

## **ITEM 71 STOPBANK PATHWAY PROJECT**

Council's Land Management Officer circulated members a copy of her report informing them that having finished the consultation process with members of the community and key stakeholders around the pathway design and the management of the surrounding river control areas, Council staff are now in a position to recommend to Elected Members on the preferred way forward for this project.

The Land Management Officer reported that 23 written submissions have been received with a number in favour of retiring all the grazing areas in order to open these up for wider Community use.

The Land Management Officer advised that Iwi have strongly supported the proposal and are delighted to be included and involved in future planting opportunities, cultural art and historical story boards. This will allow them the opportunity to identify any cultural sites of significance.

The Land Management Officer informed members that modifications have been carried out to the proposed designs in order to meet NZTA safety aspects. She said there will be a decrease in part of the leased land by the NZ Motorhome Association.

The Land Management Officer further reported on the Otorohanga Sports Club who have been really supportive however, they will incur a loss of grazing area and revenue stream for the Club.

The response from the Otorohanga South School felt that they may be exposed to extra vandalism and have therefore shifted the proposed connection point. The School also felt that parents would need to be worked closely with before considering reviewing some of their current travel plans.

The Officer referred to the comments from the Polocrosse Club who feel strongly about option 3 being the only option as they have limited space to meet their safety requirements for spectator setbacks from the field.

The Riding for the Disabled however, felt that option 3 would allow them opportunities to use more open green spaces.

Mrs. Cowan referred to staff recommendation 4 and said she would like to see the agreed design before any decision is made.

The Land Management Officer replied that Mr. Loomans is currently processing feedback on the design.

Mrs. Cowan suggested that Board Members walk along the stopbanks and consider staff recommendation 4 on its own, in conjunction with the final design.

The Chair agreed that a project team be put together and come to an agreement on the options.

The Land Management Officer reported that once the final design has been approved it will go out for consultation with the desire that construction will commence around the end of January 2019.

In reply to the Chair the Engineering Manager confirmed that funding for the project is in place.

The Chief Executive advised that the total cost will be identified when the final design has been approved.

### **Resolved that**

- 1) The Board approves for Council to resolve that the flood protection areas on the town side of the river from Phillips Avenue to Waipa Esplanade, including the closed landfill to be retired from grazing, with and Council moving to grass harvest management arrangements.
- 2) That Council gives consideration to potential mitigation of the adverse effects of this change of management regime on affected parties, in particular the Otorohanga Sports Club.
- 3) That approval is given to Council staff to terminate the grazing Licences by giving 3 months' notice and working closely with the current grazing Licencees to transition them from use as considerately as possible.
- 4) That the Engineering Department proceeds with a process to tender the stopbank pathway construction works based upon the final agreed design and price.

### **Mrs. Cowan / Mr. Coventry**