

Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association – SBRRRA

Minutes of meeting – Monday 04 November 2019

Betty Paxton Room Mahurangi East Community Centre 7.30pm

Present: 48 people incl Greg Sayers (AK councillor), Beth Houlbrooke (RLB), Tim Holdgate (RLB)

Apologies: Lesley & Bob Leversha, Alison Coates, Peter Caccia-Birch, Kay Flower, Stan Armiger, John Duffy, Mark Stallworthy (Police)

Previous minutes – were attached to agenda that was sent out with meeting invitation.

Chairman welcomed elected members and introduced them to the meeting

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- **Waste services:** Lawrie Road is back in operation – now managed by Mahurangi Waste busters Trust – reduced hours. SBRRRA made a submission in support of Northland Waste's proposal for new facility in Sandspit Road, on the grounds that we must have a reliable facility going forward. Proposal was granted but has since been appealed
- **Sunrise Boulevard Basketball Court:** Concern that the edging of the new astro-turf is being damaged by the lawnmowing contractors and now needs repair. Mark has spoken to contractor management and a job has been logged with Auckland Council for repair.
- **Roading:** Maurie Hooper from SBRRRA committee gave an update.
Matakana Link Road – there is now strong hope that this will proceed with fast tracking. The work by Greg Sayers and Mark Mitchell (MP) was acknowledged. It is critical to start the roadworks in this summer construction season if it is to be finished by motorway opening in 2021. **Hill Street:** Nothing positive to report other than it has been resealed. Cameras have been installed which should mean traffic light phasing can be monitored, and accurate traffic count data can be gathered. A pedestrian crossing across Sandspit Road has been approved and should be all go soon..
Warkworth Future Roding: Discussion on our future roading options still ongoing. Expectations that there will have to be another option provided for the heavy traffic from the industrial areas to the south & west of Warkworth to access the new motorway – at present they will be travelling on the existing SH1. Not a good option for the future. Another entrance /exit onto the motorway still to be decided upon. Huge population growth is expected in our area in the next decade or so.
Greg Sayers gave a reply: AT and the Govt have promised that the motorway will be finished end of 2021 and that the **Matakana Link Road** will be completed within that timeframe also. The appellants in the Matakana Link Road are now all satisfied – small changes were needed but they are all very positive. As for **Hill Street** – funding to redesign this is a priority so that it can be started after the opening of the motorway. Greg is still trying to confirm funding for this in the long term budget. He has asked SBRRRA for a letter of endorsement to further this. Budgets to be in by 03 Dec.

Question from June Turner – Why can't we remove the island NOW? Greg is to ask AT again....in the meantime he had many offers for a clandestine removal gang!.

Question from Robyn Duffy: Is there a timeframe for the completion of the Sandspit Road link to Matakana Road? This is still only proposed and no time frame for this at present.

Resolution put to the meeting:

That the meeting support SBRRA in writing a letter to the Mayor requesting budgeted funding be allocated to reconstruct the Hill Street/SH1 intersection for starting work late 2021.

Dinniss/Turner Carried, unanimously

Letter attached

- **Adult exercise Equipment:** Eileen O'Loan (SBRRA) gave an update: Eileen and Leigh Sheehan (local resident) are slowly making progress. Investigating the placement of the equipment within the Ariki Reserve additional to the existing swings option. Are working with Council to ensure pedestrian safety in the carpark, footpath access from the bottom of Ariki Drive rather than walking through the carpark, accommodating tractor/trailer and car parking within the available space.. Investigating options and pricing for equipment. When the proposal is complete it will be taken to Council for support and approval. Still unable to give timeframe for completion.
- **Boathouse Bay update:** Mark gave an update of the work/progress so far. SBRRA has sent a letter to Ian Dobson Manager Resource consents North West – Auckland Council. Please see attached document for the background history and progress so far.
- Summary of the issues in the letter
- *1) Formation of coastal dune structures not built to plan.*
- *2) Changes made to the non-notified consents granted without any local notification (in spite of numerous requests over a 6 month period for information regarding bridge and path by SBRRA).*
- *3) Potential major ongoing costs to Auckland Council (thus its Ratepayers) protecting works permitted by Council, without proper consideration of the consequences.*
- *4) Severe adverse impact on the endangered NZ Dotterel.*
- *5) Loss of a historic Norfolk Pine tree and other safe roosting and nesting trees*
- *6) Failure to extend Ercegs Walkway as planned, providing easy public access and fulfilling Greenways Plan connectivity.*
- *7) Auckland Council obligations under the RMA, have they been properly discharged*

