

## 16. STYX MILL CONSERVATION RESERVE



Further to clause 5 in the main report, the following comments have been received from the staff members listed below on the proposal to relocate the dog exercise park from the Styx Mill Reserve:

### **Terry Moody, Environmental Health Policy Leader:**

The Council is going through a consultation process, under the Dog Control Act, of a review of some prohibited and leashed areas under the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

Among the matters that went out to consultation was a proposal to prohibited dogs from the Styx Mill Reserve itself [although that did not include the dog exercise area].

A number of submissions have been made on this proposal, many objecting to it, and among these some have mentioned the dog exercise area as they may have become aware of it through media coverage of the Parks proposal.

The Dog Control Working Party intends to undertake hearings of the submitters wanting to appear early in September and will then determine which of the proposals will go forward to the Regulatory and Consents Committee and subsequently the Council for bylaw changes.

At this time it is expected that these changes may go to the October meetings [although that depends on the Dog Control Working Party of course]

In my view decisions on the matter of shifting the dog exercise area or other dog control matters to do with the Styx Mill Reserve should not be made until after the Dog Policy consultation is completed.

### **Jane Donaldson – Environmental Services Unit Manager**

- The Animal Control Team are not in support of the proposal,
- There is an expectation of improved facilities for dog users especially in the light of increasing restrictions on dogs in public places under the proposed Dog Control amendments,
- The Animal Control team would expect to be consulted in any proposed relocation of the dog exercise park area.

### **Chairman's Comments:**

In light of the staff advice regarding the review of the Dog Policy, I wish to amend my recommendation as follows:

#### **Chairman's**

#### **Recommendation:**

1. That the long term vision for Styx Mill Conservation Reserve be supported subject to:
  - (a) The decision on the future of the dog park at Styx Mill Conservation Reserve being deferred until the Dog Policy consultation has been completed.
  - (b) 50% of the cost of the predator-proof fence being externally sourced.
2. That the development of the reserve be staged according to available funds.
3. That a range of funding sources be investigated.