
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 09:15 am
Date: Thursday, 17 March 2016
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

Business

Page No.

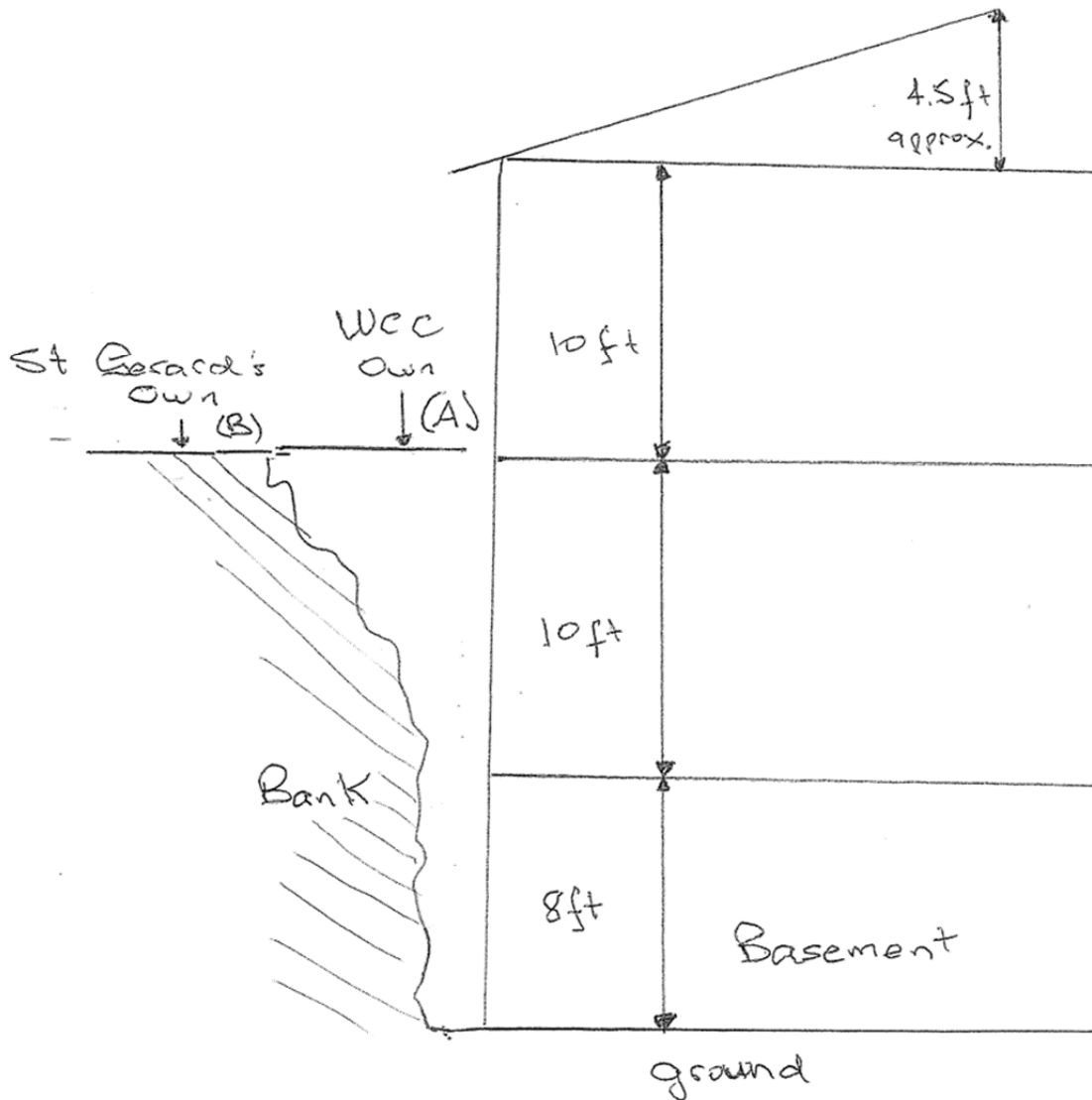
Confirmation of Minutes Environment Committee - 17/03/2016

1. minutes attachment 1 st gerards monastery land exchange 2

2.1 Officers Response - Full Time Off-Leash Dog Friendly Section for Island Bay Beach

1. minutes attachment 2 e petition full time off-leash dog friendly section for island bay beach 3
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Existing House
No 1 Oriental Terrace
Cross Section



Scale: 5mm = 1ft

WCC ePetition: Full Time Off-Leash Dog Friendly Section for Island Bay Beach.

Submitted by: Hilary Davis

Petition details

This petition requests that a section of Island Bay Beach is designated as an off-leash area for dogs for use at all times. The beach is large enough to accommodate all users without having a detrimental impact on families and children wishing to occupy a dog-free section. An initial poll on Neighbourly indicated wide support for this petition. This would improve the dog-friendly amenity of Island Bay for dogs who enjoy swimming & being off-leash. It would also reduce journeys to other suburbs.

Background information

Island Bay has few off-leash areas. DOC highlights that penguins prefer predator-free off-shore islands. The risks onshore are not limited to dogs and include adjacent road traffic and cats who hunt at night. Alongside DOC, Forest & Bird have designated a number of penguin nesting areas around the South Coast and Island Bay Beach is not one of those. If the Island Bay Beach is not a favourable habitat for penguins, then the potential impact and risk of an off-leash area are minimal.

Relevant links

- <http://wellington.govt.nz/services/consents-and-licences/dogs/exercise-areas/prohibited-areas>
- <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/penguins/little-penguin-korora/>
- <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/places-for-penguins>
- <http://www.neighbourly.co.nz/>
- <http://octopus.org.nz/content/taputeranga-marine-reserve>
- <http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/enjoy-the-outdoors/beaches-and-coast/southern-suburbs/island-bay-beach>

Signatures

Total: 80

Number of Island Bay residents/dog owners who signed the petition: 43

Supporting Statement for the Environment Committee Councillors on 17 March

Firstly, my reasons for creating this ePetition arose after living in Island Bay for nearly two years with our dog, who loves water and swimming. The nearest beach to exercise her is Houghton Bay, which is fine on a good day, but not a safe place to swim on many days, for neither dogs nor humans. The alternative means a drive to Lyall Bay, which is an excellent beach and amenity for all. However we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint, and a visit to Lyall Bay involves a drive, whilst walking entails a two hour walk.

Secondly, there is no safe off leash area for dogs in Island Bay - the designated area opposite the beach is a limited space, regardless of it being fenced off or not.

I have been monitoring the beach at Island Bay with a view to its usage: it appears that the area from the pier towards the rocky part of the beach, on the other side to the swimming raft, is rarely used, even during this record breaking hot summer it is virtually empty. Families prefer the sandier and easily accessible section between the pier and Octopus Centre. Please refer to the map below (Imagery © Google):



If a full time off leash area on Island Bay beach were to be granted, it could attract more people to the area and traders could also potentially see a benefit. However the greatest benefit would be to local residents who could make fewer car journeys and enjoy the local community. I would also add that having a dog on leash on the beach is not a beneficial mode of exercise for most dogs, particularly those that enjoy a run and swim. The section I am proposing is currently serviced by a footpath and a litter bin, so the only potential outlay for WCC would be signage to identify the boundaries of the off leash section, as is the case at Lyall Bay.

I suggest that if my proposal is successful, that the council could review it after six months to ensure that people were taking responsibility for their dogs on the beach, by picking up after them, and keeping them under control, even though they are off leash. There may also be the potential for the residents association and community to take a proactive role in "policing" the zone by making dog owners aware of any boundary transgressions.

