

Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes 12 September 2011 Committee Room 2, Wellington City Council

Present:

Hamish Allardice (Co-chair)
Sea Rotmann (Co-chair)
Peter Gilbert
Phil Hancock
Sarah Free
Claire Graeme
Bev Abbott
Mike Ennis

Apologies

Marc Slade
Tushara Kodikara
Councillor Ritchie
Councillor Lester

WCC Officers:

Zach Rissel (Senior Policy Advisor)
Phillipa Bowron (Senior Strategy Advisor)
Anna Harley (Senior Urban Designer)
Brian O'Sullivan (Senior Policy Advisor)
Mike Oates (Manager Open Spaces & Rec Planning)

Agenda

1. Town Belt Management Plan Principles
2. Wellington 2040

Town Belt Management Plan

Brian O'Sullivan and Mike Oates gave a brief presentation outlining the process to develop the Town Belt Management principles, a summary of the draft principles and the process for agreement and further Town Belt Management Plan development.

Questions/Feedback

- Query on tension between “semi-private” sport club activities (e.g. bowling club) versus passive recreation such as walking, hiking or biking – shouldn't balance be in favour of activities that are open to all?
- There is always going to be a demand for more sport/recreation facilities and Town Belt seems like an easy option for locating these facilities because of the deed – what is the policy for managing demand for placing facilities on Town Belt?
 - Mike's response that its about developing existing areas more intensively (e.g. Wakefield Park) as opposed to creating new facilities
- Will existing structures that aren't being used currently be returned to bush? It would be good to clarify position about facilities in the Town Belt Principles – further redevelopment and how they will be managed.
- Some concern about process of developing principles – Town Belt Management Plan created 17 years ago and why are we starting over? Why develop new principles when existing framework is sound – why not just refer to the deed?
 - Brian – Its normal good practice to have community-developed principles to ensure that the community's views guide the management of a land asset. Nearly all land management plans have these nowadays.
 - its difficult to understand the archaic language of original intent of deed and hard to interpret for day-to-day management purposes so this was seen as a necessary step.
 - MOU with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) and Town Belt Principles meant to reflect changing circumstances of PNBST and society (e.g

PNBST now have first rights fo refusal for land that could, potentially, be linked to Town Belt and they are keen to work with WCC)

- Why do PNBST have a special MOU and not community groups?
 - Lots of community groups have MoUs. Mana Whenua will be involved in co-management (not governance) and the same rules for the Town Belt will still apply
- Are there plans to merge Outer Green Belt with Town Belt under one management plan
 - Probably not – Outer Green Belt management plan possibly more restrictive than Town Belt and they have different uses and context
- Are we keeping the pines or getting rid of them?

Wellington 2040

Philippa gave brief overview of feedback received on 2040

- Feedback generally very positive fore the Smart/Green vision and four strategic directions
- 2040 – could remove the date?

Anna Harley gave presentation on the City Spatial Structure Plan, history of the project and the nine project areas.

Questions/Feedback - 2040

- Important to have dates for strategies and visions because otherwise nothing will happen
 - Philippa – targets, KPI's and goals will be developed through the LTP in conjunction with experts
- More feedback that resilience needs to be a stronger theme – for city and suburbs as well as energy security

Questions/Feedback – City Spatial Structure Plan

- Council needs to be more vocal about projects that its implementing in terms of green infrastructure (e.g Waitangi Park) – currently there is no signage or no mention of the project anywhere and the community should be aware of these projects
- Nine project areas are impressive and the Spatial Plan and 2040 Strategy can hopefully withstand changing political environments
- Interest in the waterways action area and whether there is scope to consider bringing one or two waterways to the surface
- Discussion on the level of consultation with Maori in developing the strategy
 - This was conducted during the general consultation phase.
- Positive feedback on project idea for green walls; green roofs; and green gardens
- Further feedback that new apartment developments should have requirements for small parks/gardens
- Questions about the social side of the plan and whether that had enough attention
 - Response that the resilience angle was very much about empowering neighbourhoods in responses to natural hazards
- Cycling/walking investment needs to be really well planned and there needs to be a clear investment strategy
- Needs to be better link between Mt Vic and City
- Long discussion about how the strategy and Spatial Structure Plan will be impacted by the Basin Reserve Transport project
- Additional feedback that ERG wants some input into WCC's feedback for the Basin Reserve Project

General Business

- Sea and Sarah to come to SPC meeting on 15 September to give deputation to councilors on the 2040 City Vision.