

GROW PAEKAKARIKI - public meeting with the Paekakariki community, 31 January 2013

Present:

Paul Hughes (author and originator of concept), Don Hunn (chair), Janet Holborow (chair of Paekakariki Community Board), Cr Nigel Wilson (regional councillor on GWRC), and about 45 members of the community including two members of the Perkins family.

Resolved unanimously:

The meeting affirmed in principle the concept for the future of the former Perkins family farm as outlined in the "Grow Paekakariki" paper (GP paper) of 11 December 2012 (author Paul Hughes), and is comfortable with a Working Group being set up to make decisions and take the necessary Next Steps. *(Possible action points for the Working Group to follow in parentheses.)*

Perkins family statement

- Support in principle the GP paper, and will do what they can to advance the actions. They note that the GP paper does not consider rural fire aspects which will become particularly important as the land is retired, and the grass gets longer.
- Would like the woolshed and the area surrounding it to be preserved as a historic precinct. If it cannot be kept where it is situated, would like it to be relocated to Whareroa farm.
- NZTA plan to level the brick fuel tank. This is of concern to the family.
- The Ixion Motorcycle Club needs to be consulted. They are not welcome on Whareroa Farm or Queen Elizabeth Park. They need a place to exercise, and have satisfactorily used the Perkins farm to date.
- Not against investigation into a site for Paekakariki windmills.
- A small rifle range for recreational shooters should be considered.
- Land adjacent to Tilley Road north would make a bigger and better area for sports grounds, and this would help with the flow of traffic in Tilley Road, northern end.

Feedback on the GP paper from local groups

Walking /Cycling / Bridleways Advisory Group (Jan Nisbet)

Sees this as a wonderful opportunity for walking, bush tracks, and bridle tracks along the skyline; could provide a linkage to the new cycle way likely to be built alongside the intended Mckays Crossing to Pekapeka Expressway. This is an opportunity to provide a tramping access through to the Akatarawa Regional Park. Support the concept and work out the detail later. Would like to see the re-vegetation of the FlyBy Gully (Waikakariki Stream).

Nga Ururoa (Ken Fraser)

Very keen to become involved in the re-forestation of Perkins farm, especially along the escarpment, and the Waikakariki stream and Hairpin Bend. Would like to do something similar to the work on the route alongside the railway line; have 14 years experience, understand what is successful in this area. Could also act in an advisory capacity to others. Control of weeds is very important.

Community Gardens (Flo McNeill)

The group which has been in existence since 2012, has developed a vision statement and 9 objectives. While community gardens have been mentioned as a

part use alongside the sports ground for the land at the northern end of Tilley Road, this is small area with possible soil contamination from its previous use as a women's bowling club. The Neighbourhood Park in the GP paper fits in with the vision very well as it would provide for an orchard, and tree grafting nursery. The group has not translated its vision into actual acreage.

Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park (John Porter)

There is a parcel of land in the northern triangle, west of the railway line which has no access except through Q E Park. The Friends are in favour of it being added to the Park. Discussed that the riparian strips along the streams in the triangle would be required of any new owner by the GWRC to be set aside. There was some discussion as to whether the width of the streams, e.g. Wainui stream, met the criteria for riparian strips to be required. (*Action - To check*).

The Friends' key concern was who was going to pay for this land to be in public ownership? Ideas: DOC unlikely to want to buy it. NZTA – a possible land swap? KCDC – how to persuade KCDC?

A Windmill for Paekakariki (Graham Coe)

This concept is in its very initial stages (3 people exploring it). Would first have to put up a single test tower first to establish if sufficient power could be generated. The most likely site was located on a planning map. It would not be visible from the village. Would like to see the most suitable land for a windmill transferred from NZTA to another public body. Which?

Greater Wellington Regional Council (Cr Nigel Wilson)

This has not been discussed by the regional councillors.

The Park Manager officer - Amanda Cox - perspective was: GWRC was not interested in buying land, there was an interest in a DOC land exchange if that were possible – possibly Poplar Ave land; negotiations with NZTA over RONS issues are on-going, and Perkins farm could be raised in that context. (*Action – Get copy of Amanda Cox's email to Nigel Wilson*)

Paekakariki Community Board (Janet Holborow)

No comment yet.

Iwi

Iwi were invited but were not able to attend this meeting, but they may have an interest particularly because of past land settlements and agreements. This needs to be borne in mind.

Para-gliding interests

Nobody present.

Other points for the Working Group to consider

1. Some concern over the name "Grow Paekakariki" was expressed. Stressed that this was not about the population or physical growth of the village, but rather it was about growing our natural endowment i.e. restoring the natural landscape, environmental, ecological, and spiritual values in the vicinity of Paekakariki village. What is proposed also has historical aspects because of the significance of a number of sites within the farm. (*Action – reconsider the use of the word "Grow", or alternatively provide a more explicit by-line underneath the name.*)
2. If the Grow Paekakariki group needed a formal legal body (e.g. an incorporated society or trust), the suggestion was made to use the existing Community Trust, with

a sub committee set up particularly for the purposed of managing funds on behalf of the project.

3. An independent Working Group is to be set up, with possibly about 6 people to make it work; and to have an action focus. Attendees were asked to nominate themselves on the forms being circulated. The structure needs to be thought through. *(Action – consider the most appropriate structure for the group going forward.)*
4. Contact with NZTA - Important for there to be one point of contact for the community via the Working Group to NZTA. The Working Group would assume responsibility for co-ordinating the combined efforts of the various interests. *(Action – work out a protocol for dialogue and liaison with the different interest groups)*
5. KCDC Proposed District Plan Submissions close 1 March. *(Action – ensure that the Proposed District Plan provides for the opportunities sought by the meeting, preserves historical sites, and limits subdivision as much as possible. Possibly make a submission, even if this is just an endorsement. Would be useful to see NZTA's submission on Proposed District Plan.)*
6. Communication and Distribution of information back to the village needs to be considered. Suggestions: - use the web page already set up by Paul Hughes, Janet Holborow's email list, use the library notice board. *(Action – draw up a Communications Plan).*

Summary

There was sufficient confidence for Paul Hughes with the Working Group to make some revisions to the GP paper, and engage with NZTA. There was a strong wish to take responsibility ourselves, and put proposals forward, rather than later having to react later to larger public bodies and private interests. There was also going to be a need to engage formally with KCDC at later point, possibly through the Paekakariki Community Board.