

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
DATE: 1 February 2008
SUBJECT: Nelson ARK – Request to Lease Land

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To advise of the Nelson ARK's request to lease Council land at Sandeman Reserve to establish a teaching/training facility and animal accommodation to deliver the ARK project and programmes. This would consist of an administration block, a dog housing area, dog run and exercise area with a classroom.

BACKGROUND

The Nelson ARK (animal rescue community) is a charitable trust incorporated on 19 August 2002. The Trust Board is composed of nine dedicated and committed volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds who have worked tirelessly for nearly five years to establish this service.

The Nelson ARK is a fully functioning animal rescue shelter; however, youth at risk and older people are brought together as volunteers or participants to help the animals and each other in educational, rehabilitative and integrative programmes. The Trust had discussed previously with the Council the possibility of a collaborative project to contract the dog pound services in conjunction with the provision of their youth programmes, but is now pursuing other commercial opportunities including a joint building of dog kennels with the police dog section.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

Council has held discussions with members of the Trust on the possibility of leasing a site at Sanderman Reserve. This reserve is currently being developed with a car park, plantings and walkways and will link with the proposed coastal walkway/cycleway from the Craft Habitat.

The area the ARK would like to lease is in the southwest side of the reserve adjacent to Dynea NZ Ltd plant. This area is not part of the current development and could be made available to the ARK. However Council would need appropriate clauses in any lease document covering the use of the building especially if the ARK closed down.

I understand that all Councillors have received a copy of their Business Plan which details their operations etc.

OPTIONS

- 1 To decline the request to lease part of the Sanderman Reserve.
- 2 To agree to lease an area of the Sanderman Reserve to the Nelson ARK.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council agree to provide a lease of part of the Sanderman Reserve to the Nelson ARK subject to:

- 1 Staff negotiating an appropriate area to be leased.
- 2 A condition being included in any lease document ensuring that any leased area is only used as detailed in the Nelson ARK Business Plan.

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager