

Community and Assets Committee

Public Business Agenda

7 March 2019

Late Agenda Item

Proposed re-classification of Grey Street Reserve

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Document Information

Report To:	Community and Assets
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 7 March 2019
Author:	Phil Parker
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Report Date:	Friday, 1 March 2019

Purpose of Report

This report requires a decision from Council.

Background

The Grey Street Reserve in Putāruru is currently gazetted as a “Recreation” reserve, and currently houses a playground and a utility pump station which needs internal access for Council staff’s vehicles. The Reserve is located on a back section down a narrow driveway, which limits accessibility and visibility to the general public, indicating only localised use. Though fenced, it is also surrounded on three sides with open drains.

Issues

The Putāruru Community Garden Group is currently situated on land owned by the Rangiura Trust Board in Scotia Glen Street, Putāruru. The land is part flat land and part raised land which does provide difficulties. The Group have indicated the need to expand but that they have reached capacity within that section. They have approached Council to ascertain if any Council land was available, and two options were provided for their consideration, namely Barnett Street Reserve and Grey Street Reserve. The Rangiura Trust Board have indicated their on-going support and willingness to provide financial assistance to re-locate and continue the service they provide to the Putāruru community.

Discussion

The Group have confirmed that Grey Street Reserve would best suit their purpose, being flat land, potential for installing better irrigation and providing plenty of space for expansion of garden areas, tunnel houses, storage facilities and carparking. A Lease agreement would be put in place between the Putāruru Community Garden Group and Council clearly stating obligations of both parties in maintaining the Reserve.

This is in line with the Parks and Reserves Manager’s preference also, due to the desire to eventually re-locate the playground from Grey Street Reserve to Barnett Street Reserve where it will be more visible and therefore potentially generate more use, and safer with no vehicular traffic needing to access the site regularly and no open drains. It is also more accessible being situated straight off the road.

Barnett Street reserve is currently designated a dog exercise area, though this is not ideal due to the limited space. With the installation of a playground the Reserve would need to be re-designated to be a prohibited area. However, there is currently only one sports group using Totara Park (Putāruru Rangers football team), who have indicated their desire to re-locate to Glenshea Park where they can utilise the Grandstand facilities. If this eventuates then Totara Park, being no longer used as a sportsground, can then be made available as a dog exercise area, including provision of agility items that have been sought by the community. The Planning Officer has advised that these will be significant enough changes to the Dog Control Bylaw to warrant public consultation.

The removal and re-installation of the existing playground module in Grey Street to Barnett Street Reserve needs to be considered during the 2019-20 Annual Plan. Currently there is \$37,000 being set aside initially for replacing the Kauri Street Playground in Tokoroa for the 2019/20 capex year. This could be diverted to contribute to the Grey Street move.

As the Grey Street Reserve is classified as a "Recreation" reserve it will need to be reclassified as a "Local Purpose" reserve to allow this activity. To initiate this process Council will need to provide a resolution stating their desire to that effect to the Department of Conservation for the Commissioner's consideration in the first instance.

If Council resolves to request a re-classing of the Grey Street Reserve to accommodate the Putāruru Community Garden Group a report will be provided to Council of a proposed amended Annual Plan and LTP for consideration accordingly.

Recommendation

1. *That Report No 2019-470330, "Proposed re-classification of Grey Street Reserve", be received.*
2. *That Council resolve to notify the Department of Conservation of their desire to re-classify Grey Street Reserve as a Local Purpose Reserve for the purpose of providing a Community Garden.*