

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL** for a comprehensive resource consent for festivals and events at Williamson Park, Whangamata

**Statement of Evidence of EVA ILSASAPWELL
on behalf of the Friends of Williamson Park Society**

Dated 25 October 2018

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SUMMARY

1. My name is Eva Ilsa Sapwell.
2. I oppose this application given the disruption to the wellbeing of the community.

OBJECTIONS

3. I live in Browns Bay, Auckland. I am an interested party on the basis that I own a property in Whangamata, our holiday home on 103 Seaview Road. My husband and I purchased this property in 1995. We have always walked our dogs all year round in both the evenings and early mornings. Over several decades, I have fallen in love with Whangamata. We have many friends come from overseas to stay with us at the beach and they love it. We have only missed two Beach Hops, we have attended Summer Festivals and watched the surf carnivals. Now several friends have also purchased in the area.
4. We lived through the awful summers when liquor was consumed in public areas and concerts were held in Williamson Park. Family and friends kept away during this period. Whangamata was making the headlines for all the wrong reasons – broken windows, rioting, glass and vomit along the streets.
5. For this reason, I oppose the application for resource consent for the purpose of holding events for which attendance requires payment.
6. The summer of 2016/2017 was the first time in 15 years that a paid concert was held in Williamson Park. Mr Beaver stated that the concert was well run due to the fencing. However, the concert attracted the wrong crowd. It attracted intoxicated people. Arrests were made for:
 - a. Disorder,
 - b. Fighting
 - c. Breach of peace
 - d. Breach of liquor ban
 - e. Possession of cannabis
7. Extra police staff were sent to Whangamata after pre-concert revellers caused problems on the Friday night. There will always be trouble the days before and after the commercial concerts.

8. I believe that the Council is putting financial interests ahead of a proud community, its safety and reputation. Commercial concerts have a detrimental effect on the safety of the community.
9. We have personally experienced the chaos and riots associated with events held in Whangamata in the past. We have had to call an ambulance for an unconscious and intoxicated youth.
10. We have, because of the recent concerts, once again experienced this disruption. In particular, we have had to deal with: excessively loud music, even with all the windows closed one can feel the vibrations from the music; broken bottles; shouting and swearing; urinating on private property; and we have seen people throwing fireworks at each other.
11. The youth then roam the back streets until the early hours of the morning. When we go for our early morning strolls, we find them sleeping in their cars and surrounded by rubbish. We can smell cannabis being smoked.
12. My proposed solution is that an amendment to the 15-year resource consent is made to ensure that no commercial concerts, or the sale of liquor occurs in Williamson Park.
13. Williamson Park is a residential area, surrounded by many homes. This is not the place for these sorts of concerts.

Eva Ilsa Sapwell

25 October 2018