

# Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association – SBRRA

## Minutes of meeting – Monday 02 Nov 2020

### Mahurangi East Community Centre Hall 7.30pm

**Present:** Mark Dinniss(chair), Paul Shanahan(treas), Eileen O’Loan(sec), SBRRA committee – Peter Beekman, Kay Flower, Maurie Hooper, Kate Hawken. Paul Klinac (Ak Council), Matt Rivers (Ak Council), Christoph Soltau (Ak Council) Tim Holdgate (RLB) + approx. 80 members and visitors

**Apologies:** Beth Houlbrooke (RLB), Alison Coates, Diane Taylor, Mark Dobson, Hamish & Caron Gray, Chris Powell, Louise Nicholson. Motion to accept apologies – Gary Heaven. Accepted

**Guest Speaker:** Paul Klinac. Auckland Council Head of specialist delivery. (Coastal and geotechnical delivery). **Topic: Coastal management framework for the Auckland Region**

**Please find the presentation notes and the Q & As at the end of this document**

**Previous minutes** – accepted Mark/Maurie

#### **Matters arising:**

**Roading: Matakana Link Road** construction is underway to be completed by the time the motorway opens. **Hill Street;** The committee along with the Algies Bay R&R group is looking into options for ways to improve traffic flow out of Sandspit Road as an interim measure. The delays as summer begins are already major and even with a significant allowance for unpredictable delays, people are still missing appointments.

**Exercise equipment:** Eileen has completed the background work for the fitness equipment proposal and is ready to go forward with further public consultation to establish community desire for it. As a result of the many changes during this year, private funding previously available is no longer certain and is being canvassed to warrant going further. If funding is not available at this time the project will be parked until such time that it is and then the process will re-start with the consultation.

**Boathouse Bay:** Notice has been received from the Auckland Council compliance team that a Code of Compliance for the dune structure was issued on the 25th September 2020. The developers warranty period runs for 2 years from that date.

**Bird signage on beachfront:** Gabion baskets 1.12 metres in length, with a printed cap attached have been designed and costed. The proposal is for 6 units spaced along the walkway. The words and illustrations will be locally based with local pictures and stories unlike the generic units you will have seen around the country. This print design takes a huge amount of time to put together. Michele McKenzie has agreed to do the first one for us. We are waiting for the mock-up of that so that a full visual proposal can be taken to RLB for landowner approval. These will be quite special and unique to Snells Beach. We will seek sponsorship for each unit from both commercial and private groups with acknowledgements shown on the printed surface. This may appeal even as a memorial to a deceased relative or family as is presently shown on the walkway seats.

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**Correspondence: In/Out** Forwarded to members - WALG minutes, Skatepark hui invitation, Sandspit Rd planting, Amendment to dog access at Snells Beach , Regional park review, Natural environment report .Letterhead to RLB/Watercare re Dawson Road

**Financial Report: 21 Oct 2020**

<b>Camera</b>	<b>\$664.00</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>\$4,236.17</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$4,900.17</b>

**RLB report – Tim Holdgate:**

- The Auckland Council is well advanced with the austerity budget. The RLB is now planning and finalising the RLB Plan and this will soon be open for consultation.
- Dome Valley Landfill – the hearings to start next week.  
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ResourceConsentHearingDocuments/domevalley-subv5-2020-11-09.pdf>
- RLB – Healthy waters fund /grants. Applications now open.  
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/grants/local-board-grants/rodney-local-board-grants/Pages/grant-details.aspx?itemID=47>
- Sandspit Carpark - A disappointing development but a short-term fix is in place and the RLB working on a long-term plan

**Any other business:**

- **Dawson Road Reserve.** Councillor Greg Sayers requested that SBRA look into the situation at Dawson Road after the residents had sought help from him. Watercare is seeking a lease of the Dawson Road Reserve for a further 3 years while the Warkworth to Snells Beach section of the wastewater upgrade takes place. This is to be used as a work site yard/depot with all the industrial activity this involves. The local residents have endured the work site yard/depot for the last 18 months and accepted the situation with an end in sight. The thought of a further 3 years is devastating to the local residents who have accepted the intrusive noise, dust and disruptions up to this point. A letterhead letter has been sent to RLB and Watercare supporting the residents and with a suggestion to move the site to the top end of the Lawrie Road Landfill site. This item is on the RLB agenda for discussion next week
- **Safe roosting area** for the seabirds proposal. A quick overview was given of a suggestion to provide a safe high tide roosting area at the northern end of the Erceg Walkway. Some discussion from the floor. This is being investigated and considered by the AC biodiversity team.

**Next meeting: Xmas soiree. Monday 07 Dec 2020 7pm** in Betty Paxton Room  
NX2 will give a presentation on the motorway's progress. Please join the committee for a Xmas drink and nibbles.

