 2015

