

Report 11.114
Date 24 March 2011
File N/03/21/20

Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee
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Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Plan Update

1. Purpose

To update the subcommittee on the status of the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Preparation of a Floodplain Management Plan for the Waiwhetu stream was prompted in response to significant flooding along the Waiwhetu Stream in 2004. A scoping report was prepared by August 2004 and the bulk of Phase 1 investigations completed by 2007. Further works on the Waiwhetu Stream FMP were put on hold until urgent flood protection and remediation works had been completed in the lower reaches of the stream, between Bell Road Bridge and Port Road Bridge.

The preparation of the Floodplain Management Plan commenced again in 2010 through endorsement of the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee.

The Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Plan development is now overseen by the Hutt Valley Floodplain Management Subcommittee.

In July 2010 Alistair Allan was appointed as Project Manager to oversee the completion of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Waiwhetu Stream. At this stage work completed to date was evaluated and a process put in place to complete the FMP.

It was determined through discussion with HCC officers that HCC have allocated funding to address the 1-in-50 year return period flood issues facing the Awamutu stream. Structural measures for the Awamutu Stream channel

have already been consulted on, as part of the adoption of the Hutt City Annual Plan/Long Term Plan. Structural measures for the Awamutu Stream channel are consistent with the outcomes of joint Waiwhetu Stream/Awamutu Stream flood management studies. These measures recognise the relationship between the Awamutu Stream and the Waiwhetu Stream and will complement works in the Waiwhetu Stream. Awamutu Stream channel works are not dependent on works in the Waiwhetu Stream and will begin delivering flood protection benefits in the Awamutu catchments as soon as they are implemented.

Consultation on non structural in-catchment measures will include the Awamutu Stream catchment as these measures will be common across the Awamutu and the wider Waiwhetu Stream catchments.

4. The Completed Waiwhetu Project

Between June 2009 and November 2010 the Waiwhetu Stream Widening, Deepening and Remediation Project was successfully completed, and stage 1 of the three stage environmental enhancement plan finished.

Seed collection has been completed and propagation of plants for stages 2 and 3 of the environmental enhancement plan is underway, and planting of stage 2 is in the planning stages for Winter/Spring 2011.

Opportunities to involve the community and local industry in stage 3 of the planting are being investigated, and the concept stream furniture sketches have been passed to local businesses interested in developing the designs into a final product. When these work plans have been finalised we will contact local interested parties.

5. Investigations completed between July 2010 and February 2011

1. Technical flood model data for the Waiwhetu Stream has been updated, including climate change effects on sea level rise and rainfall, and incorporation of the recently widened section of the stream between Bell Rd and Port Rd Bridge.
2. Technical flood damages model data has been updated, by the addition of more detailed individual property information.
3. A joint officer liaison group has been set up with representatives of HCC (and their asset managers) and GWRC.
4. Revised flood spread maps incorporating the affects of climate change are currently being prepared.

6. Community Consultation

The consultation process is being managed by GWRC Flood Protection officers, and future publications will be created in house by GWRC officers, and reviewed by HCC officers.

As a result of the start-up workshops a consultation database nearing 200 residents and businesses has been created. From this database 5 consultation groups have been formed to further the FMP development.

Subsequent to the start-up workshop, the GWRC website for the Waiwhetu Stream FMP was updated to act as the first place to seek published information on the FMP development. Email correspondence is being used as the preferred communication method for better efficiencies in information distribution to interested parties. Postal options are being used for those without access to computers or printers, or if an email address has been withheld, or when specifically requested by a resident.

The following 5 groups have been established as part of the consultation process, a first round of consultation has been held with representatives drawn from the areas of these groups;

- Seaview and Gracefield Business Group

Formed by expanding an existing Seaview Gracefield business group

- Lower Waiwhetu Residents Group

Residential properties downstream of Whites Line East, excluding areas affected by the Awamutu stream. Primarily Mandel Mews and Riverside Drive South residents

- Middle Waiwhetu Residents Group

Residents living on and affected by the Waiwhetu Stream and its tributaries between Whites Line East and approximately Tilbury St Weir

- Upper Waiwhetu Residents Group

Residents upstream of Tilbury St Weir and including the Waiwhetu Stream and its tributaries in Naenae

- Naenae Business and Community Group

Formed by expanding an existing Naenae community group and circulating additional information to business and industry in the Naenae central business area. It should be noted that this area is not subject to flooding in a 1-in-100 year flood event.

7. Programme

A tentative timeline has been prepared for completion of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Waiwhetu Stream.

1. April 2011 consultation stage 2 – Options development

2. May 2011 consultation stage 3 – Options assessed against assessment criteria
3. July 2011 consultation stage 4 – Draft Options Packages
4. October 2011 technical detailing and evaluation of Draft Options packages against options assessment criteria and further consultation round with the community.
5. Adoption of a proposed package of options by this committee
6. June 2012 Draft of Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Plan

8. Communication

19th November 2010 - Upstream Newsletter sent to all residents, businesses, and property owners within the 100 year flood hazard area, approximately 2500 letters sent out. The newsletter contained an invitation to a series of public workshops to be held on the 28th of November.

19th November 2010 - Distribution of the Upstream Newsletter to all residents and businesses within the Waiwhetu catchment boundary. Approximately 12000 newsletters distributed.

25th November 2010 - Waiwhetu Stream Working Group meeting to discuss material for the 28th November Public Workshop

27th November 2010 - Stand at the Naenae festival, promoting the Workshop to be held on the 28th November 2010.

27th November 2010 - 28th November Workshops advertised on Hutt Radio.

28th November 2010 - Workshops held at Naenae Softball Club, Te Maori Resource Centre at Waiwhetu Marae, and Pelorus Trust Sportshouse. Approximately 80 people in attendance. A flier was distributed at this workshop to answer some of the commonly asked questions related to flood risk, and explain some of the options available for flood risk management.

2nd December 2010 - Workshop material presented to Team Naenae Community Group.

22nd December 2010 - Update email sent to residents who had registered an interest during the workshops on 28th of November. Included 'Whats next' details. Paper copies of this email were sent to those without internet access.

17th January 2011 - Phone calls made to arrange dates and times with residents who had requested a property visits from Greater Wellington Officers.

31st January 2011 - Seaview/Gracefield business group meeting

3rd February 2011 - Visit to Naenae Industry Area to raise awareness of project

3rd February 2011 - Upper Waiwhetu Residents Group meeting

23rd February 2011 - Lower Waiwhetu Residents Group meeting

24th February 2011 - Upper Waiwhetu Residents Group meeting

1st March 2011 - Seaview and Gracefield Business Group meeting

1st March 2011 - Middle Waiwhetu Residents Group meeting

9. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

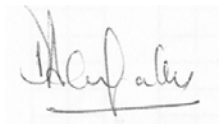
1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes the programme to completion.*

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