



South New Brighton Reserves Management Plan South New Brighton Reserves Development Plan

Community Forum 5 October 2013 St Faiths Church Hall, New Brighton

A community forum was organised on by Avon Ōtākaro Network (AvON), Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust (AHEIT) and the South Brighton Residents Association SBRA).

Kindly facilitated by Chris Mene, the forum provided people with information that would assist them in making their own submission on the South New Brighton Reserves Management and Development Plans (due 8 November), and for the participating organisations to gain community views to help inform their submissions.

Short presentations were made by:

- Evan Smith on behalf of CCC
- Darren Rooney – SBRA
- Nigel Humphries – Pleasant Point Yacht Club
- Deidre McGowan – South Brighton Holiday Park
- Sarah Butterfield– AvON
- Martin Maguire - AHEIT
- Joseph Hullen – Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri
- Chrissie Williams – Environment Canterbury on the Natural Environment Recovery programme
- Colin Meurk – Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua
- Evan Smith – Eastern Vision

Those there filled in post-it notes with their issues or opinions – when these were sorted 7 topics were identified for group discussions. Below are the collation of the post-it notes, and the record of each group discussion.



1. Wider Context

Wider context: Post-it notes

I would like to see the SNB Reserve viewed in relation to the systemic wider issues associated with the social, economic and cultural development of the Brighton area as a whole
What is the future use of the residential red zone – between Ebbtide and Halsey St, At Evans Ave/Admirals Way?
Unknown what Govt. intends for use of residential red zone ...impact of decision for us
Is managed retreat a covert agenda in South Brighton?
What part of the \$15M funds the infrastructure vs the aesthetic of the park concepts?
Where does the 'transport' plan fit into destination New Brighton! (transit orientated design).
Restoration of footbridges should be community led. CCC has not approved new bridges except millennium bridge for 40 years
Is the red zone land adjoining Bligh's Garden (Admiral Way) being incorporated into this area?
What sort of businesses will be attracted to come to New Brighton? The malls are empty now. So how/what will attract them?

2. Timelines

Timelines: Post-it notes

Immediate priorities should NOT be put off while long term plans are sorted. NOW: fix jetty!! Fix bike path, playground, support boat club.
That all decisions are made thinking ahead 7 generations
Plan it for our children + mokopuna
Time Factor? Not sure the community can wait another few years for facilities to come back - Maybe something temporary needs to happen first?

Shelter Belt as quickly as possible to avoid damage to house
We are concerned about the lack of progress - re planting anything in the domain: it takes so long for plants to establish & grow - it will be years ... before this area starts looking less bare.
District plan / Long Term Plan
Is there any funding available at this stage to start the process?
Unknown what Govt. intends for use of residential red zone ...impact of decision for us

3. Community

Community: Post-it notes
Keep existing recreational areas to join up / connect the community
Dog walking trails = high social capital and = high environmental protection
Although people are important the natural environment needs to support and enhance them. It needs to be beautiful
Community Centre bringing back our networking areas.
Too many different organisations/groups/interests with a splintered approach. Walkways, cycle ways, parks, facilities needed.
I would like to see the SNB Reserve viewed in relation to the systemic wider issues associated with the social, economic and cultural development of the Brighton area as a whole
A sense of place may be lost if we develop with soft edge environments
Boardwalk - out to Ebbtide Street - Repair? Jetty - repair or replace Motorbikes still in Sth Brighton Park - yesterday around playground.
What about the needs of the existing residents and park users?

4. Recreation and Sport

Recreation and Sport: Post-it notes
Integration of park plan with estuary water use and ecology
Keep existing recreational areas to join up / connect the community
Dog walking trails = high social capital and = high environmental protection
Opportunities for more use of the waterways- kayaking, etc
Recreation area: needs to be accessible and available
Bike access existed pre-quake ie City to Surf
Secure Future of the Yacht Club
Boat Club Yay!
Immediate priorities should NOT be put off while long term plans are sorted NOW: fix jetty!! Fix bike path, playground, support boat club.
Estuary Edge: Clash of interest between recreation and ecosystem

