

3.1 Park Furniture Policy for Pauanui

TO Tairua-Pauanui Community Board
FROM Derek Thompson - Community Facilities Manager
DATE 17 October 2018
SUBJECT **Park Furniture Policy for Pauanui**

1 Purpose of Report

To present to the Community Board a proposed policy for the replacement of Park Furniture in Pauanui.

2 Background

Pauanui is blessed with a well-planned network of reserves and greenspaces throughout the township. Scattered throughout this network, for the enjoyment of reserve users is an array of park furniture. The park furniture that this report and policy are specifically referencing are items of furniture specifically designed for seating, such as benches, park seats, platforms and picnic tables.

Council has a standard design for park seats and there are 20 or so scattered throughout the township with 30 or so of a similar design on the main beachfront. Some of these park seats have been donated. A donated park seat is one where a donor generally wants to commemorate a deceased loved one and nominates a spot that was special for that person.

The Tairua-Pauanui Reserve Management Plan (2014) has this to say about donated park seats.

Land, Gifts and Commemorative Features

Objective

- 1> *To ensure that any private land, gifts and commemorative features are managed in a sustainable manner and are beneficial to the reserve and reserve users.*

Rationale

Members of the public frequently make requests to place features on reserves. Whilst such commemorations can assist in developing community values and mark important historic events, the location and number of such features needs to be managed. Commemorative features can also add cost to the ongoing maintenance of reserves and can cause difficulties when the features are damaged, vandalised or require significant maintenance. Difficulties can also arise where the individual or group having made the gift seeks to influence the management of the wider reserve. Council needs to be in a position to control the nature, number and location of such features, encouraging appropriate enhancement of reserves.

Policies

- 1> *Council will consider on a case-by-case basis any requests from individuals and/or community organisations for the gifting and/or sponsorship of a reserve feature.*
- 2> *All proposals will be assessed in relation to the following criteria:*
 1. *The compatibility of the proposed feature in relation to the character and use of the reserve*
 2. *The benefit to the reserve users*
 3. *The ease and cost of maintenance and who is responsible; and*
 4. *The relevance of the feature to the community and its appropriateness.*

- 4 *Any Council approved feature or gift may be acknowledged through the attachment of a small (eg 250 x 100 mm) engraved or cast metal plaque associated with the feature.*
- 5 *Where a significant gift is involved, Council and the donor group will develop a protocol that sets out the principles of the gift.*
- 6 *Where a gift or commemorative feature requires removal, it may or may not be replaced. Where replacements are made they will be made with the same or similar feature.*
- 7 *Council will maintain gifts and/or commemorative features except where maintenance by others is agreed as part of the gift agreement (such as in the case of some sculptures). The benefactor will generally retain no ongoing rights or responsibilities in relation to the feature.*

Recently a MenzShed has developed in Pauanui and while the intent is good, some donors have approached the MenzShed and have paid this charity to install commemorative park seats on their behalf. This has meant that there has been a loss of control over quality, numbers, locations, style, conformity and intent in regard to Park Seat installations.

The number of seats, particularly on the beach front has led to complaints in regards to the sheer number and location of seats.

When a seat is added to Council's asset list, it adds to the maintenance budgets and depreciation costs that will be covered by Council. Additionally it can cause issues in regards to servicing the surrounding reserve if the installation blocks access for a mower for example.

Over the next 10 years, the replacement costs look like "Attachment 1"

3 Issue

To seek Community Board support for a new policy for Park Furniture for Pauanui that will address

4 Discussion

It is suggested that to assist in decision making for accepting or otherwise requests to donate Park Furniture, that a scoping exercise to assess the landscape "carrying capacity" of reserves is undertaken. This scoping exercise would assess each reserve and judge whether there is room for additional features.

It is also suggested that the Assetfinda database is "combed" to discover which park seats are due for renewal/replacement in any given year, and that the list of these assets is ground truthed by the Community Facilities Field Representative.

That way, by marrying up the landscape assessment with the renewals list, Officers will be able to determine if a "managed retreat" is required in a particular reserve, or if the reserve is able to accept additional park seats. For clarities sake, a managed retreat would see assets removed at the end of their useable life, and not replaced.

Additionally, if an asset was to be replaced, it may be considered for replacement in a different location within the same reserve, or in a different reserve entirely.

To assist officers with making decisions when a request for a donated park seat is made it is suggested that within the RMP the Objective and Rationale for Land, Gifts and Commemorative Features remains the same, but that the existing Policies in the RMP is replaced with the following Policies.

1. Council will consider requests for the gifting and sponsorship of reserve features.
2. The requests will be considered in relation to the following;
 - 2.1. The landscape assessment – unsuitable suggestions will be directed to more suitable sites
 - 2.2. The renewals list – suggestions will be directed to replace existing park seats first
3. *Any Council approved feature or gift may be acknowledged through the attachment of a small (eg 250 x 100 mm) engraved or cast metal plaque associated with the feature.*
4. *Where a significant gift is involved, Council and the donor group will develop a protocol that sets out the principles of the gift.*
5. *Where a gift or commemorative feature requires removal, it may or may not be replaced. Where replacements are made they will be made with the same or similar feature.*
6. *Council will maintain gifts and/or commemorative features except where maintenance by others is agreed as part of the gift agreement (such as in the case of some sculptures). The benefactor will generally retain no ongoing rights or responsibilities in relation to the feature.*
7. *Only approved Council suppliers and contractors can undertake installations. For clarity the two approved for Pauanui are the MenzShed and Smart Environmental Ltd.*
8. *The cost of a donated park seat is set at double the renewal cost. For the 18/19 year with a renewal cost of \$760, this equates to \$1,520. The rationale behind this is to offset the cost burden to the ratepayer, and slow the demand for donations.*

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Park Furniture Policy for Pauanui' report, dated 17 October 2018.
2. Accepts the Park Furniture Policy for Pauanui and approves officers to act on it for decision making in regards to requests to donate Park Furniture in Pauanui.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Pauanui Park Seat Replacement Cost*

