

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Hearings and Engagement Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 22 August 2023
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Council Chamber and Audio Visual Link
Venue: Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Lance Vervoort
Chief Executive

Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa

OPEN AGENDA

(Ashurst Park Partial Reclassification)

Membership

Chairperson Cr Mark Donovan
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr Ewan Wilson
Heamana Tuarua

Members	Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary	Cr Anna Casey-Cox
	Cr Maxine van Oosten	Cr Melaina Huaki
	Cr Moko Tauariki	Cr Geoff Taylor
	Cr Louise Hutt	Cr Andrew Bydder

Meeting frequency As required

Quorum Three members (for matters relating to those functions in paragraph 3 and 4 of the TOR or a majority of members (including vacancies) for all other functions).

Amy Viggers
Mana Whakahaere
Governance Lead

11 August 2023

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www.hamilton.govt.nz

Purpose

1. To conduct fair and effective hearings and make determinations on a range of the Council's quasi-judicial functions under legislation and other matters as referred to the Committee.
2. To convene and coordinate advisory groups or panels on matters referred by other Committees.

<i>The Regulatory and Hearings Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:</i>

Terms of Reference:

3. Hear and determine any statutory or regulatory hearings under relevant legislation unless otherwise delegated by Council, including (but without limitation):
 - objections under the Dog Control Act 1996; **see special note*
 - matters regarding drainage and works on private land under the Local Government Act 1974 and Local Government Act 2002;
 - proposals for temporary closure of any road. **see special note*
4. Consider and determine traffic and speed limit related matters, including those detailed in the Traffic Bylaw and Speed Management Plan, including hearing any submissions relating to those proposed changes. **see special note*
5. Hear and determine matters arising under current bylaws and policies, including applications for dispensation from compliance with the requirements of bylaws or policies, unless such matters are otherwise delegated by Council.
6. Hear and determine other matters that require hearings or submissions, as referred by Council or other Committees.

The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:

- Approval of matters determined by the Committee within its Terms of Reference.
- Approval of the establishment of hearings panels and their terms of reference.

The Committee is delegated the following recommendatory powers:

- The Committee may make recommendations to the Council.
- The Committee may make recommendations to Committees.

Special Notes:

- The Committee may request expert advice through the Chief Executive when necessary.
- The Committee may appoint additional members for hearings where the relevant terms of reference specify the requirement for expert or external representation.
- The following Hearings Panels have been established:
 - Dog Control Hearings Panel
 - Traffic, Speed Limit and Road Closure Hearings Panel

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1 Apologies – *Tono aroha*

2 Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

The Committee to confirm the agenda.

3 Declaration of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga*

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Council Report

Item 4

Committee: Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Date: 22 August 2023

Author: Arnold Andrews

Authoriser: Michelle Hawthorne

Position: Governance Advisor

Position: Governance and Assurance Manager

Report Name: Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Open Minutes of 26 April 2023

Report Status	Open
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Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 26 April 2023 as a true and correct record.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Regulatory and Hearings Committee Open Unconfirmed Minutes 26 April 2023

Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee held in Committee Room One Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton and via Audio Visual Link on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 9.33am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr M Donovan

Heamana

Members Deputy Mayor A O'Leary
 Cr A Bydder
 Cr A Casey-Cox
 Cr L Hutt (via zoom)
 Cr M Tauariki
 Cr M van Oosten

In Attendance: Mayor P Southgate
 Cr S Thompson (via zoom)
 Eeva-Liisa Wright – General Manager Infrastructure Operations
 Raewyn Simpson – Senior Planner
 Kyall Foley – Environmental Policy Analyst
 Ross Wightman – Compliance Manager

Governance Team: Amy Viggers - Governance Lead
 Nicholas Hawtin - Governance Advisor

1. **Apologies – *Tono aroha***
Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr van Oosten)
 That the apologies for absence from Cr Huaki and Cr Wilson are accepted.
2. **Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***
Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr A Casey-Cox)
 That the agenda is confirmed.
3. **Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***
 No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.
4. **Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee meeting Open Minutes of 5 December 2022**
Resolved: (Cr van Oosten/Cr Casey-Cox)
 That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2022 as a true and correct record.

4. Hamilton Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw Engagement Report

[Roderick Aldridge](#) spoke to his submission and presentation (**Appendix 1**) which requested Council change approach to trade waste water to be a coordinated positive future focused approach to change.

[James Court \(Mark Laurenson, 4Sight Consulting Limited, on behalf of Fuel Companies\)](#) spoke to their submission and presentation (**Appendix 2**) on the financial/health and safety concerns created by proposed bylaw, in particular the reporting requirements of the discharge of their car washes and cafes. They responded to questions from Elected Members concerning cumulative pollution impacts.

The Environmental Policy Analyst outlined the staff report and spoke to matters raised by submitters. He responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the future review of the Cemeteries and Crematorium Bylaw 2012.

Elected Members requested the following matters be addressed in the deliberations report:

- the requests from fuel company to reduce reporting requirement
- If Hamilton City Council was an outlier in regards to trade waste water reporting requirements;
- the cumulative impact of pollution from trade waste;
- the current levels of compliance impact;
- Level of compliance between existing users verses newly granted users;
- Example of a conditional consent;
- Examples of reduction of waste water at source;
- the impact on residential and commercial water waste users.

Resolved: (Deputy Mayor O’Leary/Mayor Southgate)

That the Hearings and Engagement Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers submissions to the draft Hamilton Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw; and
- c) notes that the Deliberations Report will be considered at the 30 May 2023 Infrastructure and Transport Committee meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 10:18am

Appendix 1**Draft Tradewaste and Wastewater Treatment Review****Oral submission support document**

I thank the Council for the opportunity to suggest improvements to the Tradewaste and Wastewater Treatment Review.

I speak as a private Hamilton citizen who wants to ensure a better future for us all.

I seem to be the first speaker. I would like to set the tone of the hearing today by suggesting measures that have wins for us all.

Since I made my submission, Cyclone Gabrielle and other extreme weather events have shown that more than minor changes are needed urgently to protect our waterways and their wildlife from harm. Clearly we need to help businesses and citizens to avoid generating (toxic) wastewater in the first place or failing that, to treat it to remove toxicity before it can enter our waterways.

In my submission I supported the Council's reasons for updating the Tradewaste and Wastewater Treatment Bylaw, in particular, to give effect to

"Te Ture Whaimana (also known as the Vision and Strategy of the Waikato River) is the primary direction setting document for activities that affect the Waikato River. It encompasses the vision for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come."

I pointed out that:

"The Bylaw therefore needs more than a minor update. It needs to include proactive measures to avoid generating wastewater in the first place."

And that:

"Given the recent postponing of the Three Waters Reform until after the election the updated Bylaw will apply for an indefinite period."

There is a Chinese proverb that says something like this:

"When is the best time to plant a tree? Answer: 20 years ago.

When is the second best time to plant a tree? Answer: Now."

The best time to have invested in a proactive wastewater system would have been 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

My suggestions for doing things sooner and better:

Change the way we see things:

A problem with what we are doing now is also an opportunity to do things differently and better.

What is a cost now can be an investment in the future with a return better than any alternative investment – especially if you compare it with the cost of another extreme event.

What is waste to one business can be a resource for another business. Work with businesses to find these opportunities. Promote a circular economy.

Coordinate changes to the wastewater system with other positive changes to get positive feedback.

For example when the stormwater system is "daylighted" and a wetland is restored, the wastewater

system could also be upgraded - with its own natural or artificial wetlands if appropriate - and the advantages explained to the affected businesses and citizens.

Use natural/biological systems which depend only on energy from the sun rather than relying on technological systems which depend on fossil fuels which are being rapidly depleted. For example, cooperate with other local authorities, government bodies, businesses and the public to restore wetlands throughout the catchment to slow and filter out harmful chemicals and excess nutrients before they can enter waterways. Don't confine them to channels and rush them downstream to flood the waterway downstream. Technical solutions always have limits which can be exceeded by extreme events with catastrophic consequences as we have seen.

I invite Councillors and everybody to come up with your own ideas to create positive feedback.

Roderick Aldridge

Appendix 2



HCC Trade Waste & Wastewater Quality Bylaw

James Court / April 2023

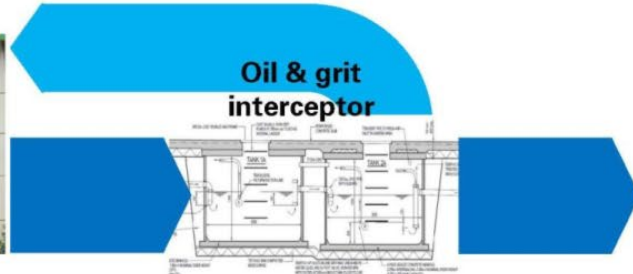


Agenda

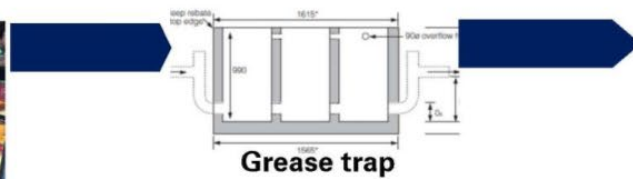
- Overview of service station trade waste discharges
 - Activities – Car wash, Café
 - Treatment devices and programmed maintenance
 - Discharge Quality
- Trade Waste Bylaw Issues

