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## LANGDALE SUBDIVISION and PROPOSED RESERVE

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When searching for a section to build a new home for our retirement, Milestone Homes showed us 29 Stedyl Crescent.

When we saw the large section on the corner of Langdale Drive and the western end of Stedyl Crescent we asked Milestone what was planned for that piece of land. We were told that the section was to be a reserve as it had been a deep irrigation pond and the land was unsuitable for housing.

That appealed to us as when our grandchildren come to visit, it is a safe distance from our home and for others in the neighbourhood, so children can go to play there without having to cross any busy roads.

Families in our neighbourhood within Langdale Drive, Brover and Stedyl Crescent also held a combined Christmas party on the reserve last year. Over 50 invitations were issued and the event was a huge success. This is planned to be an annual event with another in the planning stages.

Langdale Drive which borders the Reserve leads up to Olive Estate has an ever increasing number of residents. Many of these residents can be seen to regularly walk down Langdale Drive for their daily exercise. It would be a perfect opportunity to have the Reserve as a destination for them, and the 50+ homes in our 3 streets. Already there is talk of people in our neighbourhood willing to donate a tree or a seat to this Reserve.

Our particular neighbourhood has a large percentage of retired and elderly people, (of our nine immediate neighbours, 88% are superannuitants). This particular demographic, who are contributing a huge amount in rates would like to feel they are receiving something tangible for those rates, and in particular question what do they receive for their Parks and Reserves contribution?

We have been told one option is we can walk down to Ben Cooper Park. This does not service the needs for our age group, with it being primarily a Sports field, and also involves crossing the very busy Wensley Road.

The playground in Chelsea Avenue is also mainly designed for children with 2 playgrounds on site, a BMX track and one outdoor table with fixed seating not for the elderly. The chain across the access way from Chelsea Ave also creates a barrier for our age group.

The distance to these locations is also not achievable for many people. My husband has back issues and the Council's present guideline of 500 metres from a green space means a kilometre walk when you factor in the return. However obviously children and sportspeople are being catered for in the immediate area.

However I feel we need to seriously consider what we are offering our older residents that will improve their quality of life and their lifestyle.

The Proposed Age-Friendly Policy published by the TDC is a thoughtful well researched document with a wide range of objectives to meet the needs of our ageing population.

What a perfect opportunity now presents itself with creating the "Langdale Reserve" indirectly designed to cater for Seniors and their families?

To think that our Tasman District could be ahead of the game in forward thinking and be in line to win further awards for this initiative?

What do the Seniors of our District need and want?

I agree we need to seriously consider what we are offering our older residents that will improve their quality of life and their lifestyle.

Loneliness is one of the major concerns for the elderly.

Two sections of the Policy Report stood out for me –

### **Social Participation, Health and Wellbeing**

One objective mentioned was to :

- Support community-based initiatives to encourage community connection.

The proposal that Darryl will speak about is one way of achieving this objective.

- **Accessibility**

The objective here was

- Provide sufficient outdoor seating in outdoor spaces, parks, and reserves which incorporate age-friendly design features and encourages social connection

Once again Darryl's proposal would achieve this.

Look at the Reserve as a way to provide a quiet Oasis in our neighbourhood. Very few superannuitants need playgrounds, sports fields, or velodromes. Children and sportspeople are well catered for in Tasman.

This Reserve could be designed to offer suitable seating and tree shelter, so as the elderly are out walking they can rest a while in such a "Senior Spot" and socialise and catch up with friends at the same time.

It could offer a sensory environment with selected plantings that have a scent or attractive foliage e.g. Frangipani trees

Perhaps a drinking fountain could be considered?

Although Olive Estate has some seating scattered around their grounds and a planned amphitheatre , there is no sun shelter at these locations at present and no large communal area that we could use.

The grassed area of the reserve can provide a perfect picnic location for seniors and their families, Neighbourhood Gatherings such as our planned Christmas gathering or just as a communal resting point for individuals out walking.

I am hoping the TDC can show some foresight to cater for our rapidly increasing ageing population by vesting this land as a reserve and with this proposal show other Districts in New Zealand how to achieve the objectives of an Age-Friendly Policy.

Thanking you

June and Lee Savage

