

SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010-11

FROM THE DIAMOND HARBOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Diamond Harbour Community Association has historical roots back to 1931 when the local Burgesses Association was formed, with the DHCA replacing it in 1984. It continues to perform vital community functions such as Community Hall management, publishing of the Diamond Harbour Herald and supporting the local website. The Committee is elected at an annual public meeting. This submission is from the Committee and represents a cross-section of community opinion.

1. Purau Land Purchase

The Association strongly supports the purchase of the 31ha headland property to the north-east of the Purau Bay and congratulates the Council for taking up this initiative. This will provide a park that will be well used and regarded by future generations. The benefits of public park ownership of this piece of land are numerous. The more significant are as follows:

- It provides public recreational space with ample areas for picnicking and camping close to Christchurch.
- It provides access to three sheltered sandy beaches (which are elsewhere uncommon in the Harbour).
- It will facilitate specific recreational activities such as climbing, swimming, fishing and boating.
- It has biodiversity value potential for blue penguin habitat and tree planting in the wetter areas.
- It will protect the natural character of a significant piece of coastal landscape in the Harbour Basin.
- It will lock in a Green Belt edge to the Purau – Diamond Harbour urban area.
- It will prevent further sporadic subdivision of that part of the south-eastern harbour coastline.
- It will contribute to a longer-term vision for a coastal park from Purau to Adderley Head.
- It will facilitate the development of the Head to Head walkway.
- It has the potential for increasing significantly access to the nationally significant Ripapa Island historical site by the reconstruction of the access bridge.
- It supports the achievement of the (draft) Open Space Strategy.

A rates increase of 0.04% is insignificant (70c per annum on an annual CCC rate bill of \$1700) and an excellent investment for such a valuable piece of public land.

2. Walking and Cycling Projects

The cut in funding for walking and cycling projects over three years from \$2.508 million to \$0.51 million is truly short-sighted and hard to understand. It is also contrary to the

Regional Transport Strategy and Transport NZ strategy, both of which aim to increase the numbers of people taking active transport options.

With increasing fuel prices, alternatives to motorised transport should be strongly supported. There are also significant social health benefits from encouraging walking and cycling. Cycling needs greater support to enable safer routes to be developed (including the Governors Bay to Cashmere route where there is conflicting road use demand between cyclists and motorists). Funding should increase to speed up the development of the Head to Head walkway. The completion of the Diamond Harbour to Purau walking track on which work was started after Christmas 2009 is keenly awaited.

3. Wastewater collection and treatment funding

This needs to increase in both the Annual and LTTCC Plans. The association has been told that the reason why the removal of sewerage from Lyttelton Harbour will not be completed until 2023 is due to the lack of funding. Having to wait a further 13 years, particularly as the Lyttelton Wastewater Working Party had indicated much earlier results, is extremely disappointing. Boating, swimming and fishing in treated sewerage water is culturally offensive to most harbour residents and is a health risk.

4. Parks and Open Spaces: Maintenance of toilets, changing rooms and buildings

The maintenance of the Diamond Harbour Bay toilets and changing sheds has been significantly haphazard over the past year and the cleaning contract was not being enforced until recently. After complaints were lodged cleaning of toilets (but not the changing sheds) has now recommenced. These facilities get regular usage in summer months and should be maintained.

5. Parks and Open Spaces: Weed control

Funding should be provided to ensure continued progress with weed control in the Diamond Harbour Coastal reserves. A start was made late last year with a first control attempt on the asparagus fern, however there is much more to do, given the vast array of weeds that infest the coastal area.

6. Parks and Open Spaces: Signage

Signage on parks and tracks should be regularly maintained and exist at all exit and entrance points. The Council appears to lack a sign inventory and maintenance system. A 2m finger sign on the coastal track pointing to the Te Ara Crescent exit has been pulled out of its post-hole for over a year now and is still lying by the track

7. Community Hall Improvements

Council staff have stated that there will be new heating installed in the Diamond Harbour Community Hall. While Council maintains the building, the portable fittings are

provided by the Community Association. The Community Association would like the Council to also investigate installing sound baffles and/or a sound system in the main hall, as at large events it is difficult for speakers to be heard. While heating and sound baffles are being considered, it would also make sense to review the current levels of insulation and to improve the energy efficiency of the building. The Association would like progress on this matter and would like the improvements to be made in the context of an overall energy management assessment of the building.

Richard Suggate
Diamond Harbour Community Association Committee

	I wish to discuss the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held on 10th, 11th and 12th May 2010.
Are you completing this submission:	On behalf of a group or organisation
If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent?	9 Committee members plus a cross-section of the community
Contact name	Richard Suggate
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Date	10 April 2010
Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views. What do you want the Council to consider? What specific action do you think the Council should take? Why should this be done?	Submission will be sent as an email attachment