Trade waste discharges from service stations

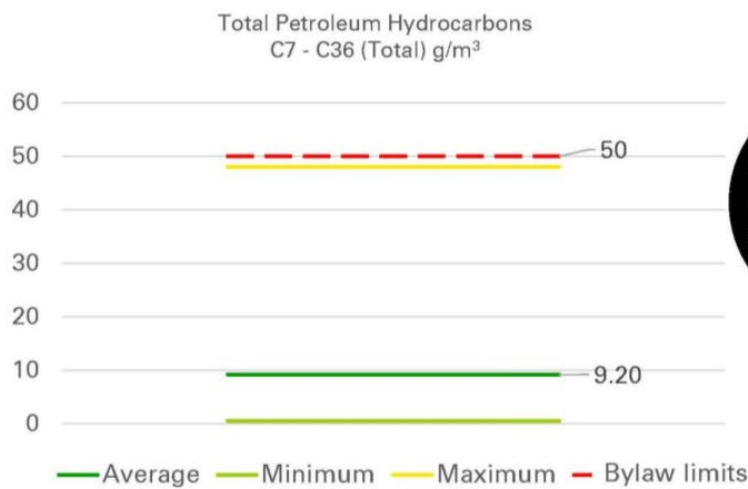
1. Carwash



2. Cafe

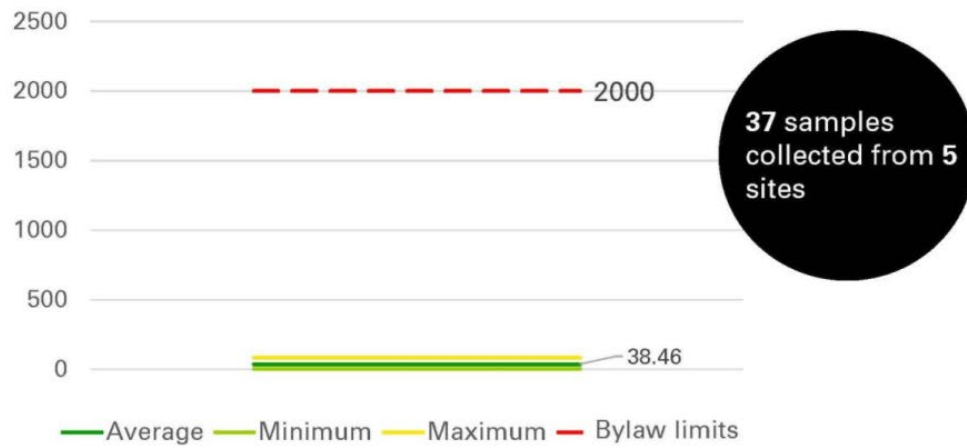


Carwash Discharge Quality

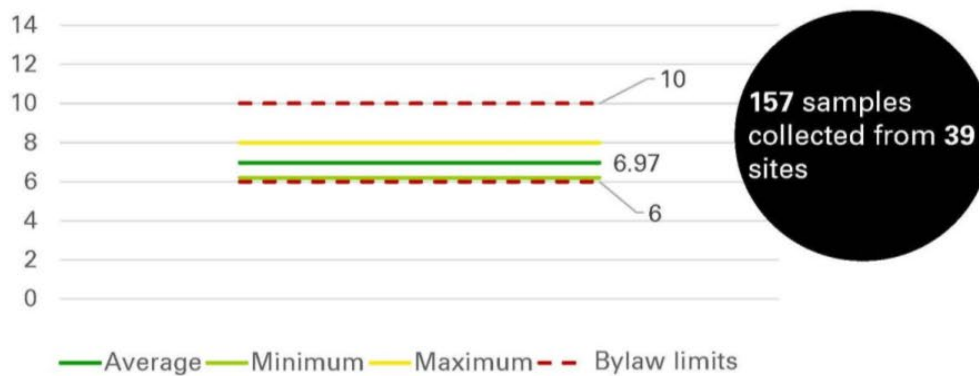


163 samples
collected from 39
sites

Total suspended solids g/m³

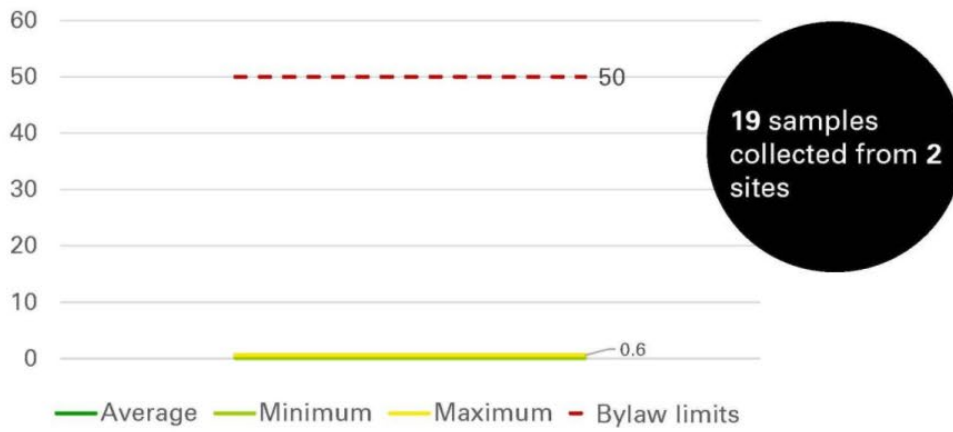


pH



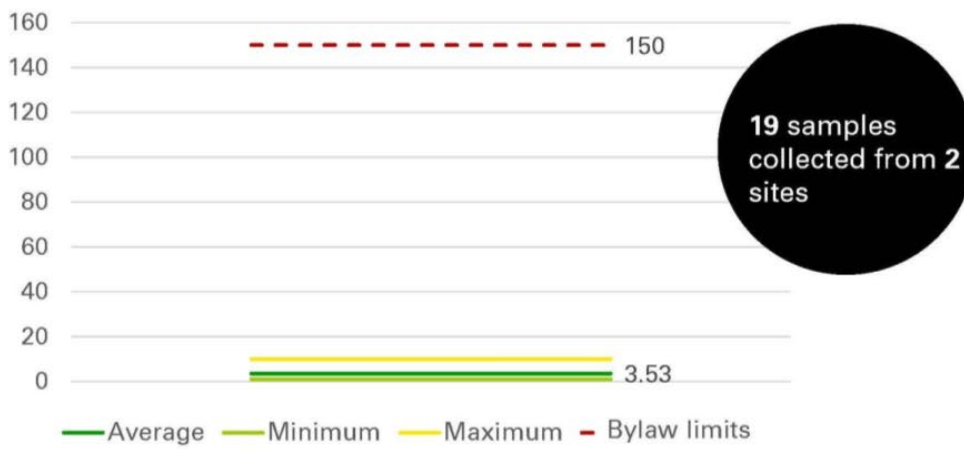
Attachment 1

Total phosphorus g/m³



Item 4

Total Nitrogen (TKN) g/m³



cBOD g/m³



Why a submission on the Bylaw?

- Onerous sampling and reporting requirements
 - Quarterly sampling events
 - Quarterly reporting
 - Trade waste management plan
 - Cleaner production plans
 - 24 hour composite sampling
- Inconsistent with other bylaws

Council Report

Committee: Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Date: 22 August 2023

Author: Aimee Haycock

Authoriser: Helen Paki

Position: Parks Planner

Position: General Manager Customer and Community

Report Name: Ashurst Park Partial Reclassification

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Regulatory and Hearings Committee about submissions received through public engagement on the proposal to reclassify a portion of Ashurst Park from Recreation Reserve to Local Purpose (Community Facilities) Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:
 - a) receives the report;
 - b) hears and considers verbal submissions arising from the submission period between 20 June and 21 July 2023; and
 - c) notes that a deliberations report will be presented to the Community and Natural Environments Committee on 26 October 2023.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. The process to reclassify a portion of Ashurst Park to Local Purpose (Community Facility) Reserve was initiated so that a proposal to establish a new community facility would align with its Reserves Act classification, and so that Council could consider a new lease for the Pukete Neighbourhood House.
4. As part of the reclassification process, public consultation was undertaken from 20 June - 21 July 2023.
5. During the consultation period, Council received 282 submissions which are available on the 'Have Your Say' site [here](#). 166 of the submissions were in support of the reclassification, 106 were opposed, and 10 did not answer the question or have a view. Thirty-two submitters have indicated that they would like to make a verbal submission.
6. Although the proposal has had a moderate level of public interest, the proposal to reclassify the park is considered to have low significance, and the recommendations comply with Council's legal requirements.

Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

7. The Pukete Neighbourhood House (PNH) has been operating out of the Te Rapa Sportsdrome since 2005 but has outgrown the space available.
8. PNH provides the community with services including:
 - i. before and after school care and holiday programmes;
 - ii. regular activities such as craft, music, exercise and book exchange;
 - iii. meeting rooms for community groups;
 - iv. venue for community services such as legal advice and a Justice of the Peace;
 - v. community support such as food security assistance.
9. Council staff commissioned a business case (available within the agenda linked below), which identified that this space within Ashurst Park is the best location for a purpose-built community facility for PNH to operate from.
10. Elected Members approved the proposed new build at the 18 April 2023 meeting [[Agenda](#), [Minutes](#)].
11. Ashurst Park is currently classified wholly as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act). Under section 54 of the Act, Council can only grant leases on recreation reserves for recreation and sporting activities and for purposes complementary to the public use and enjoyment of the reserve.
12. The process to reclassify a portion of Ashurst Park to Local Purpose (Community Facilities) Reserve was initiated to ensure the proposed new activity aligns with its classification under the Reserves Act. The reclassification is also required for a lease to be granted to Pukete Neighbourhood House (PNH).
13. The Community and Natural Environments Committee approved public consultation of the proposed reclassification at the 18 April 2023 meeting [[Agenda](#), [Minutes](#)].

Discussion - *Matapaki*

Public notification and engagement

14. A proposal to reclassify a reserve must be publicly notified under Section 24 of the Reserves Act 1977, and left open for submissions for 1 month. During the submission period, every person claiming to be affected by the proposed change of classification has the right to object the change.
15. The proposal to reclassify a portion of Ashurst Park was publicly notified in the Waikato Times on 20 June and was open for submissions from 20 June - 21 July 2023, in alignment with sections 24 and 119 of the Act.
16. Public engagement of this reclassification also included:
 - i. an article on Council's website;
 - ii. an online information session, held on 27 June 2023;
 - iii. Facebook posts on the Residents of St Andrews, Pukete and Neighbours page;
 - iv. emails to local schools and sports clubs/groups;
 - v. consultation with Mana Whenua.

Submissions

17. Council received a total of 292 submissions through both the Have Your Say platform or by hard copy. Ten submissions were written by submitters responding multiple times. These 10 submissions have been collated so that each submitter only has 1 response against their name. Of the resulting 282 submissions, 30 were from organisations and representatives of local groups.

18. Thirty-two submitters have requested to provide a verbal submission. The written and verbal submissions will be analysed and reported on as part of the deliberations report presented to the Community and Natural Environments Committee on 26 October 2023. An analysis of the written submissions is included in the Submissions Insights and Engagement Report (**Attachment 1**).

Key themes from submissions

Levels of support for the reclassification

19. Of the 282 respondents (59%), 166 supported the reclassification. There were 106 respondents (38%) who submitted in opposition to the change. Seven (2%) were unsure or did not have a view on the reclassification and three (1%) did not answer this question.