Recreation vs Conservation
1) Natural Environment ratio to Recreation 2) Planting ratio 3) Flow in Estuary
Estuary Edge as playground
Too many different organisations/groups/interests with a splintered approach. Walkways, cycle ways, parks, facilities needed.
Don't want to lose footpath estuary side - fitness track

Recreation and Sport: Notes from Group discussion

- Retain sports that exist now
- Make sure balance wildlife with activities
- Multi use facility – sports hub
- Toilets
- Dog trail along the Avon River/Estuary
- a trail that has exercise for both human and dogs
- inclusive of walking and cycling
- Sculpture garden along the walkway
- Sculpture artist
- Boardwalks across salt marshes
- fishing, bird watching, information desk
- Car parking along estuary and Marine Parade
- Bike hire facilities
- BBQ facilities
- Picnic tables
- Restaurant etc.
- Lighting is important
- Security – design right from the start
- The more eyes in community the more secure the environment becomes
- Places to hold festivals
- Flying fox
- Skateboard park
- Park benches

Yachting, Yacht Club: Notes from Group discussion

- Diversity of facility use – other community groups
- Access to estuary
- Return boating to this area

5. Estuary Edge

Estuary Edge: Post-it notes
Estuary Edge: Clash of interest between recreation and ecosystem
Edge Plantings: Native? Exotic?
Estuary Edge as playground
Rates and extent of erosion? Modelling?
Soft engineering to control erosion - plants specific
Can we engineer a soft edge that is also a protection for housing?
Seems to be tension re stopbanks/levees and natural margins, prefer the natural look - do stop banks work?

Rising Sea Levels need to be taken into account. Residents need to be realistic!
How do stop banks and reverting to wetlands balance each other out?
Stop banks vs Salt marsh - more research, more info
A sense of place may be lost if we develop with soft edge environments
With rising sea levels impact of levees will leave little potential for wetlands expansion
Don't want to lose footpath estuary side - fitness track

Estuary Edge: Notes from Group discussion

- Existing edge constructed at ratepayers' cost – therefore the community have aid for it/own it - is there an obligation to repair it under law?
- Shoreline protection can exacerbate erosion
- Council proposing to protect area around jetty and ramps for the yacht club
- Rocks on slope more natural looking, better than a hard edge option
- Concern about sedimentation of the estuary
- Do Council have consent to dredge?
- What would a soft edge look like? How would it be constructed?
- Can natural edge and soft edges work together? – what ratio?
- Can we predict where a soft edge may erode back to?
- Why can't we adopt solution (?) at Jellicoe Marsh for remaining estuary edge?
- Are there already other areas reverting back to saltmarsh?
Look at other areas to identify if concerns are actually warranted
- Will there actually be a saltmarsh?
- Maintain the existing recreational facility & yacht club - looking ahead importance of wider overall plan

6. Flood Management

Flood Management: Post-it notes
How do we build in protection against sea level rise?
Seems to be tension re stopbanks/levees and natural margins, prefer the natural look - do stop banks work?
Rising Sea Levels need to be taken into account. Residents need to be realistic!
Ground Water - stop banks no protection
How do stop banks and reverting to wetlands balance each other out?
Why a stop bank? Why not a stop bank?
Stop banks vs Salt marsh - more research, more info
With rising sea levels impact of levees will leave little potential for wetlands expansion
Is managed retreat a covert agenda in South Brighton?

Flood Management: Notes from Group discussion

- Stopbanks do not stop groundwater
- Groundwater is affected by tides
- Dredging does not change the sea level
- Sea level rise ~1m by 2100
- Need area wide solutions – long term plan, inclusion in district plan review
- Should managed retreat be considered?

