

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

8 AUGUST 2012

AGENDA ITEM C6

RECREATIONAL CLAY BIRD SHOOTING AREA, PAPAWAI , GREYTOWN

Purpose of Report

To inform Councillors of the request to use council land and river reserve as a clay bird shooting range.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Resolve to decline the proposal to setup a clay target shooting facility on Council land adjacent to the Greytown Waste Water treatment ponds.*

1. Background

In April this year an approach was made to the South Wairarapa District Council to utilise the land owned by Council adjacent to the Greytown Waste Water treatment ponds for clay target shooting.

A review of the activity was carried out by the Planning department and found that there are no planning concerns that would prohibit such an activity.

A subsequent site visit was arranged and reviewed by Dr Dowds and the Group Manger or Infrastructure and Services as well as the applicants.

2. Discussion

2.1 Consenting

This activity does not require consent approval and therefore can proceed if deemed acceptable.

2.2 Consultation

Consultation with neighbouring parties has not been done other than the discussions with Jim Bicknell an adjacent land owner.

2.3 Legal

Prior to any operation, a MOU would be required to ensure that the land use and modification, e.g. removal of scrub and blackberry, is well covered. This would be inclusive of a lease agreement and payment programme as suggested in their proposal attached.

The range would be operated within all legal requirements inclusive of range flags, restricted access and firearms laws.

Council is currently operating the Greytown waste water Treatment plant out of consent and is currently applying for a new consent. This process involves numerous stakeholders of local landowners and stakeholder groups. Council has worked to satisfy stakeholders waste water issues in this area and some final detail is still required on the land development for irrigation system necessary.

2.4 Financial Considerations

The ability to earn an income from currently unused scrubland and the clearance of blackberry at no cost is an attractive offer.

2.5 Community

The provision of an added community facility providing added safety for trainee shooters is considered an excellent benefit to the local community.

2.6 Timing

While this activity is seen as an excellent use of the unused land and possibly beneficial to council and the community in the longer term, it is felt that the current timing is challenging. This is due to the peripheral issues of the waste water treatment consent and processes involved.

Not wanting to complicate issues with stakeholders and adjoining landowners through the consents process it is felt that deferring any decision until after the consent is granted and a more detailed review of land use for the waste water consent is completed is more appropriate.

In the future there may be more land purchased, swapped or sold depending on the future needs of councils waste water treatment strategy for Greytown. This could affect any future recreational use of councils land. For this reason the proposal is deemed to be unsatisfactory at this time.

An application post consent application would be viewed more favourably.

3. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposal Clay Bird Shooting Group

Contact Officer: Mark Allingham, Group Manager Infrastructure Services

Reviewed By: Dr Jack Dowds, Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 1 – Proposal Clay Bird Shooting Group



**A PROPOSAL TO THE SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
REGARDING THE USE OF LAND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL FOR
SPORTING CLAY TARGET SHOOTING**

1. THAT THE SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL ALLOW THE SWDC OWNED AREA ADJACENT TO THE BICKNELL CLIDER/AIRSTRIP, GREYTOWN, TO BE USED FOR SPORTING CLAY SHOOTING, WITH, SAY, AN INITIAL 5-YEAR LEASE - TOGETHER WITH A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SWDC
2. THAT IN ASSOCIATION WITH JIM BICKNELL A CLAY BIRD SHOOTING GROUP OF FOUR EXPERIENCE CLAY TARGET SHOOTERS BE FORMED TO MANAGE THE AREA
3. THIS GROUP WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:
 - THE CLEARANCE OF BLACKBERRY AND THE CONTROL OF ANY REGENERATION
 - CREATING SHOOTING STANDS - THAT WILL ENSURE THAT THE DIRECTION OF SHOT WILL BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE SWDC AREA
 - ENSURING THAT THE AREA IS MAINTAINED IN A TIDY AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER (INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF SHOTGUN WADS) AND THAT THE VALUE OF THE AREA IS ENHANCED
 - SETTING A PROGRAMME OF SHOOTING DATES
 - ENSURING ONGOING LIAISON BETWEEN THE SWDC AND JIM BICKNELL
 - PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUTH GROUPS AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONNEL, TO LEARN ABOUT SHOOTING SPORTS AND ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE FIREARMS IN A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE WAY
 - THE HOISTING OF TWO RED FLAGS AT EACH END OF THE AREA WHEN SHOOTING IS TAKING PLACE. (ONE OF THE GROUP OF FOUR MENTIONED ABOVE IS NATIONALLY QUALIFIED IN RANGE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES)

Thanks for your consideration
Cheers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "F N Hayes".

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