

15. NEW BRIGHTON SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB - TV REPEATER

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The purpose of this report is to enable the Board to consider a proposal to site a television repeater mast within the area leased by the New Brighton Surf Life Saving Club and make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 30 July 2001, the Board considered a report regarding a proposal by CHTV to site a television repeater mast on part of the premises leased to the New Brighton Surf Life Saving Club (a copy has been circulated separately to Board members). The report also sought the Board's endorsement to the renewal of the Surf Club's lease. The Board decided to recommend the lease renewal but defer any comment/recommendation on the TV repeater mast sublease issue pending further public consultation.

A resource consent would also be required for the installation of the television repeater mast. This is an entirely separate process.

The Board hosted a public meeting on Tuesday 14 August 2001 at the New Brighton Power Boat Club Hall to hear the community's views/concerns on the sublease proposal. Rather than report directly to the Council's August meeting the Board decided to defer making a recommendation until its September meeting to allow time for written submissions from the community. A summary of the outcomes at that meeting follows. Having regard to the community's views and written submissions received since that meeting, the Board is now asked to make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Committee's September meeting. The Surf Club site, while held by the Council in fee simple without reservation, is part of the coastal foreshore regional park.

PUBLIC MEETING 14 AUGUST 2001

The public meeting was attended by 21 members of the public including members of the New Brighton Residents' Association. Representatives of CHTV Limited and the Surf Club were in attendance to outline the sublease proposal and answer questions. Officers from the Council and a representative from the National Radiation Laboratory were also present.

The Surf Club representative noted that the proposal would be of benefit to the Club. The benefits cited include:

- Improved marine VHF coverage from the installation of antennas on the mast.
- Enhanced security for the clubrooms from lighting on the mast.
- Provision of television and radio time from CHTV Limited to promote the Surf Club, which may result in increased membership and, thereby, improved surf lifesaving services to the public.

The Surf Club would lose at least one car park but there would be no restrictions imposed. The Surf Club is satisfied that no harmful effects would result from the mast.

The CHTV Limited representative stated that the mast is needed to relay the Now TV channel signal from Marleys Hill to viewers in the north facing slopes of St Andrews, Richmond, Balmoral and Sumner Hill, as well as the Scarborough, Redcliffs, Clifton and Moncks Bay areas. The company has received advice that the proposed site is the best available for this purpose. The company wishes to promote local activities on the channel and promoting the Surf Club would be one way of supporting the local community.

Information on the radiation produced from a repeater mast was provided by the representative from the National Radiation Laboratory. The mast would emit the main signal in the shape of a beam towards the viewing areas, with low amounts of power directed towards the ground. The maximum estimated exposure would be approximately one two-hundredth of generally accepted international safety standards and exposure in the nearest residential area would be approximately one two-thousandth of the standards.

Almost all of the residents who spoke at the meeting raised concerns about the sublease proposal. The matters raised include:

- Potential visual and radiation impact within a residential and recreational area, including the nearby playground.
- Fears that “safe” radiation levels may still affect babies and young children, pregnant women, sick people and the elderly.
- A possible cumulative radiation effect from cellphone towers in the area.
- Possible negative effect on nearby property values.
- Incompatibility of the mast with the future vision for development of the foreshore.
- Whether such a structure is permitted under the Coastal Park Management Plan.
- The desirability of investigating alternative sites or cable options for getting the signal to the viewers.

One resident spoke in favour of the benefits of getting local television to the community and described possible radiation effects as a ‘red herring’.

The Council process for making a decision on the sublease proposal was outlined to the meeting attendees.

It has subsequently been confirmed that the Coastal Management Plan dated December 1995, reviewed June 2000, is silent on the issue of structures permitted or otherwise.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

The opportunity to make written submissions was noted at the public meeting and advertised in The Press, The Star and in a notice distributed in the Central New Brighton area.

Copies of any written submissions received on the proposal are to be circulated to Board members prior to the Board meeting.

Recommendation: That the Board, taking into account public views and submissions received, make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a decision of the Council as landowner on the proposed sublease to CHTV Limited for a television repeater mast.

Chairperson’s Recommendation: That the Board do not support the proposed sublease to CHTV Limited for a TV repeater mast because of its impact on landscape and amenity values in the coastal parks area.