The meeting gave thanks to Mark for all this work on our behalf. Further questions and comments came from the floor. Greg Sayers also wished to note the work that Mark has done so far on this issue.

Suggestion from the floor that if we inform the local real estate agents of the concerns we have, this may give more traction with the developer in resolving the outstanding issues. Also publicity through Mahurangi Matters. These suggestions will be taken into consideration if needed in the future.

- **Beachfront bird signage:** Kay Flower (SBRRRA) is the project lead on this. An update was given by Michelle MacKenzie. An initial meeting has been held with Kay, Michelle and Megan Young (Ak Council Senior Biodiversity Officer Advisor north/west). Priorities – 1: The need to have signage advising of the existence of birds nesting esp at the northern end of the beach. 2: Better Dog bylaw signage esp the non-dog areas of the beach. 3: An individual series of pictorial signs telling the stories of our shorebirds – placed at intervals along the beachfront. Another meeting next week. Good progress is being made. Greg Sayers suggested the SBRRRA committee send a request on letterhead asking for enforcement of the bylaws and non-dog areas on our beach, with regular visits by the dog rangers or perhaps formalising local volunteer rangers. The **GOOD NEWS** is that we have 2 eggs in the dotterel nest. A request for everyone to help keep the public and dogs away from this nest. Michelle has marked the nest with a temporary fence.
- **Beachfront erosion - Snells to Ariki:** Mark gave an update. *Please see attached.* Also raised from floor that there is significant erosion at the southern end of the beach.

- **Highfield Garden Reserve and donkeys**

An invitation from Highfield committee to join us on **30th November** for our **Annual Christmas with the Donkeys at Highfield Garden Reserve.** Starting at 11am with the burial of a Time Capsule to commemorate 50 years of having donkeys at the property.

This will be followed with Children's Fun Activities: donkey rides, egg and spoon races, sack races, Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Robert's Memorial Race for under 12 year olds, Tug of War and a visit from **SANTA.**

There will be free Sausage Sizzle on site. Thanks to the RLB for funding.

Bring yourselves and any children and grandchildren to help us make this a fun day for our lovely park. **All welcome – spread the word**

- **Election Meetings:** Thanks was given to the SBRRRA committee for organising the 2 meet the candidates meetings and that the questions were excellent.. Greg gave feedback that the mayor appreciated the opportunity and wishes to be kept informed of local issues and would like to come back at some stage.
- **Rodney Local Board updates.** Beth Houlbrooke and Tim Holdgate were at the meeting, but as they had not been in sworn in as yet – were unable to update us on local board issues. Beth was able to update us on the speed review and dog bylaws. **Speed review** – Yes some local roads will have a reduction in the speed limit (eg Sandspit Road). The **dog bylaw** changes – consistency has been achieved but there are changes to the timing of beach access. New bylaw came into effect **01 Nov 2019.** Use these links to see the full changes

AT speed limits bylaw:<https://at.govt.nz/projects-roadworks/safe-speeds-programme/speed-limit-changes-around-auckland/>**Dog Management bylaw**

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/bylaws/Pages/dog-management-bylaw.aspx>

Chairman gave a challenge to RLB to explain the huge costings for the Wellsford toilets, and is that what our new Hamatama Rd toilets will cost as well? Beth acknowledged the meeting's concerns.

Correspondence: Multiple correspondences on matters raised above. See list attached

Financial Report:

Walkway	\$5830.00
Camera	\$2610.41
General	\$3429.34
Total	\$11,869.75

Camera funds held as final invoice still to be received

Any other business from the floor:

- Concern raised that the wooden bridges on beachfront walkway are very slippery in winter. Noted by chair and will be taken to next committee meeting.