**Meeting closed 9.18pm**

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## Speaker presentation notes:

**Guest Speaker:** Paul Klinac. Auckland Council Head of specialist delivery. (Coastal and geotechnical delivery). [Paul.klinac@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Paul.klinac@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Topic: Coastal management framework for the Auckland Region

**Paul's presentation covered 4 areas: 1) Auckland's coastal environment 2) Coastal hazard context and related issues 3) Coastal management framework and related initiatives 4) Next steps and current work.**

### 1) Auckland's coastal environment:

- Auckland has 3,100kms of coastline incl the harbours and offshore islands
- Plus 20,000 km of inland waterways
- 28 Regional parks with approximately 220kms of undeveloped coastline.
- Our population grows 1,000 people per week (pre Covid)
- There is a lot of pressure on our regional green fields. A lot of this land is marginal land – low lying, beachfront, soft sedimentary cliffs and very susceptible to the effects of climate change

### 2) Coastal hazard context and related issues:

- In July 2019 Council declared a climate emergency – this signalled the council's intention to put climate change at the front and centre of future decision making.
- July 2020. Council adopted Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan . <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/Pages/auckland-climate-action-plan.aspx>
- The sea level is expected to rise by 1m by 2130
- La Nina and storm events may see sea inundation and flooding, cliff erosion, land instability and damage to infrastructure.
- Council is responsible for replacement and maintenance of infrastructure

### 3) Coastal management framework and related initiatives

- In July 2017 Council published the Coastal Management Framework for the Auckland Region. [https://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2017/08/ENV\\_20170808\\_AGN\\_6831\\_ATT\\_files/ENV\\_20170808\\_AGN\\_6831\\_AT\\_Attachment\\_53367\\_1.PDF](https://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2017/08/ENV_20170808_AGN_6831_ATT_files/ENV_20170808_AGN_6831_AT_Attachment_53367_1.PDF)
- This document sets out which coastline areas are vulnerable and how they will change over time.
- Gives options on the management of areas and how we can manage coastal change
- This is a foundation document and its framework is used to prepare the regional coastal management plans
- 4 guidelines: **Do nothing**. **Protect** (decide which areas are going to be protected). **Adapt** (-how to make slight changes to the environment). **Retreat** (remove structures, understand the natural processes, reshaping and planting options)
- This document helps the council to plan and budget for renewals and new developments. Initially there are 23 hot spots in Auckland in the first draft of plans. Close to home – Whangaparaoa, Orewa and Whangateau. Funding needs to be found to

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complete the suite of management plans. A management plan for Snells Beach will be done in the future.

#### **4) Next steps and current work.**

- Complete a region wide coastal erosion study (early 2021)
- Update coastal inundation data and overlays (late 2020)
- Complete region wide vulnerability assessment to help with the delivery of the Coastal Management Plan (early 2021)
- Long term Plan funding to be sought to support the delivery of 15 Coastal Area Plans within next 3-6 years.

#### **The questions to and answers from Paul Klinac**

##### **1) What is Auckland Councils strategy for addressing the erosion occurring between Snells Beach Road and Ariki Drive boat ramps? How far should Council be prepared to let it go?**

*A: There are very good sand levels on the beach at this time, reflecting the natural process within the coastal environment. However, we are aware that we may have a La Nina summer and therefore more NE storms. The tree health is very good – Pohutukawa are coastal trees and tend to settle into the sand as necessary. Recommend that resource consent be sought to relocate sand from the high points on the beach. This will improve the aesthetics and the ability to step down easily onto the beach from the esplanade. This is being progressed via the community Facilities Department of AC*

**Related questions from the floor: Q: Snells Beach has a variety of erosion solutions already in place along the beach, that seem to be working well. I am sure the community would be willing to help fund construction of another wooden seawall.**

*A: Seawalls do a great job of protecting the land behind the wall but not so for the overall health of the beach. Sand transfers or building a groin may provide better solutions, that would need investigation in the future*

**Q from the floor: There are drainage issues on both Snells Beach Reserve and Ariki Reserve. The soil becomes saturated in winter and after heavy rainfall. I understand that this is caused by a sub stratum of clay dumped there when the initial subdivisions were developed. Is this impacting coastal erosion issues?**

*A: Paul will be passing this query onto Geoff Pitman - CF/Parks operations manager for Rodney*

**2) The huge increase in sea-grass/eel-grass infestation is having a major adverse effect on the prolific cockle beds which have thrived here over a very long time. The grass's silt holding ability appears to be having a significant impact in turning a clean sandy beach into a muddy seafloor in the inter-tidal**

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zone. Whenever there is a descent storm in the area, a large part of Kawau Bay turns yellow/brown caused by run-off pollution.