Support for the proposal

20. The key themes from the respondents who supported the proposal, when asked to explain their positions were that:
- i. They support Pukete Neighbourhood House (PNH) receiving a new facility;
 - ii. They believe the proposal will benefit the community;
 - iii. They consider the proposal will increase community engagement;
 - iv. They believe the proposal will result in increased visibility and accessibility of PNH;
 - v. The facility may reduce anti-social behaviour, and some submitters advised they would feel safer using the park;
 - vi. Some submitters would enjoy having a café facility alongside the playground;
 - vii. There will be increased event space available to the community.

Concerns raised about the proposal

21. The key themes from the respondents who were not supportive of the proposal, when asked to explain their positions, were that:
- i. They support the community house, but do not support the proposed location;
 - ii. They have a desire to preserve green spaces and protect biodiversity;
 - iii. They are concerned about the potential for increased traffic;
 - iv. They are concerned about the potential for increased anti-social behaviour;
 - v. They are concerned about the potential for increased noise levels;
 - vi. The building will negatively impact neighbours views into the park;
 - vii. The building will reduce the openness of the green space;
 - viii. They do not support the removal of the existing playground (some also noting concerns around a smaller replacement playground, or the time without a playground during its replacement).

Suggestions received through consultation

22. During the submission period, some respondents left suggestions for how to improve the reclassification or make improvements through construction, such as:
- i. Build the community house by Church Road rather than Ashurst Avenue;
 - ii. Expand the current PNH venue attached to the Te Rapa Sportsdrome instead;
 - iii. Increase the amount of parking spaces, both for cars and bicycles;
 - iv. Decrease the amount of parking space;
 - v. Make the Community Facility larger than proposed;
 - vi. Allow volunteers to work within the community garden;
 - vii. Use the wood from the removed trees during construction to create park benches;
 - viii. Upgrade the Te Rapa Sportsdrome as well;
 - ix. Construct more sporting facilities within Hamilton.

23. Staff note that some of the suggestions do not refer to the proposed reclassification or facility and are therefore out of scope.
24. An alternative location would require a new reclassification process to be undertaken.

Mana Whenua feedback

25. Emails were sent to mana whenua prior to the opening of the submission period to advise of the proposal, the reclassification process, and gauge the level of involvement sought within the reclassification process. All parties advised that while they were interested in the proposal and project itself, they did not require any further information regarding the reclassification.

Next Steps

26. The process steps are outlined in the table below:

Meeting Date	Report	Committee	Notes
18 April 2023	Decision to build a purpose-built community facility and to publicly notify reclassification	Community and Natural Environments Committee	Publicly notify for a period of 1 month. Report contained proposal to reclassify portion of Ashurst Park.
22 August 2023	Hearings Report	Regulatory and Hearings Committee	Purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider submissions received during the 20 June to 21 July submission period.
26 October 2023	Deliberations Report	Community and Natural Environments Committee	The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of submissions and respond to matters raised at the hearing from Members.

27. If the Community and Natural Environments Committee approves the reclassification at the 26 October 2023 meeting, the Council's Chief Executive, acting under delegation, will decide on behalf of the Minister of Conservation whether to approve the reclassification. If a decision is made by Council's Chief Executive to approve the reclassification, a notice will be published in the Gazette.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

28. The reclassification is a regular operating activity funded through the Long Term Plan.
29. The cost of carrying out the consultation for the reclassification was approximately \$5,000 including advertising, staff costs and printing.
30. The PNH project itself is being funded through a different budget line and has not been included in the financial considerations of this report.

Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

31. Staff confirm that the staff recommendations comply with Council's legal and policy requirements.

Climate Change Impact Statement

- 32. Staff have assessed this option against the Climate Change Policy for both emissions and climate change adaptation.
- 33. Staff have determined no adaptation assessment is required.
- 34. Staff have determined no emissions assessment is required.

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

- 35. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
- 36. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
- 37. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Social

- 38. The partial reclassification of Ashurst Park provides an opportunity for increased social interaction and participation within the community through the provision of more purposeful and accessible community facilities. It is noted that PNH already provides a wide range of community services from their current location within the Te Rapa Sportsdrome, however operating out of a purpose-built facility that is easily accessible by those residents who need to access them, will allow PNH to better serve their community.

Economic

- 39. Having the new community facility within the surrounding residential community may bring value by increasing vibrancy and attractiveness to the space. The community centre has the potential to create greater economic activity through the establishment of a café space that is proposed within the centre.

Environmental

- 40. The construction of the new community facility involves the removal of some mature exotic trees, however the project team intend to replace these with native vegetation.

Cultural

- 41. The hearings provide individuals and communities with an opportunity to discuss how the reclassification has an impact on their ability to retain, interpret and express their cultural values. Community houses bring cultural benefits to the users by allowing an opportunity for cultural expression, and by providing a meeting space for members of the community to gather.
- 42. Waikato Tainui, Ngaati Wairere and Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa (THaWK) have been consulted with directly on the proposal. No submissions have been received from them, however email correspondence has confirmed their general support for the proposal. All parties seek the opportunity to be further involved in the design process with the project team.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

- 43. There are no known risks associated with the hearing itself, however there is a political risk with the decision in that there is a high level of interest amongst a group of residents who are opposed to the proposed location for the new community facility.

Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui*

Significance

44. Given the statutory requirement to consult, staff have not considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy to assess the significance of recommendation(s) in this report.

Engagement

45. There is a statutory requirement to consult as per legislation outlined below.
46. Engagement has been undertaken in accordance with Sections 24 and 119 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Submissions Insights and Engagement Report

Item 5



ASHURST PARK RECLASSIFICATION: INSIGHTS REPORT

Report prepared by:
Piper Shields, Research and Insights Advisor
Elsa Bredenkamp, Communication and Engagement Advisor
July, 2023.

Report reviewed by:
Tegan Andrews; Senior Research and Insights Advisor; Partnerships, Communication and Maaori
Dan Silverton; Communication & Engagement Manager; Partnerships, Communication and Maaori
July, 2023.

SUBMISSIONS INSIGHTS

Council is proposing to change the classification of the portion of Ashurst Park from Recreation Reserve to Local Purpose (Community Facility) Reserve under Section 24 of the Reserves Act 1977. This is to allow for a new purpose-built facility community space to be established on the southeast corner of the Ashurst Park; while this will be a multifunctional space for the whole community, its primary purpose is to be a home to Pukete Neighbourhood House - Te Whare Takiwa o Pukete.

The aim of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed reclassification of a portion of Ashurst Park. Alongside this, Council used this engagement to better understand how the community currently uses the park, and how this proposed change may impact their activities in the park.

This survey was available for the wider Hamilton community, but specifically targeted towards those who live in around Ashurst Park and those who have a connection to the Pukete Neighbourhood House or Te Rapa Sportsdrome.