Guest Speaker : Presentation from Roger Grant – SBRRA Walkways Group.

An update on the progress of the Snells Beach to Warkworth Walk/cycleway

Please see our website for the presentation document <https://snellsbeach.co.nz/>

Please note: A celebration of opening the first stage, Hamatana Road to Grange Street at 1.30 till 3pm– **Fri 15 Nov**. Could those intending to attend please email Terry Norris with numbers by 13th Nov chief.t.norris@gmail.com

Acknowledgement of local donations in money, machinery and volunteer hours. 388 volunteer hours so far. New entity is being formed. No longer to be under the SBRRA umbrella. Route from end of Hamatana Road to trail start may be routed alongside the estuary rather than on the road in the future. Can now travel thru to Grange Street then by quiet local roads (Grange St, Lawrie Rd, Duck Creek Rd, to the reserve at end of Duck Creek Road) Future loop options within Snells Beach area

Closure of some reserves to safeguard the Kauri has meant some redesign

Still will travel along riverfront to Warkworth. Water transport options being investigated

Many historical landmarks on the way and travel through bush and on boardwalks

All help in any form welcomed. Contact Contact Gary Heaven 021 896698

gheaven42@gmail.com

As the total project will cost upward of \$3m dollars, the walkways sub-committee is working towards forming an independent Incorporated Society with charitable status. This will occur sometime next year.

- **SBRRRA Xmas Gathering** – All are invited to join the committee for a Xmas celebration. Presentation will be from NX2 – a motorway extension update
Monday 02 Dec 7.30pm – Betty Paxton Room

Next Meeting – Monday 02 March 2020

7.30pm Betty Paxton Room Mahurangi East Community Centre

New members welcome \$10.00pa per household

Meeting closed 9.22pm

SBRRRA contacts

Chairman: Mark Dinniss. chairsbrr@gmail.com. 0274 344 674

Secretary: Eileen O'Loan 12sbrr@gmail.com 021 255 9176

Treasurer: Steve Popham treasurersbrr@gmail.com

Appendices:

Correspondence Summary

- Letter from MERRA re waste by rail proposal 4/11/19
- Boathouse Bay – multiple letters sent and received – Mark Dinniss, Greg Sayers, Ian Dobson, Phil Goff, Beth Houlbrooke, June Turner
- Foreshore erosion Snells Beach to Ariki – Phillip Simpson (Canada), Beth Houlbrooke, Greg Sayers
- Bird Signage project – Kay Fower, Michelle MacKenzie, Megan Young (Ak Council)

SBRRRA letterhead letter to Phil Goof re Hill Street funding

Incorporated 12 April 2005 AK 1504200

Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association

Chairman: Mark Dinniss
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5th November 2019

The Mayor, Phil Goff
Auckland Council
Auckland.
cc. Cr Greg Sayers, Cr Bill Cashmore

Dear Phil,

At a full meeting of the SBRRA held last evening, 4th Nov 2019, a resolution was passed unanimously requesting my writing to you with regards the need for urgent allocation of funds for reconstruction of Hill Street/SH1 intersection for work starting late 2021. Full funding for the reconstruction, for which we understand design work is complete, must be allocated in this budget round, to enable work on the notoriously troublesome intersection and its many tributaries to proceed immediately the new Northern Motorway section and Matakana Link Road is completed in year 2021.

As has been highlighted at meetings for at least two electoral cycles the public has continuously, strongly and unanimously indicated that the highest priority issue for the coastal communities East of Warkworth and indeed also Warkworth, is the resolution of the very poorly functioning and congested Hill Street/ SH1 intersection.

We request that this funding allocation is ensured for inclusion in Auckland Council's new budget round to enable construction to commence as requested.

Kind regards

Mark Dinniss
Chairman
SBRRA

Boathouse Bay letter to Ian Dobson

Incorporated 12 April 2005 AK 1504200

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30th October 2019

Mr. Ian Dobson
Manager Resource Consents Northwest
Auckland Council
Orewa.

