



Long-term Plan
Wellington City Council
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SUBMISSION ON DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN 2018 - 28, FROM TRELISSICK PARK GROUP

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Trelissick Park occupies the valley between Ngaio and Wadestown/Highland Park. Our Group enjoy a collaborative relationship with Council and appreciate the work it does in the Park. Our comments on the 'Consultation Document Our 10-Year Plan' are below.

Growth initiatives risky and extravagant - The Plan lists a number of growth initiatives, costing many millions, to attract more visitors for conferences and tourism. However, the world appears to be increasingly unstable politically and climatically. Wellington also lies on a major fault line. Visitor numbers could easily suffer long-term collapse due to warfare, climate change or destructive earthquake/tsunami.

Accordingly, we support Option 2 on p.36, for the Movie Museum and Convention Centre* not going ahead. The same applies to the airport runway extension and the indoor arena on p.38. This could release more funding for environmental purposes - see below.

We should invest more in green spaces - Our parks, reserves and coastal areas are combined with the urban areas, making Wellington a unique and attractive city. Well maintained pest-free natural green spaces provide a return on investment with better mental and physical health, productivity, inventiveness, sense of place, cultural well-being and attractiveness for all.

We support the storm clean-up and predator-free initiatives on p.17. However, the infrastructure strategy on p.47 shows only 8% going to parks and reserves. We should invest more in maintenance of parks and reserves, as well as control of pest weeds and animals in our natural green spaces.

Stormwater and housing concerns - The 'Vision Statement' on p. 10 refers to Wellington as an 'eco city' - which we support. We also support the projected upgrades to the stormwater system on p.13, need for a housing strategy on p.24 and sustainable growth on p.32.

However, housing developments and infill housing are causing more fast stormwater run-off from hard surfaces. This causes flooding, stream bank erosion, siltation and destruction of aquatic life.

This root-cause of fast stormwater run-off must be addressed. New developments should be biophilic. Council's 'Water Sensitive Urban Design' guidelines for stormwater must be mandated to counter these adverse stormwater effects. All developments, including new roads, must have a neutral effect on stormwater runoff, such as by use of swales, wetlands,

planting, green walls/roofs, soakage areas, permeable (instead of hard) surfaces, stormwater detention and roof water tankage.

Sustainable Growth - Streamlined Consenting

Option 1 for sustainable growth on p.34 includes a review to streamline consenting procedures. However, there is a growing tendency for major developments to be consented without public consultation. If Option 1 is to proceed, a way must be found to allow more public participation, which is also speedy. Comments from the public often highlight issues not thought of by the developer or Council.

One example, is the recent application to put 17 housing units on a small property adjoining Trelissick Park, jeopardising the original forest remnant below. Although the application is still being processed, there has been extensive public feedback on the application.

SPECIFIC REQUESTS

New entrance and track for Trelissick Park from Oban Street, Wadestown – The Mayor's introduction on p.3 refers to a need for improved walking routes. Many residents of Wadestown and Highland Park are denied walking access to green spaces within the 10 minute guideline in the Suburban Reserves Management Plan 2015. A residents' and users' survey by Council is about to take place on a track for Trelissick Park from Oban Street, Wadestown. We expect this project to proceed this year, after community advocacy since 1981 and Council organising a legal right of way in 1999.

Request: a budget provision for the entrance work from Oban Street down the legal right of way past the houses and for ongoing maintenance of the track and footbridge. (The rest of the track will be upgraded by volunteers to Council standards and the footbridge will be funded from community donations).

Parking on Lower Ngaio Gorge Road – Parking for Park users is dire as a result of the major landslips.

Request: make a budget provision for a new parking area just up-hill from the lower Park entrance, currently a grassy 'lay-by'.

Walking Tracks and Links

The Plan shows the many millions of dollars to be spent on improving cycle routes into the city. Yet walking, in comparison, gets scant attention. This is where the tracks of Trelissick Park are important for their through routes, ie Northern Walkway, Sanctuary to Sea Walkway, Te Araroa Trail and the planned track from Oban Street, Wadestown. All these routes provide links from the suburbs to the city.

The 'Walks and Walkways' section of Council's website provides excellent guides and maps, including a comprehensive map showing 'walking only' and 'combined use' tracks. However, this map does not show the multiplicity of linking tracks/footpaths between streets. Adding these to the map, with publicity, would encourage people to walk into the city or to an intermediate bus route, explore more and benefit from our green spaces.

Request: add to the following map the linking tracks/footpaths between streets, with publicity:

<http://wcc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=4eef692753dd488d8200d896d2c80c2a>.

Cycling Routes - Developing cycling routes in Ngaio/Khandallah/Wadestown is referred to on p.28. Trelissick Park, with many tramping style tracks, cannot withstand cycling environmentally. It is also popular with walkers, children and off-leash dogs, so is a safety issue. The current cycling prohibited status must be retained.

Request: Retain cycling prohibited status for Trelissick Park.

*Old town hall and Michael Fowler Centre seem adequate for many convention purposes.

Yours sincerely,

P. M. Reimann .

Peter Reimann
(Chairman, Trelissick Park Group)