The online survey was hosted on Have Your Say. The survey link was distributed to stakeholders using letter drops, social media community group posts and targeted emails. The wider community could also access the survey via hardcopies from local libraries and the Council building.

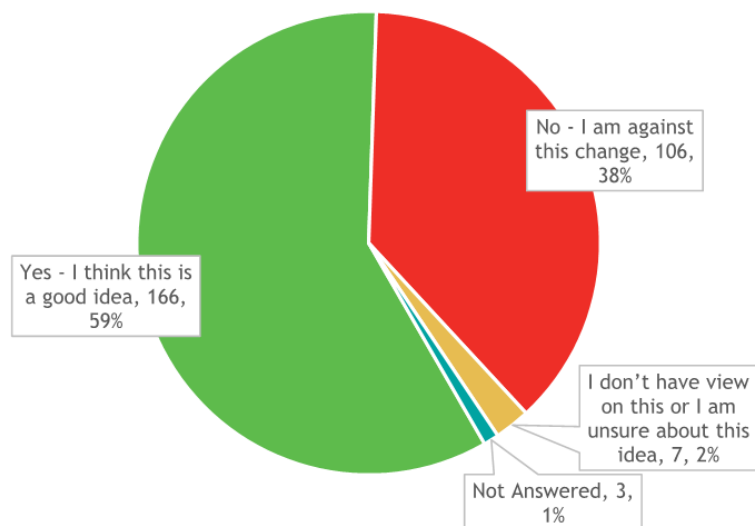
We received a total of 292 responses to the online survey. Of these, 10 were written by submitters responding multiple times – these have thus been condensed so each submitter only has one response, leaving the survey with a total of 282 responses. Of these 282 responses, 30 were from organisations and representatives of local groups.

FEEDBACK THROUGH SUBMISSION FORMS (ONLINE & PAPER COPY)

Levels of support for the reclassification

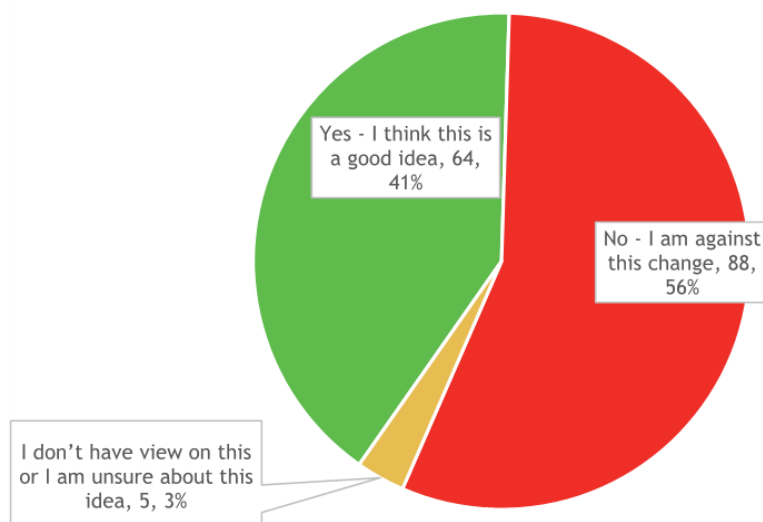
166 of the 282 respondents (59%) supported the reclassification. 106 respondents (38%) opposed the reclassification. Seven (2%) were unsure about or did not have an opinion on the reclassification, and three (1%) did not answer the question.

Do you support the partial reclassification of a section of Ashurst Park from Recreation Reserve to Local Purpose (Community Facility) Reserve



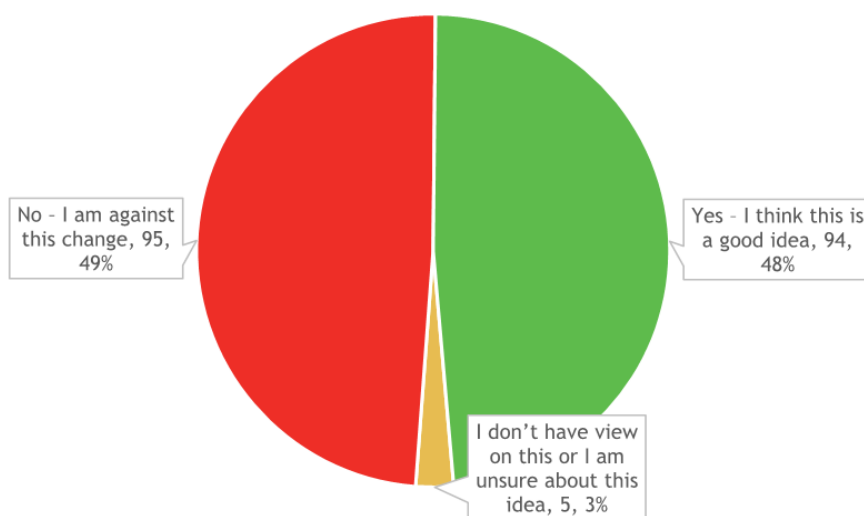
Residents of Pukete were more likely to oppose the reclassification. While only 38% (n = 106) of all respondents opposed the reclassification, 56% of Pukete residents (n = 88) were in opposition.

Do you support the partial reclassification of a section of Ashurst Park? - Pukete residents only



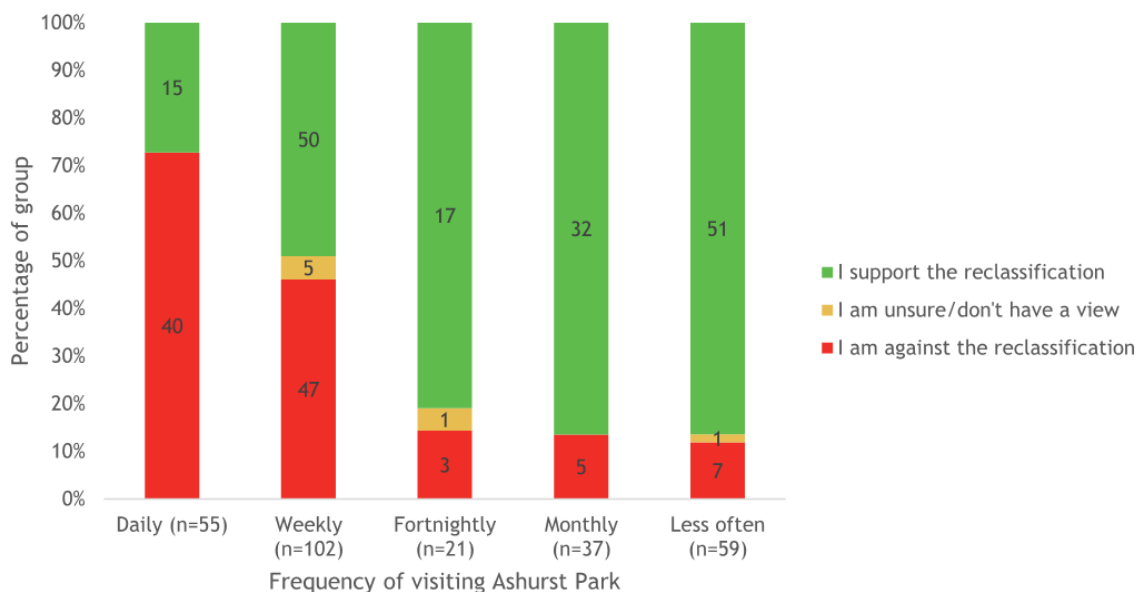
Results from those in the Pukete Neighbourhood House (PNH) catchment area are mixed. The PNH catchment area was defined using the current distribution of the PNH newsletter; based on this, the PNH catchment area therefore encompasses Pukete, Flagstaff, Queenwood and St Andrews. Of the 194 respondents who reside in one of these suburbs, 94 (48%) supported the reclassification, and 95 (49%) opposed it.