7. Plantings and Trees

Plantings and Trees: Post-it notes
1) Natural Environment ratio to Recreation 2) Planting ratio 3) Flow in Estuary
Love the idea of a plaited rope - mixing different ideas in harmony - including native trees & food-bearing (nut & fruit) trees. :-)
Biodiversity: for healthy plants, river, estuary, people
Shelter Belt as quickly as possible to avoid damage to house
Edge Plantings: Native? Exotic?
What's wrong with having non-native trees like the Maple tree, etc? Just because they are not native doesn't mean they don't belong.
We are concerned about the lack of progress - re planting anything in the domain: it takes so long for plants to establish & grow - it will be years ... before this area starts looking less bare.
My kids want trees to climb / make huts around.
What of the shelter belt + aesthetics of the Bridge Domain behind Seafield Place?
Health of the Estuary, Trees in the domain
Plant natives not pines! (nuisance, yellow dust, etc)
Can you plant pine and natives together without pines taking dominance?
Plantings: Endemic succession, ie manuka rather than introduced species eg banksia - nectar producing.
Variety of food trees for birds and for humans
Native trees and plants. Food for native fauna

Plantings and Trees: Notes from Group discussion

- Need to understand science of the soil before planting
- Support for large trees for shelter from southerly, north-westerly, easterly)
- Totara supported as an alternative to exotics
- Note banksia and eucalypts attract birds
- Manuka important for lizards and brown creeper
- Pest control important – feral cats, ferrets?
- Support for transition to natives
- Funding – voluntary groups, corporates , CCC plan

8. Conservation

Ecology: Post-it notes
Integration of park plan with estuary water use and ecology
Estuary Edge: Clash of interest between recreation and ecosystem
Recreation vs Conservation
Reclaiming Wetlands
Wildlife Management of Estuary
Although people are important the natural environment needs to support and enhance them.

It needs to be beautiful
What of the shelter belt + aesthetics of the Bridge Domain behind Seafield Place?
Haven't heard the term "ecosystem resilience" today?
Health of the Estuary, Trees in the domain
Native trees and plants. Food for native fauna

Conservation: Notes from Group discussion

- Need an Estuary wide wildlife or conservation management plan
- Science support for defining current and future environment –water levels, salinity
- Be guided by natural habitat patterns
- Provide for harvesting natural water for plant establishment maintenance
- Sanctuary area – not criss-crossed with access
- Avoid conflicts between people and undisturbed nature – find compatible solutions
- Succession plan for vegetation for whole area
- Need for control of litter in Estuary – use boom across Avon/Heathcote as in the past

9. Scientific Research and Advice

Science: Post-it notes
Havent heard the term "ecosystem resilience" today?
Stop banks vs Salt marsh - more research, more info
Need a working group comprised of specialist disciplines (ie professionals)... issues far too complex for untrained enthusiasts.

Scientific Research and Advice: Notes from Group discussion

Question: What science and research has been used to develop the SNB Reserves Plans?

What we need to know:

- What is the future use of the residential red zone – between Ebbtide and Halsey St, At Evans Ave/Admirals Way?
- Soil chemistry
- Water table level/groundwater levels
- Salinity
- How could we use conifers as a nursery crop?
- If change management of estuary edge what will happen? Bathymetry? Hydrology? Erosion?
- What are the sediment levels in the estuary?
- Effects of climate change and sea level rise? Storm surges, storm run-up
- Sea Level Rise – what does CCC use? - government guidelines out of date
- LiDAR
- Flooding levels, How would retreat be managed?
- Mahinga kai
- Demographics

Who could help?

- Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua – Colin Meurk
- SCION - Alan Leckie
- EOS Ecology
- Di Lucas

- NIWA – bathymetry, hydrological model – Richard ?
- University of Canterbury
- Lincoln University
- Environment Canterbury

10. Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous: Post-it notes	
Car Parking	We need parking space in South Brighton park instead of parking outside properties on Jellicoe St & Estuary Road.
Car Parking	Parking areas along Marine Parade have been covered with soil to cover potholes. These areas need to be sealed, as they are very much used, especially in summer.
Complexity	So many groups. Who will coordinate so needs are met?
Food, Education	Community Gardens linked with schools
Maori Cultural	Are there any pre-European Maori sites in the area that need to be recognised and/or protected?
Utility Reserve	So now a utility reserve - what has changed rules/policy wise - is there a utility reserve act document?
Water Quality	Water Quality is important
Water Quality	Health of the water, sewage, stormwater management
Water Quality, Safety	Park + Water should be useable