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Tim Harkness
Parks and Reserves,
Wellington City Council

via tim.harkness@wcc.govt.nz

Proposed new track into Trelissick Park from Oban St Report on the survey of local residents

Dear Tim

Wellington City Council representatives asked for further information that could support estimates of community support and track usage for the proposed new Oban St track into Trelissick Park. The local residents' associations undertook to survey local residents to quantify the level of local support and usage of the new track.

Attached is our report on this survey of residents. An earlier draft of this survey report has been also provided to the two neighbouring residents. The report shows that a strong majority (84%) of people who responded to the survey supported the installation of this Oban Street track. Further specific detail on the level of support is detailed in the report.

The Trelissick Park Group, Highland Park Progressive Association and Wadestown Residents' Association notes the high level of local support for this proposal and we recommend that this project now proceeds to the next planning and implementation stage.

We look forward to discussing the next steps with you, and to helping implement the project.

We offer the following comments on issues raised by respondents to the survey:

Steepness of Track - The track is currently benched for access to bait stations and mustelid traps. It is no steeper than other tracks in the park. Council officers have indicated they are happy with the proposed route. Some finishing work will be required before it is made available for public use (eg steps at the lower end of the Oban St legal right of way and further benching, all to WCC track standards).

Destruction of Trees on Road Reserve at Oban St Entrance – Our current thoughts are for a narrow unobtrusive set of steps from Oban Street down the

road reserve to the legal right of way. The route needs to be discussed with the house owners, aimed to minimise or eliminate need for any tree removal. There would also need to be landscaping/planting enhancement designed and implemented to agreement with local residents.

Security/Privacy Concerns – Public tracks running beside/between houses are commonplace for Wellington - a unique pedestrian-accessible city. To the extent possible, fencing arrangements should be to mutual agreement. We suggest that some 'green wall' ideas could possibly be incorporated.

Parking Concerns – By analogy, parking near the Hanover Street entrance is very limited, so people rarely park there to access the Park. For access from Oban Street we foresee pedestrians, rather than cars. Many people will use the new access for a round trip via Wadestown village, Oban Street, Trelissick Park and Hanover Street, so they could park anywhere along that route.

Environmental Disturbance – The issue of users of the track disturbing bird life in the vicinity and destroying the wilderness habitat was raised in a few survey responses. However, the track will provide access for pest animal & weed control and tree planting in a large area of the Park that has been neglected in the past. Thus we definitely foresee an improvement (rather than "destruction") of the wilderness habitat/bird life, as has occurred elsewhere in the Park as tracks have been opened and developed and pest animal and weed controls and tree planting is carried out.

New Route to City – We support the comment(s) made in some responses that the track could provide an interesting new route to the City from Ngaio/Khandallah (the latter via the Bridle Track), thus improving residents' exercise possibilities – as being encouraged by WCC. Some Ngaio residents already use the Hanover Street route across the Park to the City.

Historic Requests for Oban Street Track – A request for this track was first raised in 1981 by Wadestown Residents' Association's comments on the WCC Draft Trelissick Park Management Plan. The proposed track was subsequently included in the 1995 WCC Park Management Plan. This proposal was subsequently pursued vigorously at various times by the Residents' Associations and Trelissick Park Group. In spite of being in the 1995 Management Plan no further progress has occurred.

Access to Outdoor Recreation - The WCC Suburban Reserves Management Plan 2015, offers a guideline for outdoor recreation opportunities is "600 metres or a 10-minute walk to one or more neighbourhood park, play space, or other outdoor recreation opportunity such as a track link". The proposed new track will help meet this guideline for many residents in Highland Park.

We look forward to this matter being progressed further.

Regards
Ian Shearer
for
Highland Park Progressive Association
Trelissick Park Group
Wadestown Residents Association