Cc; Mayor, Phil Goff
Cr Greg Sayers
RLB Beth Houlbrooke

Dear Ian,

Boathouse Bay Development, 59 Arabella Lane, Snells Beach. Issues arising; R66533

Thank you for your response to our enquiries passed on to you through Cr Sayers and returned to us through the same.

The developer's response to protect against rising sea levels is entirely understandable, however their solution to raise ground surface levels to a "safe height" must then contain mitigation of natural features, including retreat of the useable property boundary for building purposes.

The now resulting increase in the dune slope differs from a natural, approx. 7 degrees, to the newly built slope of approx. 30 degrees and the dune toe pushed seaward beyond the normal high-water springs zone. This will inevitably incur considerable ongoing erosion.

Extracting data from the Eco Nomas Ltd, July 2015 report including hazard assessment and management recommendations, we note expected maximum shoreline erosion of 5-7 metres landward at present sea levels and probable retreat of 8-15m if sea level rise of 1m occurs. Considering the newly formed high slope dune is only 6m wide this indicates the likelihood of a severe ongoing threat to the newly built environment.

The dune design and dimensions indicated both by Boffa Miskell (Dec 2015) and in the indicative design in the Eco Nomas report (fig 9-10) advise creating a substantial fore dune and swale in front of the back dune totalling approx. 20m, with different plantings on each, for their different required functions. Examples of successful dune creation/restoration are shown in figs 12-14. These do not include the sort of slope created by the construction at Boathouse Bay and feature slopes much more typical of those naturally occurring locally. Construction similar to that originally proposed by both consulting groups (Boffa Miskell and

Eco Nomas Ltd) and approved by Council, would also then, not only allow the inclusion of the bridge and path but also a design far safer from sea driven erosion due to its inclusion of a foredune, allowing wash-over when challenged by storm driven seas at high water. These are recommendations in Eco Nomas 2015 report

These recommendations, although accepted by Council coastal hazard experts and approved for inclusion in the granted consent, have not been built to that design, especially point 1. (Wide)

We must also note that the considerable erosion to the dune, since granting consent (which you refer to) has only occurred since the earthworks commenced and the dune construction took place. Looking at the historic Council GIS pictures and taking into account the esplanade reserve strip, edge line, in relation to the grassed private boundary, there is relatively imperceptible erosion with the exception of a short section at the northern end.

It would appear to all observers that the handling of this application, consenting and subsequently allowed changes to the original consent, have granted the developer unacceptable opportunity to maximise the development, going way beyond normal regulations. This is at great immediate cost to the locality and what will inevitably be great cost to Auckland Council Ratepayers who will be obliged to protect the newly built environment after the initial developers responsibilities have expired.

The effects of this development are considerably more than minor.

The endangered NZ Dotterel have, for a second season, been unable to reach their favoured historic breeding spot. Last season the construction of a perimeter fence smashed an already established nest. This year just as the pair were about to begin nesting a second height plastic wrapped straw, sea-wall was constructed eliminating any possibility the birds could use the site.

The pine trees removed from the headland area at the end of the Ercegs walkway have removed preferred safe nesting sites for various wading species including various species of herons shags and other wading birds leaving very little, predator safe nesting opportunity for those birds at Snells Beach.

The above tree removal is also allowing new rapid erosion at the mouth of the Morrison Stream.

The removal of a historic, approx. 150yr old Norfolk Pine gifted by Governor Grey was allowed by council, we understand, due to a clerical oversight in the registration of the tree's heritage status. However, we would like to note that in Boffa Miskell's 2015 "Detail Plan-Coastal Reserve Revegetation" showing proposed landscape design, they (B M) specify the existing Norfolk Pine to be retained.

The non-delivery of a promised continuation of the Erceg Walkway across a bridge and path to the end of the beach allowing access to all, even at periods of high tide is an unacceptable outcome for the community who are struggling with the confronting Boathouse Bay development. It also disregards the aims of connectivity in the Greenways plan.

