Buffalo Beach Reserve – Outdoor Fitness Development

TO: Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM: Sue Costello - Community Facilities Field Representative
DATE: 5 February 2019
SUBJECT: Buffalo Beach Reserve – Outdoor Fitness Development

1 Purpose of Report
The purpose of the report is for the Mercury Bay Community Board to consider and approve in principle, the concept plan and preferred location for the development of a new outdoor fitness facility on Buffalo Beach Reserve.

2 Background
New Zealand is facing an obesity epidemic which is caused by poor diet and physical inactivity. In its efforts to curb the epidemic, the Ministry of Health has released guidelines which also identify that physical activity reduces the risk of a range of conditions from alzheimers to ulcers. Council alone cannot be tasked with the prevention of such diseases and conditions, but it is able to play a part in the solution by making public facilities and services available.

Buffalo Beach Reserve is popular with various recreational users throughout the year. The path along the reserve was completed in 2017 and has proved very popular with locals and visitors to the area. Various community groups and members of the public have requested outdoor fitness equipment to be added to Buffalo Beach Reserve to enhance the opportunity for recreation activities.

The proposal is to provide five different pieces of fitness equipment which allow a range of activities and exercises to be undertaken for a complete work out. Full details of the proposed equipment are outlined in Attachment A.

The surface is would be a rubberised compound surface similar to that used in playgrounds. The area will also be bollarded to protect the equipment and users from vehicles.

3 Issue
The Board is asked to consider approving in principle the installation and location of a fitness area on Buffalo Beach Reserve, subject to consultation with neighbours.

4 Discussion
The provision of a fitness trail, or a fitness station, has been under consideration for some time. The result of this is that a fitness station/area would be a better solution. Group exercise is always more successful. Users can meet up and exercise together inspiring others in the group, where as a trail often is used only by individuals or pairs and usually one person has to wait while the other person uses the equipment. A station creates a focus to the reserve and encourages participation at all levels and across many groups.

Financial support has also been offered from the community. Lioness and Cancer Society have both expressed interest and the Whitianga Half Marathon indicated that if there was the ability to support, then they would be keen to as well.

The whole community both young and old can benefit from this area.
The location of the fitness station/area needs careful consideration to minimise impact on adjoining neighbours and on other reserve users. Implementation of the project will include consultation with potentially affected properties from 41 – 51B Buffalo Beach Road.

Staff have identified two options for the Board to consider:

Buffalo Beach Reserve  Attachment B
Buffalo Beach Reserve adjacent to Taputapuatea Bridge  Attachment C

The Buffalo Beach Reserve location is opposite Bruce Street, which minimises the impact on property views.

The Reserve Management Plan provides for the provision of public facilities on the Buffalo Beach – Main Beach Reserve.

The total cost of establishing this facility will be $70,000. Staff propose to allocate, with Board approval, $35,000 from the Parks Minor Project capital budget for 2019/2020, with the remaining $35,000 to be budgeted from the Parks Minor Project capital budget for 2020/2021. This would be reduced by any funding contributed from the community.

**Suggested resolution(s)**

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

2. Approves in principle the installation of a five piece fitness station to be located on Buffalo Beach Reserve opposite Bruce Street.
3. Notes that staff will consult with potentially affected property owners and residents from 41 – 51b Buffalo Beach Road, prior to commencing any work.
4. Approves the allocation of up to $35,000 from the 2019/2020 and $35,000 from the 2020/2021 Parks Minor Projects capital budget, to allow the project to proceed.

**References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attachment A</td>
<td>Whitianga Fitness Equipment Suppliers Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment B</td>
<td>Whitianga Outdoor Fitness Equipment Location – Buffalo Beach Reserve opposite Bruce Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment C</td>
<td>Whitianga Outdoor Fitness Equipment Location – Buffalo Beach Reserve (Taputapuatea Bridge)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attachment A
Attachment A Whitianga Fitness Equipment Suppliers Proposal