

12. BOULDER BAY PUBLIC TOILET DEFERRAL

Officer responsible
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval to defer the construction of a public toilet at Boulder Bay, Godley Head and to reallocate the funding to upgrading the Barnett Park public toilet and pavilion.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A proposal for Christchurch City Council to install a public toilet on Department of Conservation land at Boulder Bay, Godley Head, was reported to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board and the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee in 2002. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board decided to recommend to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee that the project be deleted from the 2001/02 capital expenditure programme and the funding be reallocated to new toilets at Cave Rock, Sumner. The Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee resolved at its meeting on 8 May 2002 to defer the decision until full consultation with all user groups on the need for a toilet block had been undertaken.
3. Two options were considered:
 - (a) Status quo of no public toilet at Boulder Bay
 - (b) Construction of a public toilet at Boulder Bay
4. Recent public consultation includes that undertaken by park rangers and for the Port Hills Recreation Strategy and for the draft Awaroa/Godley Head Coastal Park development concept document. During the peak season of December to January a track counter revealed an average of 90 people per day visited Boulder Bay. From mid-January to mid-February an average of 16 people per day was recorded. Over two consecutive weekends in February 2003, 28 visitors using the Boulder Bay walkway completed a questionnaire regarding facilities in the area. Generally visitors were happy with the level of facilities; two respondents expressed the need for public toilets at Boulder Bay. The draft Port Hills Recreation Strategy of 2004 found that in general people were happy with the level of service in this area of the Port Hills. The draft Awaroa/Godley Head Coastal Park development concept document referred to proposed or existing public facilities at Boulder Bay. Five submissions specifically supported this.
5. The Council is shortly to consult the community regarding the provision of public toilet facilities throughout the city as part of the Water and Sanitary Services Special Assessments required under the Local Government Act 2002.
6. Having considered the results of the aforementioned public consultation and assessed the options it is recommended that option (a) be adopted. A public toilet is supported and likely to be required here in the future but would not be installed now based on current visitor numbers and their satisfaction level. This option is also appropriate given the draft status of the Awaroa/Godley Head Coastal Park development concept document and the pending review of the Council's public toilet provision.
7. The lack of a public toilet may result in visitors relieving themselves where they can and will continue to dissatisfy some Boulder Bay bach holders who experience these consequences and public requests to use their own private toilets.
8. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board resolved at its 15 December 2004 meeting to recommend to the Council:

"that the construction of a public toilet at Boulder Bay, Godley Head be deferred with future provision reviewed through planning initiatives that will feed into the 2006/07 LTCCP."

and

"that the Barnett Park public amenity project in the Hagley/Ferrymead ward be allocated the \$33,226 of funding."

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Funding of \$33,226 for a public toilet at Boulder Bay has been carried forward since the 2001/02 financial year. Under option (a) some funds could be spent on signage at the track entrances at Taylor's Mistake and at the end of the Godley Head Road, where there are public toilets, stating that there are no public toilets at Boulder Bay. The remaining funds could be reallocated to the Barnett Park public amenity project as identified by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board. Funds for a public toilet at Boulder Bay could be identified in the next LTCCP if this was supported through future strategic planning initiatives.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Defer the construction of a public toilet at Boulder Bay, Godley Head and review future provision through planning initiatives that will feed into the 2006/07 LTCCP.
- (b) Reallocate the \$33,226 for signage identifying no public toilets at Boulder Bay and for the Barnett Park public toilet and pavilion upgrade.