We, Snells Beach Ratepayers and Resident Assoc., request that Auckland Council demonstrate that it has acted in a fully legal and responsible manner while discharging its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act in protecting the interests of both the

environment and the ratepayers it serves.

With regards to the Boathouse Bay development, we believe Auckland Council is failing to deliver and manage its responsibilities at all of these objectives listed except to some degree, the first.

The Ratepayers and Residents of Snells Beach need an extremely in-depth explanation justifying how such outrageous allowances can be made to a developer without adequate mitigation in place to counter the effects of this development now and in the future. Also how the future protection of the development from sea driven erosion is to be facilitated and at who's cost.

We request that each of these issues are addressed in your/Councils response

Kind regards
Mark Dinniss
Chairman, SBRRRA

Summary of issues;

- 1) Formation of coastal dune structures not built to plan.
- 2) Changes made to the non-notified consents granted without any local notification (in spite of numerous requests over a 6 month period for information regarding bridge and path by SBRRRA).
- 3) Potential major ongoing costs to Auckland Council (thus its Ratepayers) protecting works permitted by Council, without proper consideration of the consequences.
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References;

Auckland Council Report and Consent R66533 et al
Boffer Miskell Report and recommendations 15th Dec 2015 /Revision 03
Eco Nomas Ltd, Thames. Assesment and recommendations July 2015

Beachfront erosion – Snells Beach – Ariki reserve. Summary of beachfront meeting and then presented at the meeting by Mark Dinniss

Erosion; Snells Beach Rd to Ariki Drive, 4 th Nov 20119, 11am

Attending; Paul Klinac Head of Specialist Delivery; Engineering & Technical

Services; Infrastructure & Environmental Michael Feather; Maintenance Delivery Co-ordinator, James Barrat-Boyes; Programme Principal (Coastal and Slips) Bernardo Santos; Chief Arborist, Auckland Council Cr Greg Sayers, RLB Beth Houlbrooke, SBRRRA Chair Mark Dinniss, Deputy Chair Maurie Hooper

Notes arising from discussion. Coastal and river maintenance budget \$10m pa

Nearing the end of a 14year lunar phase which has brought unusually tidal levels over the 14 year period. The sea grass (or eel grass) is an indicator of good water quality and ecological health. The problem identified by the public and SBRA over recent times is the apparent rapid erosion occurring in this section of the beach, undermining of the Pohutukawa trees and threatening beachfront path and picnic tables. In some cases, trees are sufficiently undermined to create cavities attractive for children to get into, with some danger. Various options for handling this issue were discussed including a solid barrier, sand replenishment and natural sand movement. The removal of some sharp topped post protrusions on this section of beach, which are a hazard will take place.

It was stated that the negative influence on other parts of the beach created by a solid structure due to their influencing wave and current patterns through reflection and refraction is worse than any gain. Also walls bring about sand loss at the base of the wall creating further problems. Manmade sand replenishment by mechanically shifting sand from one area of the beach, although less intrusive is only temporary as demonstrated by previous attempts to do this at the south end of the Sunburst Ave sea wall.

Using sand bags influences wave action similar to walls and they breakdown and then cause synthetic pollution. The arborist noted the trees were all in good health and as has been seen in several other locations, Pohutukawas are an extremely hardy tree and can survive major challenges citing cases where after being fully undermined trees have just settled on their root nest and happily continued life. These trees will have major inland root systems and they will develop even more with the seaward challenges.

All of NZs coastline will continue to recede. With the wide reserve buffer along a large part of Snells Beach and the minimal close, built environment, it was felt that any required path shift would not need to occur for 20-30years and there was no threat to the tree health for at least 2-5 years. To be monitored.

It was noted that Algies Bay required a much more engineered solution due to concerns about the inshore contour and soil type threatening major land slumping toward the sea in that area.

Further investigation of options will be made by the council team and they will report to RLB and myself. Council staff are presently doing a lot of study and modelling, while planning mitigation proposals for more than 3000 km of Auckland Council coastline against the effects of future sea level rise coupled with increased storm activity.