



Report 07.333
Date 23 May 2007
File E/06/09/37
PK/10/02/05
Committee Landcare
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Draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan – Hearing on submissions by Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee

1. Purpose

To:

- Outline the Hearing process for the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan, especially dates and times.
- Consider membership of the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee for this Hearing.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters 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

At its meeting on 8 February 2005, the Landcare Committee established the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee and adopted the Terms of Reference [*Attachment 1*] for that Subcommittee. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to hear public submissions on the Regional Parks and Forests Management Plan.

The Landcare Committee has also considered several reports regarding the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan review – Report 06.248 on 2 June 2006 setting the direction for the preparation of a draft management plan, and Report 06.600 on 30 November 2006 approving release of the draft management plan for public consultation.

4. Next steps for the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan

Arrangements now have to be made for the Parks Hearing Subcommittee to hear and consider the submissions received by Greater Wellington on the draft Management Plan. Seventeen submissions were received, and seven submitters have indicated they wish to be heard at this stage. Hearing numbers will be confirmed closer to the time.

Key arrangements to be confirmed are:

4.1 Dates for the Hearing

As there are only a few submissions to be heard, officers are proposing that the hearing follows straight after the Landcare Committee Meeting on June 20 (as outlined in 1 June Councillors Bulletin). The dates set down for the Hearing and needing confirmation are:

20 June 2007, 12:30pm – 2pm: Submitters to be heard

20 June 2007, 2pm – 3pm: Subcommittee deliberations (once submitters have been heard)

The above dates and venue (The Hutt Room, Level 5) have been provisionally booked, pending confirmation by the Subcommittee.

4.2 Subcommittee recommendations

The Subcommittee will make recommendations to the Landcare Committee in response to the submissions at the next meeting in August.

4.3 Membership of the Subcommittee

The membership of the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee is the same as the Landcare Committee. The Subcommittee also has the ability to appoint such other members for shorter fixed durations if it so desires. No other appointees are recommended for this Committee.

4.4 Quasi judicial role

The Subcommittee has a quasi judicial role, so it is important that those members deliberating on the submissions commit to attending as much of the proceedings as possible. It would be desirable if Subcommittee members who deliberate on submissions were present at the Hearings.

The Subcommittee quorum is two regional councillors who must be present throughout the entire Hearing.

5. Communication

The Hearing dates will be communicated by public notices and letters to those who have indicated they wish to be heard.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) **Confirm** that the dates, times and venues for the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee considering submissions on the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan be:

12.30pm – 2.00pm: 20 June 2007 (The Hutt Room, Level 5, following on from Landcare Committee Meeting)

2.00pm – 3.00pm: 20 June 2007 (Deliberations once submitters have been heard).

(2) **Agree** that the Subcommittee report to the August Landcare Committee with a finalised plan.

Report prepared by:

Report endorsed by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Parks and Forests Hearing Committee: Terms of Reference