

1. Report: Whangarei District Council Briefing Tuesday 16 May 2017

Report of a Briefing to the Whangarei District Council held in the Council Chamber, Forum North on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at 9.00am

Present:

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai, Crs Vince Cocurullo, Tricia Cutforth, Shelley Deeming, Sue Glen, Jayne Golightly, Phil Halse, Cherry Hermon, Greg Innes, Greg Martin, Sharon Morgan and Anna Murphy

Apology/Absent

Crs Stu Bell and Crichton Christie

In Attendance:

Chief Executive (Rob Forlong), General Manager Planning and Development (Alison Geddes), General Manager Strategy and Democracy (Jill McPherson), Policy and Bylaws Analyst (Shireen Munday) and Senior Meeting Co-ordinator (Carolyne Brindle)

1 Camping in public places

Facilitators: Her Worship the Mayor
Shireen Munday

Her Worship convened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

Shireen Munday began by outlining the purpose of the briefing, which is to discuss the proposed schedules for a bylaw on freedom camping, including options for non self-contained camping; and outline the bylaw development process and consultation.

Ms Munday then covered the content of the briefing including:

Recap of the 2016 proposal

- Only self-contained freedom camping
- Summer restrictions
- Designated sites/parking spaces'
- Prohibited areas

2016 direction – starting point for revised proposal

- Remove proposed summer prohibition and replace with either
 - Designated site
 - Prohibition
- Specific area changes/additions
Mangaiti Reserve, Whananaki
Pataua South
- Minor administrative changes to definitions

Proposed schedules

- Schedule 1 – restricted areas
 - 2 new areas (to complement Schedule 3)
- Schedule 2 – prohibited areas
 - no further changes
- Schedule 3 – non-self contained sites
 - some areas in Schedule 1

Summer 2017/2018 – Analysis of complaints received through council’s CRM system

- Labour Weekend – Easter
 - 105 complaints
 - 22 *Onerahi*
 - 16 *Ruakaka*
 - 7 *Parihaka*
 - 8 location unclear
 - 20 sites – single complaint
 - 8 sites with 2-5 complaints:
 - Onerahi Domain, Elliott Reserve, I-site, Marsden Bay, Parua Bay, Sandy Bay, Kowharewa Bay, Rurumoki Street, Whangaumu.

Schedule 1 restricted

Largely unchanged, key areas of concern - Parihaka, Onerahi and Ruakaka.

Area	Restriction	
Bland Bay – Whangaruru North Road	Restricted to the designated site as provided on the referenced map.	
Matapouri - Wehiwehi Road carpark		
Moureeses Bay Recreation Reserve (northern end of beach)		
Ocean Beach carpark		
Onerahi - Beach Road Reserve		
Pataua South - bridge carpark and reserve area		
Ruakaka Beach Reserve		
Sandy Bay – road reserve carpark		
Sandy Bay - toilet block carpark/grass area		
Teal Bay/Ngawai Bay - Teal Bay Recreation Reserve		
Wellingtons Bay – main reserve (Whangaumu Reserve)		
Woolleys Bay - western carpark		
Bascule carpark – Port Road		Restricted to the marked parking spaces as provided on the referenced map.
AH Reed Memorial Park – Whareora Road carpark		
Drummond Park Scenic Reserve (Parihaka Lookout carpark)		
Finlayson Street/Reyburn House Lane carpark		
Whangarei Falls Scenic Reserve		

Schedule 2 – prohibited

Area
Elliott Reserve
Herekino Street - service lane and carpark behind 4-22 Herekino Street
Hikurangi Sportspark
Hora Hora Sportspark
Kamo Sportspark
Koropupu Community Sportspark (Springs Flat)
Kensington Park (Reserve Management Plan)
Langs Beach
Mcleod Bay – Stuart Road, all road reserve
Matapouri - Morrison Road carpark
Morningside Sportspark
Onerahi Sportspark
Otaika Sportspark
Otangarei No.1 Reserve
Otangarei Sportspark
Port Road - service lane and carpark area behind 11-67 Port Road
Portland Recreation Reserve
Ruakaka - Princes Road Reserve
Takahiwai Sportspark
Tikipunga Sportspark
Tutukaka Marina Reserve
Whananaki – Mangaiti Reserve
Whau Valley Dam (Reserve Management Plan)
William Fraser Memorial Park on Pohe Island (Reserve Management Plan)
Woolleys Bay – eastern carpark

Schedule 3 – non self contained

- Analysis
 - Parks & recreation staff and enforcement officers & property department
 - Dispersal/options – not restrictions
 - may impact on schedules 1 & 2
- Freedom Camping Act Section 11 analysis
 - Protect the areas (e.g. environmental issues)
 - Restrict options to 24/7 public toilets (42)
 - Protect the health and safety of visitors to the areas
 - Protect access to the areas (e.g. limited access space and high usage)
- Result
 - 4 no NSC (First Ave, Rathbone Street, Rose Street & Rurumoki street)
 - 27 NSC vehicles only
 - 11 NSC vehicles and tents.