Do you support the partial reclassification of a section of Ashurst Park? - PNH catchment area only



Frequent visitors to the park were less likely to support the reclassification. Only 27% (15 of 55) of those who visited the park daily supported the reclassification, compared to 86% (32 of 37) of those who visited the park monthly. It is worth noting that these differences could be attributed to the small size of each group. Note that those who did not answer how frequently they visited Ashurst Park were excluded from the graph below (n = 7).

Support for or opposition to the reclassification, by frequency of visiting Ashurst Park



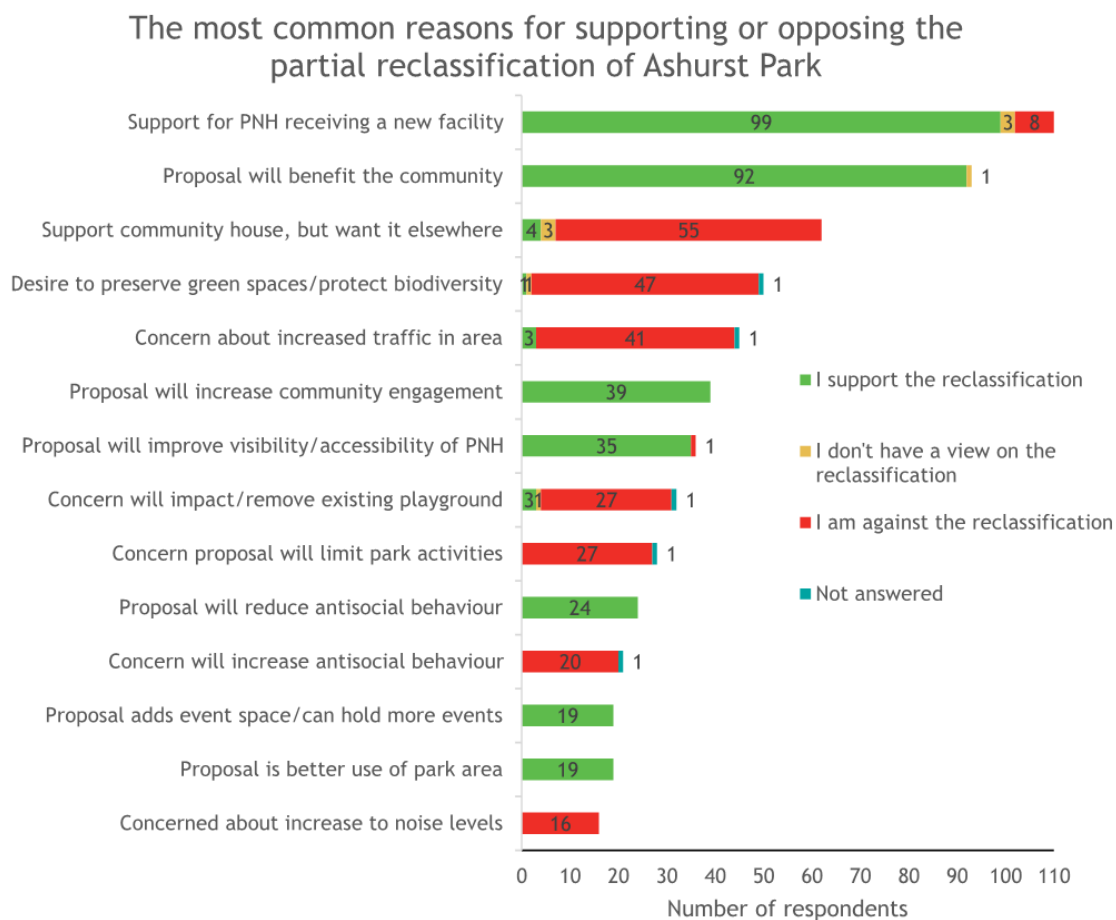
Respondents were then asked to elaborate on their reasons for or against supporting the proposed reclassification. 264 of the 282 respondents left comments.

The most common themes from these comments were:

- support for Pukete Neighbourhood House (PNH) receiving a new facility (110 comments)
 - *"As a long term Pukete resident I have been a supporter of the Pukete Neighbourhood House from its beginnings. The only thing hindering expansion of much needed services is [a] dedicated space in an easily accessible place. Close proximity to schools is also a benefit."*
 - *"We need more community centres to support whaanau and the community. Extending on Pukete neighbourhood's current provision is a great start on this"*
 - *"I love the services that PNH provides, and I want them to have the space to grow more services."*
- belief the reclassification will benefit the community (93 comments)
 - *"This project is a good idea because it gives everybody in the community an avenue to interact with essential community services."*
 - *"This would be an amazing asset for the community and support engagement"*
 - *"A community facility benefits the entire community."*
 - *"Brilliant idea!! Great use [of] the space, wonderful to have for our community. So cool to have a space to build social connection. Well done HCC and PNH."*
- support for the new facility, but opposition to the proposed location (62 comments).
 - *"Have no issue with the new building, just the location as I live adjoining the park. Please consider building next door to current site where all services, access are already in place. This proposal will completely block my entire view of the park. When I purchased my home, I did my due diligence and was given an assurance from council that there were no plans for development."*
 - *"I'm not against the new community house expansion, but I would like to see it added to the existing buildings and grounds at the Church Road entrance area."*

- *"I think the community house is a very good idea, I just think it should be located over near the sports centre, where there is already infrastructure for power, and services. I find the community area at Newton intimidating to go to, and firmly believe this will inhibit people feeling safe at the play go round."*

Reasons mentioned by 15 or more respondents have been graphed below.



This question received four identical submissions from unique respondents. These respondents had likely shared a standard answer amongst themselves and used this to respond. Given the unique personal details from each of the four respondents, each submission was treated as an individual submission; however, the themes were the same across these responses.

