

11-35 #280

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23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to our written submission and would like to repeat yet again Waterfront Watch policy which promotes the retention and development of public open space on the waterfront. We believe the waterfront is a community asset as unique and valuable as the Town Belt and whilst we will support appropriate development that enhances public space usage our members question any development that seeks to privatise and restrict public access, remove views, downgrades our heritage or introduces excess shading or wind issues and would like to quote here from the Environment Court decision (page 38) **THE WATERFRONT IS PREDOMINANTLY A PUBLIC AREA – A PLACE OWNED BY ALL WELLINGTONIANS.**

There are two main points we would like to discuss today

Frank Kitts Park Redevelopment. Would refer you to Appendix 2 of Waterfront Development Plan 2012/13-2014/15 - **Frank Kitts Park Precinct: WWL will continue to oversee the design development of the whole of Frank Kitts Park and work with the Wellington Chinese Garden society regarding their fundraising initiatives. It is neither practicable nor desirable to construct the Chinese Garden separately from the remainder of Frank Kitts Park. The redevelopment of the park currently has \$5 million budgeted for 2014/15, but this is proposed to be moved to 2016/17.**

On Page 111 of DAP 2013/14 under The following **key projects are planned for the next two years and I would like to repeat yet again the sentence IT IS NEITHER PRACTICABLE NOR DESIRABLE TO CONSTRUCT THE CHINESE GARDEN SEPARATELY FROM THE REMAINDER OF FRANK KITTS PARK. THE REDEVELOPMENT IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 2016/17.**

So what a surprise to read on page 21 of the DAP New Proposals! This approval for \$1 million is not to upgrade the equipment but probably to bulldoze the area and move the play equipment closer to the street. We have asked the council CCO officer if WW Ltd has provided any plans but up until now we have not seen any. We have had a meeting with representatives of the Chinese Garden society and it would appear that the original design for the location of the garden on FKP has been moved and that the very well used amphitheatre seating is to be bulldozed.

Not only are our members totally opposed to this loss of a very popular venue for so many activities but the feed back from many organisations is leave it alone and the Chinese garden should be in the original site (Waitangi Park) In any case no money should be spent until a Resource consent is advertised.

We would also like to quote from Page 18 of WWLtd SOI March 2013 – Frank Kitts Park Redevelopment – Subject to capital raising, apply for a resource consent for the redeveloped park and complete the installation of a new children’s playground.

