

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Rod Whearty, Area Parks Officer
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The purpose of this report is to inform Board members of the forthcoming work programme on MacFarlane Park.

Background

Board members will recall that \$10,000 was allocated from 1997/98 Project Funds to continue with the development at MacFarlane Park.

Current

The Parks Unit circulated local residents in late February notifying a “Public Meeting” at the St Aidans Community Centre to discuss the development programme for the park and establish the local communities’ priorities for the continuing development.

The meeting was attended by a relatively small number of local residents. There were wide ranging views within the group as to where the priorities for further development lay, however by the end of the evening the group had reached a generalised consensus in the following areas:

1. Provision of more seating and additional rubbish bins.
2. Local residents to have opportunities to be involved in the development programme.
3. Continuation of existing planting along the fencelines.

Work Programme

In response to the feedback the proposed work programme is to install six additional seats in the section of the park that contains the sports fields, play equipment and basketball half court.

Additional planting will be undertaken in the existing shrub borders to replace plants lost through drought and vandalism over the past growing season.

The Area Parks Officer has approached the Wai Ora Trust to undertake the work on the basis that members of the local community be involved with the development work on the park as they indicated at the public meeting. There is an opportunity for them to be involved in the development under the supervision of Wai Ora.

Wai Ora Trust has indicated that they could undertake the work and would be happy to have members of the local community working alongside.

Summary

The anticipated timing for the work programme is to commence planting and seat installation towards the end of May.

The Area Parks Officer will contact the local residents interested in being involved in the development and will co-ordinate the work programme with them and Wai Ora.

The Parks Unit is keen to involve the local community in the development of MacFarlane Park and foster “ownership” and local identity with the park.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the information be received and Wai Ora Trust be thanked for their involvement in the project.