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General

We would like to thank Council for cooperation with our group in restoring Trelissick Park towards becoming a native bush wilderness (our 20 year anniversary is in June). Visitor numbers enjoying the park have increased markedly. The park is also used for access to other areas/parks in and above the Kaiwharawhara/Korimako valleys. However, there is still much to be done.

Our comments relate to the environmental aspects of the draft Plan.

2.2 Pest Management

We note a reduction of \$14,000 in pest monitoring, but that the budgeted \$900,000 for pest control continues. It is not stated what the monitoring reduction entails. There are still areas requiring pest weed eradication – eg on the Wadestown side of the valley and the aftermath of Ngaio Gorge Road strengthening. The railway corridor is a major concern. Follow-up spraying is an essential on-going requirement to prevent reinvasion.

Plants for Community Groups

We support the retention in the budget of plants for the community groups. Planting after pest weed control is a necessary conjunction. This volunteer labour in coordination with Council is enhancing the “bushy” uniqueness of Wellington and helping to increase biodiversity and environmental awareness.

Tracks

We note that Council will support new tracks built by volunteer labour. Discussions with Council on a proposed track from Oban Street down to the lower Kaiwharawhara valley have reached a stage where we are optimistic that this can begin shortly (after 20 years of advocacy). An additional benefit of this track is access to large tracts of pest weeds and attractive bush.

Grants

The Group thanks the Grants Committee for grants to commission Boffa Miskell Ltd to produce a study of the badly degraded Kaiwharawhara estuary and its surrounds and for a further print run of brochures for park entrances. (The brochure grant is subject to satisfactory completion of reporting for the almost completed estuary study).

Biodiversity Plan

On p.38 of the Plan it is stated that the planned expansion of the Biodiversity Action Plan of \$77,000 is to be deferred, with apparent justification being an increase already of Key Native Ecosystems (KNEs) to 33, instead of the planned 29. However, the Biodiversity Action Plan embraces more than KNE's. We would not support a reduction of this important part of Council's overall strategy.

2.4 Stormwater

For many years we have advocated for stronger rules to neutralise the effect of hard surfaces in new housing and roading developments. Hard surfaces result in fast stormwater run-off, causing flooding, stream-bank erosion and siltation. We would like to again press for stronger rules – eg permeable surfaces, detention provisions, wetlands/soakage areas, more planting, roof rainwater tanks. Also, "climate change" is bringing more extreme weather events.

2.6 Environmental Conservation Attractions

We note the continuation of substantial funding for Zelandia, compared with other major environmental conservation attractions for tourism such as Otari Wilton's Bush – and the resulting effects of tight funding available for other bush areas/parks.

We do not wish to speak to this submission.

Regards,
Peter Reimann
(Chairman
Trelissick Park Group)