

The Building at the Hope Reserve

I understand the working party investigating the current site and possible alternative sites for the building at the Hope Reserve has agreed the building should stay on the Reserve for a number of reasons.

Moving forward, may I remind The Chair of the Community Services Committee, Richmond Ward Councilors & the Mayor you have been authorized to make the final decision on the future siting of the former Scout building at the Hope Reserve.

It is my understanding written submissions on the various options have been received & discussed and a final decision is yet to be agreed.

I ask that you don't lose sight of the initial reason for moving the building ie: to address concerns raised by submission, which included but were not limited to, minimizing the loss of green area and the isolation of the building on its former site. (Richmond Ward Reserves Management Plan - Partial Review of Hope Reserve Section, hearing committee Tuesday 25th August 2009.)

The concerns raised at the afore mentioned hearing are still relevant today and should not be ignored, keep the green area of the Reserve as large as possible, As the community grows more individuals and groups will use the Reserve and its facilities. To now move the building from the current site would be going against the intent of the resolution past 25th August 2009.

You should be mindful that users of the Reserve are diverse and come from many locations eg: Richmond Plunket's recent fund raiser included stall holders from Wakefeild through to Nelson North and visitors to the event from an even wider catchment. Caravan Club events attract visitors from all over New Zealand, as do Dog Club shows. The above are but a few examples of Reserve users, don't forget individuals, families, marching groups, school cross country runs, fitness groups, flower shows, private functions nor charity events the list goes on.

Any suggestion that submissions on the layout of the Reserve received from beyond the Hope area should be ignored is very narrow minded and outrageous. Rate payers from the wider Tasman district most certainly should have consideration given to their wishes.

Those whom use the Reserve and have an intermit knowledge of how it suits their needs should be allowed to have a say on its future. Full credit should be given to their views, in order to ensure the Reserve's suitability as a venue to a wide range of the community continues whilst remaining a place we can all be proud of.

Yes nearby residents comments should be considered. As the Hope area develops more people will use the reserve and rightly so, acceptance of the tennis court expansion shows the community supports that development and growth. A natural spin-off of which will be an increase in noise. As we are all aware there are regulations already in place to deal with peoples concerns over noise levels. Noise control is required to act on all complaints received.

As for shading and obstruction of views, it would appear that existing trees both on the reserve and private properties will continue to grow to the pleasure of their owners and the public alike and in doing so change the view and shading of the area as a whole. Given their current maturity it will not be long before the existing trees engulf any effect the building may have, as I have no doubt will the additional trees council have agreed to plant.

The shading study obtained by the working party dose not provide a comparison without the building. How ever you should acknowledge during the cooler winter months most residents are in doors by early evening and there is minimal if any shading by the building to adjacent dwellings.

It has been suggested to move the building to the western end of the play equipment area in line with the main hall. Placing the building on that site would reduce the open feel and spacious look of the reserve as a whole not to mention totally block the flow from the play equipment area to the open grass area of the reserve. Removal of the pump shed adjacent to the play equipment area will assist in opening the area up and there is no doubt that play equipment requiring relocation can be positioned to provide a good flow and spacious feel to that area of the reserve don't obstruct it with a building.

It has been agreed using the site next to the tennis courts would impede future development, and adjacent to the Petanque court would be like a pimple on the chin, everyone can see it and hopes it will go away quickly.

In order to retain as much open space and usable green area in the reserve as possible one would have to agree the present location of the building is acceptable and to move it elsewhere would not be beneficial to the majority of reserve users or the community as a whole. Yes there would need to be sacrifices by some for the greater good of the community however that is nothing new, just an accepted way of life to the caring public spirited Kiwi.

Options have been put to the public for consideration, please show some integrity and accept the view of the majority of submissions received, don't try and manipulate things to fall within your personal agendas. From a practical and financial point of view it is clear the current setting is the most favorable available, agree to leave the building where it is to the benefit of future users of the building, reserve and the community as a whole.

Stephen Mortimer

