

## 10. PROPOSAL TO RUN INSTRUCTION COURSES ON SURFBOARD RIDING AT NEW BRIGHTON BEACH

<b>Officer responsible</b> Greenspace Manager	<b>Author</b> Tony Hallams - Policy and Leasing Officer, DDI 941-8320
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The purpose of this report is to present to the Board an application for a licence to run instruction courses on surfboard riding on a part of the beach at New Brighton, and to store up to ten surfboards in one of the existing concrete changing room huts owned by the Council.

### SCOPE AND RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Under a Council Resolution dated 10 December 2001 the Community Board has delegated authority to grant a licence for the proposed activity pursuant to Section 61 of the Reserves Act 1977.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

The applicant, Mr Doug Young, seeks approval from the Council to use one of the existing changing huts next to the Whale Pool and a 20m<sup>2</sup> area of the beach at New Brighton during the summer months of November, December, January and February between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm, seven days per week, for the purposes of storing surfboards as part of running a 'learn to surf' training school. The area sought to be licensed for a three year period is shown on the plan in Appendix One.

One of the hut's doors will need to be modified to secure short-term surfboard storage when Mr Young and another instructor are on the water instructing patrons.

A brief description of the applicant's proposal has been circulated separately to Board members.

The applicant has indicated he will agree to cover any cost of modification of the existing changing room, with the work being contracted by the report writer on behalf of the Council to City Care should the application be approved.

The proposal has the support in principle of the Project Leader dealing with the New Brighton Revitalisation Master Plan, and no objection has been lodged to the proposal by the Area Head Ranger overseeing the beach foreshore area. The Project Leader has indicated that in the event of the area being developed consideration would be given to the applicant's activities and options to accommodate him accordingly, perhaps through the provision of a beach hut.

An application involving the O'Rourkes in a similar undertaking (Surfboard Riding Instruction School), was approved by the Board on 30 September 2002, although this school was to cater for foreign language students.

It is proposed that each surfboard riding lesson will last for up to two hours, and in Mr Young's words, "*will cater for tourists visiting Christchurch, along with the whole community*". Mr Young indicates in the documentation provided with the application that he holds a Surfing New Zealand Level One Coaching Accreditation, a Bachelor degree in Physical Education, a current first aid certificate, and various coaching and surf lifeguard awards. Mr Young will seek to present information at the Board meeting on the 'learn to surf programme' he wishes to implement.

It is intended that any payments by customers to attend the surf school will be handled within the hut next to the Whale Pool. Public changing facilities and showers are provided north of the Whale Pool.

### ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

#### Appropriateness of Proposed Activities in a Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

The applicant's proposal for a licence to run a surf school on a small section of beach is not inconsistent with the classification of esplanade reserve, which allows for activities that interface between land and water provided that the public access by foot is not impeded.

The Council is able to authorise the intended activity under the leasing provisions of Section 61 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The proposed activity is not considered inappropriate given the fact that surf life saving clubs along the coastline run training activities at times of a similar scope. The Council approved a similar type of proposal at New Brighton Beach in 2002.

The applicant has indicated that all monetary transactions for training courses will be directed through his residential address or inside the hut sought, with the only signage a small sandwich board placed in front of the hut during the hours of operation. The scale of the intended operation appears to be small and will most likely blend into the beach scene.

### **Public Access to 20m<sup>2</sup> of Beach Area Sought to be Licensed**

The applicant accepts that if granted a licence over a section of the beach area for the above activities the applicant would be bound by the Reserves Act 1977 in relation to esplanade reserve, which reserves the free right of public access at all times.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is considered that if permission was granted to the applicant to undertake these activities this would not impede the right of the public to pass freely over the reserve on foot. As the intended activity will bring seasonal employment and provide a business opportunity in an area that requires revitalisation it is considered that the proposal could be approved as a one-year pilot programme subject to conditions.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board approve the licensing of a changing room as a beach hut and approximately 20m<sup>2</sup> of Esplanade Reserve on which to establish a surfboard storage area and riding school in New Brighton pursuant to Section 61 of the Reserves Act 1977 as a pilot for one year, with a right of renewal for a period of two years subject to:

1. The area covered by the licence agreement (excluding the hut area), to be available for public use at all times.
2. The applicant to be responsible for any surveying cost to establish the 20m<sup>2</sup> area and site on the beach sought to be used as a surfboard riding school.
3. Any signage associated with the surf training school is to be confined to a small sandwich board only used when the school is operating.
4. The licence terms being negotiated by the Property Manager in consultation with the Parks and Waterways Unit Policy and Leasing Officer.
5. The Property Manager being authorised to administer the terms and conditions of the new licence.
6. The licensed area being maintained by the applicant in a safe and tidy condition at all times.
7. The applicant showing proof of having obtained \$1,000,000 public liability insurance before commencing any commercial activities from the site, which is to be kept current for the duration of the licence period.
8. The applicant showing proof of having a health and safety plan in place to cover the activities of the surf training school.
9. The licence agreement terminating with no compensation payable to the licensee should the licence be surrendered or terminated for any reason.
10. The applicant to obtain any necessary resource or building consents.

### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** For discussion.