

MARTINBOROUGH COMMUNITY BOARD

22 JUNE 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO 7.2

SELF-CONTAINED CAMPERS AT CORONATION PARK MARTINBOROUGH

Purpose of Report

To inform Community Board members of proposed actions in regard to the use of part of Coronation Park for self-contained campers.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Community Board:

1. *Receives the information.*

1. Executive Summary

Martinborough Rugby Club was granted an exemption from the Camping Ground Regulations 1985 to enable them to offer overnight stays for NZ Motor Caravan Association members in self-contained campers on an unused part of Coronation Park. The NZMCA members pay a donation which goes to junior rugby in Martinborough. The exemption expired on 31 March 2015 and officers propose granting a new short-term exemption. A think-piece paper will be prepared for the Infrastructure and Planning Working Party examining the issues around freedom camping within the South Wairarapa towns.

2. Background

The NZMCA was planning to lease land in Martinborough to provide a site for overnight stays for members in self-contained vehicles. Instead, an arrangement was made with the Martinborough Rugby Club to set up an unused area of Coronation Park for this purpose, with the Rugby Club to handle the bookings, and collect donations for JAB rugby in Martinborough from the NZMCA members.

Only NZMCA members can access the area as there is a combination lock on the gate, and the combination is only available to paid-up NZMCA members through their website. It is part of the NZMCA's overnight parking scheme, and is intended to provide a short-stay location. Many sporting, social and cultural clubs around New Zealand have made similar arrangements with the NZMCA.

All vehicles must be certified self-contained as no facilities are provided. The camping is "pack in, pack out" meaning campers are expected to remove all rubbish from the site. A \$5 donation is paid for each vehicle and this money goes towards supporting Martinborough JAB rugby.

3. Discussion

Concerns have been raised as to whether this arrangement undercuts local commercial campground operations. This issue will be addressed in a paper to the Infrastructure and Planning Working Party, along with other issues relating to freedom camping in the south Wairarapa. The paper is expected to be presented at the August meeting of the I&PWP.

Usage of the facility by NZMCA users has been fairly light, apart from events like Vans and Vines. Usage is expected to remain light over the winter, but as the site is in NZMCA's directory, a new exemption will allow the Rugby Club to continue until all of the issues are raised and addressed in the I&PWP meeting.

Contact Officer: Helen McNaught, Amenities Manager

Reviewed By: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive Officer