Some respondents left suggestions for how to improve the reclassification. These suggestions include:

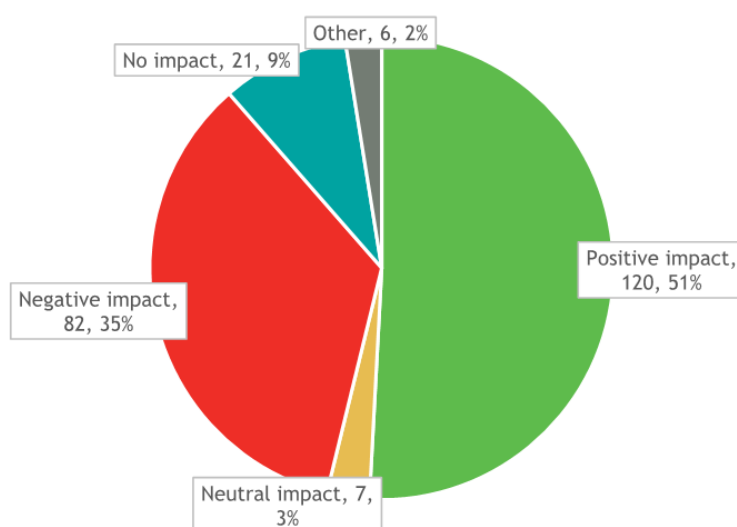
- build the community house next to Church Road rather than Ashurst Avenue
- expand the current PNH venue attached to the Te Rapa Sportsdrome
- increase the amount of parking space, both for cars and for bicycles
- decrease the amount of parking space
- make the community house larger than proposed
- allow for volunteers to work within the community garden

- use the wood from removed trees during construction to create park benches
- upgrade the Te Rapa Sportsdrome during construction
- construct more sporting facilities in Hamilton.

Impact of the reclassification

We asked respondents how the reclassification (including the changes to the use of the park, as well as the addition of the new community space) would impact the way they currently use Ashurst Park. 238 respondents answered this question. Responses to this question were mixed.

How, if at all, do you think the changes to the use of this park, and the additional of the new community space, will impact the way you use Ashurst Park?



120 respondents (51%) believed the reclassification of Ashurst Park would have a positive impact on how they use the park.

- *"[I] would feel safer using the area"*
- *"I think I'll be more likely to go. Especially if there's coffee right by the playground! Bonus on a Saturday morning for sports parents too."*
- *"It will provide a space for my family and friends to use as part of their community"*

82 respondents (35%) believed their use of the park would be negatively impacted by the reclassification.

- *"It will make it less inviting and welcoming. Worry for a lot of car movement near the playground and antisocial behaviour for my young family"*
- *"My view will be entirely blocked. The value of my property will be devalued. I won't be able to use the Park as it will be gone. The proposed community development has already had a major impact on my mental health, I am unable to sleep due to the stress"*
- *"It's currently a nice open space - a new building will close off the openness and [allure] of the green space"*

7 respondents (3%) described neutral or conditional impacts from the reclassification on how they use the park.

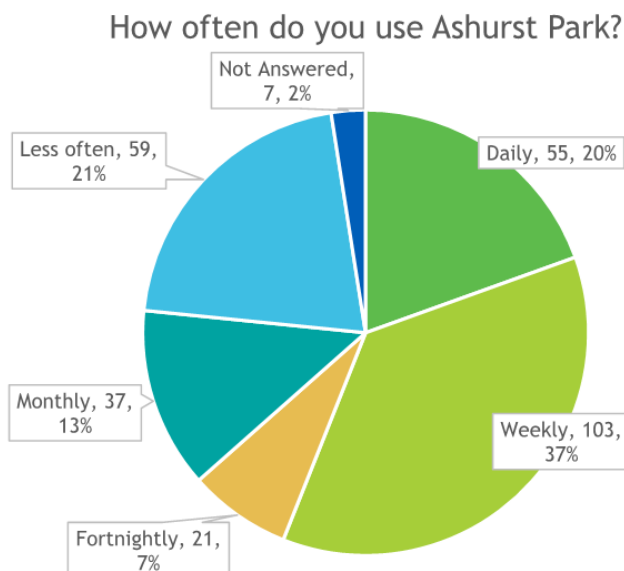
- *"Depending on what rule changes come into effect around dogs"*

- *"It will be inconvenient if the playground isn't available for the 12 months during construction. My son loves the playground and it's our closest playground to home. If the playground could be used during construction or moved so it can still be used during construction I would appreciate it."*
- *"As long as it doesn't take away the peace of the park and the land area for the field and the playground and is a smaller building I see no issues"*

21 respondents believed how they use the park would not be impacted by the reclassification. 6 respondents left other comments or suggestions. Note that suggestions left by respondents in this section have been collated under the report section titled 'Levels of support for the reclassification'.

Park usage

55 respondents (20%) used the park daily, and a further 103 (37%) use the park on a weekly basis.



Respondents who indicated they used the park less often were asked what was limiting their visits. The most common reasons mentioned were:

- do not live in the area/other parks are closer by (13 comments)
- only use the park to visit the community centre (8 comments)
- respondent's family has outgrown the park but used it frequently when they were younger (8 comments).

The most common reason for visiting the park is using the playground, mentioned by 150 respondents.

What do you use Ashurst Park for?



Other reasons mentioned by respondents for using Ashurst Park include:

- attending holiday programmes/after school care
- engaging with PNH and the community house, such as attending community forums or volunteering
- enjoying the view of the park, either from within the park or from home
- playing Pokémon Go
- having picnics
- using the pump track.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON OF RESPONSES FROM INDIVIDUALS

LOCATION

185 of the 281 respondents (66%) were from West Area 1, which encompasses the suburbs of Beerescourt, Forest Lake, Pukete, St Andrews and Te Rapa. Of these, 157 live in Pukete, where Ashurst Park is situated.

ETHNICITY

85% (n = 239) of respondents identified as New Zealand European/Paakehaa, and 12% (n = 35) identified as Maaori.

The 2018 Census data shows 76% of residents of community area West Area 1 identified as New Zealand European, and 21% identified as Maaori. In comparison to the 2018 Census data, our sample may reflect an overrepresentation of New Zealand European respondents and an under-representation of Maaori respondents.

AGE GROUP

49% of respondents (n = 137) were aged from 30 to 49 years old.

We had low representation from those under the age of 30. Despite making up 25% of Hamilton's population and 41% of West Area 1's population (according to 2018 Census data), only 14% (n = 38) of respondents to this survey were less than 30 years old.

FEEDBACK FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to analysing formal submissions to the consultation, we also analysed comments made on Hamilton City Council Facebook posts relating to the Ashurst Park reclassification.

Council made two posts relating to the Ashurst Park reclassification – one initial post on 21 June, then a reminder on 11 July. These were both posted to community Facebook groups for Pukete residents.

These posts received 24 comments and 65 replies to comments (including those from Hamilton City Council in response to questions).

The most common themes in these comments were:

- complaints about topics unrelated to the reclassification, such as speed control measures, cycle lanes, kerbside collections, and the 15-minute city concept (12 comments)
- build the community house in a different area, such as expanding current facility in Te Rapa Sportsdrome or being built off of Church Rd (8 comments)
- support for PNH and its impact on the community (8 comments)
- general support for the reclassification (8 comments)
- concerns about increase to traffic (7 comments)
- belief Council does not listen to community feedback (6 comments).