Schedule 3 – NSC vehicles only

Area	Further restrictions	Area	Further restrictions
A H Reed	Designated area as per Schedule 1	Otangarei	
Bland Bay	Designated area as per Schedule 1	Pataua North	
Hikurangi Township		Pataua South	Designated area as per Schedule 1
Kamo Shops		Regent	
Marder Park		Reotahi	
Marsden Bay		Ruakaka Beach Reserve	Designated area as per Schedule 1
Matapouri Bay	Designated area as per Schedule 1	Ruakaka Shops	
McLeods Bay		Taiharuru	
Ngunguru Library		Tarewa I-Site	
Ngunguru School		Taurikura	
Ngunguru Whale Tail Park		Te Matau a Pohe	Designated area as per Schedule 1
Ocean Beach	Designated area as per Schedule 1	Urquharts Bay	
One Tree Point		Waipu Township	
Onerahi Shops			

Schedule 3 – NSC vehicles and tents

Area	Further restrictions
Kowharewa Bay	
Manaia	Tents in designated area on grass
Marsden Point Wharf	Tents in designated area on grass
Onerahi Foreshore	Designated area as per Schedule 1
Parua Bay	Tents in designated area on grass
Sandy Bay (toilet block carpark/grass area)	
Tamaterau	
Waipu Caves	
Whananaki North	
Whaungaumu Bay	Designated area as per Schedule 1
Woolleys Bay	Designated area as per Schedule 1

Feedback/comments/questions included:

Note: comment/feedback is generally the opinion of individual elected members and does not necessarily reflect the wider view of council.

- **Overall strategy for camping in public places**
At the Planning & Development Scoping meeting members discussed this matter. Recognising that tourism is a big component of our economy it was suggested that rather than take a regulatory approach council look at the matter of camping in public places holistically.

They considered the possibility of a Northland approach. Taking a combined approach, in consultation with the other Northland Councils and working with the Department of Conservation, might result in a better outcome that would ultimately continue to encourage tourism and contribute to the economic development of the district.

Ms Munday clarified the understanding is the current position is to proceed with developing a bylaw intended to be in place by next summer. The development of a strategy would proceed separate to the bylaw process. Once a strategy is developed, the bylaw, at a later date, could be reviewed for alignment with the strategy. The process to make a minor amend to a bylaw takes approximately six months.

- **Consultation**
Information packs will be compiled and be available at the community meetings.
Camping grounds will be contacted. Ms Munday noted the requirements of the Freedom Camping Act.
Public notices – requested these be included in coastal, community newsletters etc.
Possible to extend the consultation period beyond four weeks?
- **Infrastructure – public conveniences**
Some of the current facilities when installed were designed for normal usage e.g. people using the beach during the day. Facilities in some areas are already experiencing higher usage than they were designed for and are requiring increased servicing.

Environmental risks, effect on amenity and lack of understanding are the reasons why council chose to develop a bylaw.

The intent of schedule 1 is to restrict numbers where there isn't suitable infrastructure.

- **Specific areas**
Onerahi
Beach Road foreshore – proposed designated site - assurance given that the reserve area will be clearly indicated.

Parihaka & I-site

Prefer no time limit restrictions.

Ruakaka Beach

Ownership of land to be confirmed.

- **Roadside parking**
Currently self contained vehicles can legally park anywhere under the Parking and Traffic bylaw. The proposed camping in public places bylaw, proposes restrictions to non self contained vehicles parking overnight.
- **Economic development vs environmental effects**
Members were conscious of the need to balance the economic benefits against the negative effects on the environment and increased costs due to pressure on infrastructure.

- *General*
Designating specific areas hadn't proved successful in other districts such as Christchurch.

The previous council commenced the process to develop a Freedom Camping Bylaw, some of the current council support the approach recommended in the original statement of proposal. At this stage however, any change would require the current resolution of council to be revoked also the process and submissions received to inform today's position should be acknowledged.

Council discussed whether to remove some of the sites from the schedules, after deliberating further it was decided there be no change to the schedules.

- *Process*
Process to remain with Council – consultation to include formal hearings and deliberations.

what	when
Council adopts draft Bylaw and SOP for consultation	29 June 2016
1 month consultation period	3 July – 4 August <i>(within LTP consultation period)</i>
Council hears submitters	2 August
Council briefing	15 August
Council deliberations	7 September
Council makes bylaw	28 September
Bylaw in force	20 October

Conclusion

Members were thanked for their feedback at today's meeting.

A proposal detailing all key aspects of the draft/proposed bylaw will be presented to a Council Briefing prior to presenting to council on 29 June.

The meeting closed at 10.56am

Cr Martin left the meeting at 10.0am.