**Please explain the reasons for the proliferation of eel-grass and the management of sediment in the storm water run-off. Is it possible to remedy the situation and return the beach to its previous sandy state?**

*A: Paul is not an expert in marine ecology – but understands that the presence of seagrass on our beach is a sign of a healthy environment. An answer to this question has been provided by Dr Megan Carbines AC Principal Scientist. The NIWA report on seagrass has been sent to SBRRA. This information will be forwarded so that everyone can read and then perhaps SBRRA is able to arrange to have a speaker from the AC marine ecology dept next year to discuss this in full.*

**3) Who's responsibility both in action and cost, is the protection of the newly built area at the northern end of Snells Beach if the built dune area erodes and the safety of the newly built environment is threatened by erosion?**

*A: The developer has remediated the design as per consent and from 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 is now in a bonded two year term. AC will be monitoring the dune system with regular visual monitoring and occasional cross sectional analysis.*

**Q from floor: How robust was the initial plan?**

*A: The developer had used a reputable ecological coastal scientist for the planning design.*

**Q from the floor: Was your department involved in the granting of the consents for the dune construction?**

*A: Yes for the first design. Then a variation was sought and granted – managed by the Regulatory Services Department of Auckland Council*

**4) We note that the newly rebuilt dune fronting the Boathouse Bay development is now more in line with that which was finally approved in the consent granted by Auckland Council. This however, leaves a large population of rare and endangered shorebirds which frequent Snells Beach without adequate, quiet, high-tide roosting areas previously available.**

**What are your thoughts about the SBRRA proposal to build a wide dune fronted by man-made rock formations at the northern end of the beach? This would not only create a significant, safe high tide roosting area for the migratory and local birds for which the large inter-tidal feeding zone is imperative to ensure their survival but also provide additional protection for the newly built environment at that end of the beach. If you believe in the merit of this proposal; How can it best be achieved?**

*A: As mentioned, we are now in the 2yr bonded time period and so we have to wait and see how the dune structure will manage storm surges and king tides etc. There*

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are other options available to provide a high tide roosting area and these are being investigated.

**Q from the floor: Is the AC taking into consideration land uplift alongside the predicted sea level rise**

*A: Yes, it is a factor taken into consideration for the management plans. However it is not a major consideration for the Auckland area (the lift is about 1.5mm per year) in comparison with other NZ areas. Sea level rise is of more concern in the Auckland region*

**5) In 2013 SBRRRA put forward a proposal/request that the ongoing erosion along the high banks at the Southern end be addressed by building a small groin replacing the eroded naturally occurring reef jutting from the bank.**

**What are your thoughts on the concept proposed as a means to stop further loss at that end of the beach?**

*A: It has been a while since that problem was brought to the team. It may be time now to bring in a team incl from Parks & SBRRRA to reassess the problem.*

**6) Do you believe the RMA and various Wildlife Protection Acts are sufficient to protect endangered wildlife species against the ongoing degradation of our coastline?**

*A: Paul is not an expert in this field. This should be directed to the Regulatory Services Department of Auckland Council*

**7) Like most people, I am interested in maintaining and sustaining the sea bird life at Snells Beach. We are lucky to have Kawau Bay for the seabirds to hunt it, but I wonder about the shorebirds, herons, oyster catchers, dotterels, godwits now visiting etc. Presumably sustaining shellfish life in the bay and on the shoreline is very important for these species. What actions are being taken or can be taken to try to promote shell fish and fish life around the bay?**

*A: The important factor for this is the water quality in the Kawau Bay. I recommend asking a representative from the Marine ecology team to attend a meeting next year. AC is currently developing a water strategy.*

**Other questions from the floor**

**Q: Mediterranean fan worm has now reached our harbours. How is AC managing this?**

*A: The bio security team are aware of this. Please document/ photograph as you find these. Note - Day, time, tide, weather conditions and send through to the council. Also document any discharges onto the beach. NB: A person from the floor confirmed that a white discharge could be sewage and an orange colour is just iron leaching from the ground. Send your photos and other documentation to AC via the*

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website where complaints or issues can be submitted and passed onto the correct team. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/pages/default.aspx>

**Q: Does the government contribute any funding to Auckland's coastal management infrastructure**

*A: No – Auckland Council has to fund all costs. Perhaps in the future there may be more targeted rates created to manage the funding.*

**Q: How does the Coastal management team interact with the other Council CCOs.**

*A: We have a good strong relationship. All the CCOs have signed up to the Coastal Management plans and are working together. Honest consultations and discussions with communities to find resolutions*

**Q: Should we as a community organise volunteers to move the sand?**

*A: It is best to leave to Council – resource consent and machinery will be necessary*

You will find Paul's power point presentation attached to the minutes email sent out to members