

OIR: 2324/916

27 May 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **6 May 2024** requesting the following information and making observations regarding the construction of a surf club in QEII Park, Paekākāriki:

- 1. The damage wrought already and future work have/will destroy protective sand dunes and cause serious erosion. How could permission be given for this? Sand dunes are susceptible to erosion if disturbed!!***

As per the granted consent, erosion and sediment controls are to be installed for the duration of the construction. The earthworks are also to be undertaken in accordance with a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The above requirements of the consent are to prevent erosion and associated effects during construction.

- 2. Surf Club vehicles were dangerous before and will be even more so after (I was almost hit twice by them last year: young teenagers hooning around with no awareness or regard for safety). No vehicular movements should be permitted on public park land.***

As with any dangerous driving behaviour, this is a matter for the Police and can be reported either via 105 or 111 in case of emergency.

- 3. Why does the area of dune destruction have to be so large? Vegetation is being removed from areas where no building will be sited.***

The purpose of the proposed earthworks is to provide a suitable building platform, access and parking areas associated with the new building, along with dune shaping to maintain an undulating environment.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

During the earthworks, exposed sandy soils will likely be visual and appear unnatural for a time when viewed in relation to the existing environment, however much of the exposed soils will be concealed post works by the proposed building and hard surface areas as well as planting which will be undertaken on the reshaped dunes which will be similar in natural character to the existing vegetation.

- 4. I note the previous lizard survey has been ignored. They are certainly dead and their habitat decimated now (I have previously seen them in that area). Where is KCDC's environmental awareness? It seems to have none.**

The granted resource consent requires lizards that may be present on the site to be managed through a lizard management plan.

- 5. How can KCDC begin to justify giving a million to this project? We are in a recession! That money could have been used for something useful for the whole community, not just a minority.**

This funding that council allocated for this project was from Tranche 1 of the Better Off Funding package provided by the Government. The matter was discussed over two meetings of the Strategy and Operations Committee on Thursday 15 September, and Thursday 22 September 2022. The minutes of both meetings are publicly available on our website [here](#). There are also video recordings of the meetings available for viewing on Kāpiti Coast District Council's Youtube channel [here](#). Listening to the discussion around the item may provide better context of the Elected Members decision to allocate a portion of the Better off Funding to Paekākāriki Surf Lifesaving Club.

- 6. Signs in Paekakariki village say further funds will be needed to landscape the area being destroyed. All other environmentally damaging projects, e.g., roading, mining, etc. have to legally have funding in place to repair damage caused. Has KCDC ensured (legally) that funding is set-aside to remediate this environmental damage caused?**

The granted resource consent requires the applicant to provide restoration and compensation planting following the completion of construction. This is a legally enforceable consent condition that the applicant must comply with. How this is funded is not a matter for the resource consent process and is up to the applicant.

- 7. The sea defences in that area have now been seriously eroded (literally). If/when a severe storm or tsunami occurs, seawater can now rush inland. And what's behind, sited on lower land? A campsite where often several hundred people stay. This destruction also directly conflicts with KCDC's so-called sea-defence initiatives.**

The granted resource consent did assess the role of natural hazards on the coastal location and included various technical assessments which concluded that the location was appropriate.

As with any hazard of this type there is a tsunami evacuation plan in place for the district and this would be within the role of the Emergency Management Office to be activated in case of any major event of this type.

8. Why couldn't the Surf Club have used the presently little used Memorial Hall and basement? It has services, good road access, is right by the beach, has lots of space. You could then have spent a fraction of our rate-payers' money on any necessary modernisation and would also achieve repairs on that building that will be needed in the future anyway.

Council does not hold this information. This part of your request is declined on the basis that that the information requested is not held by the local authority and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either— (i) held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation: (section 17(g) of the LGOIMA refers).

You could engage directly with the Surf Club to understand their requirements.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Jefferson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James Jefferson

Group Manager Regulatory and Environment
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Ture me te Taiao