Note that any Hamilton City Council comments/replies were exempt from analysis, and both comments and their replies were collated before analysis.

FEEDBACK THROUGH SCHEDULED MEETINGS

An online information session was held on Tuesday 27 June.

The video recording of this session can be found here: www.hamilton.govt.nz/strategies-plans-and-projects/projects/city-wide-community/pukete-neighbourhood-house/

This session was designed to inform the community of the proposed reclassification, as well as the engagement process. At the end of the session, participants were invited to ask questions.

We had 39 attendees.

The questions and concerns mentioned by participants include:

- What is Council going to do to mitigate traffic increases along Ashurst Road because of this proposed community house?
- Why build on Ashurst Park, and not extend the pre-existing building or build on Church Road?
- Concerns about their voices/feedback being heard and considered
- Concerns regarding any changes to/loss of the playground
- Concerns relating to security, crime, antisocial behaviour, etc.
- Has Council considered how this proposal will impact the valuations of neighbouring properties?
- How can the public access the full business case of this proposal?
- How does the tree removal impact the local fauna and flora of the park?
- How many cars can the carpark accommodate?
- Questions relating to funding, project budget, etc.
- Questions relating to the operation of the community house and cafe, such as hours of operation/access, alcohol licensing, logistics of renting rooms, floor space
- Will there be public toilets available during/after construction?

ENGAGEMENT TACTICS

GOAL

To gain an understanding of the sentiment of residents and the community about the proposal to reclassify a section of Ashurst Park to enable the build of the new facility for Pukete Neighbourhood House.

OBJECTIVES

- The community of Pukete Neighbourhood House and the community around Ashurst Park are aware of the opportunity to have their say on the proposed reclassification
- Respondents understand the scope of the reclassification and what their influence can be, as seen in the responses

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOME

To inform the community about the reclassification process and provide the opportunity for them to share their views on the proposal.

ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN REVIEW

This was a high interest engagement for the community in the immediate area. While the communications were targeted to the local area and those who use the park or Sportsdrome, there were some passionate community members who took part in their own campaign to generate submissions.

Unfortunately, some of the information shared by these individuals was incorrect. The information webinar was designed answer some of these queries and concerns, and the webpage hamilton.govt.nz/puketehouse was updated to be the 'one source of truth' about the reclassification and what it would mean for the community.

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

SUBMISSION FORM (ONLINE & PAPER COPY)

We received 292 submissions to our consultation – 276 online and 16 hard copies.

Webpage statistics:

1297 page views

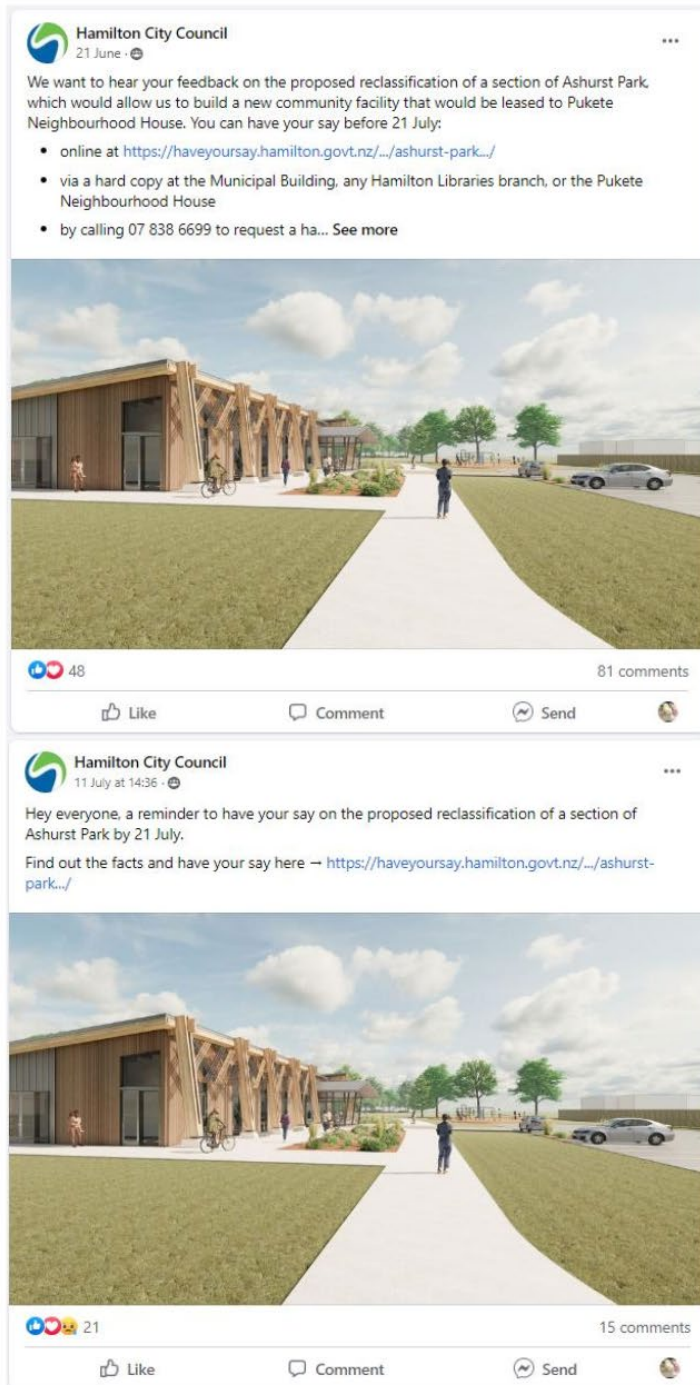
804 users

1.61 views per user

SOCIAL MEDIA

We posted an initial post of the consultation opening in the Residents of St Andrews, Pukete, and Neighbours Facebook group, as well as a follow up post reminding community members to check the facts and to have their say prior to the consultation closing.

With a lot of misinformation being shared, we also provided facts and responses to inaccurate Facebook comments on our post.



SCHEDULED MEETINGS

We hosted an online information session in a Question-and-Answer style on Tuesday 27 July 2023. 46 unique visitors attended, and of those 39 were members of the public (not project team). The meeting lasted for an hour and included a presentation from the project manager of the Pukete Neighbourhood House project, the manager of the Pukete Neighbourhood House, and the Planner looking after the Reclassification process.

EMAILS/ LETTERS

Our initial engagement started with visits to immediate neighbours by the project manager. They were provided a letter sharing an overview of the project and who they could reach out to.

This was followed up by stakeholder emails regarding the reclassification proposal to mana whenua, surrounding schools, and clubs.

Letters to residents were distributed to wider surrounding residents when the consultation period opened, notifying them of the facts of the project, where they could get further information, and where they could go to have their say.

WHAT’S NEXT

This consultation will have hearings on 22 August for any verbal submissions.

If the proposal is accepted, then construction is expected to begin mid-2024, and the community house is expected to open mid-2025.