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Keep Whangaparāoa's Green Spaces.

Healthy Communities Need Space

Message from the President of KWGS – Nigel Varey

I wanted to get this update out to you before Christmas and take the opportunity to update you on some activities KWGS has been involved with and to clarify a couple of points that have been raised on our Facebook channel.

As you may have seen from recent posts, there are now two separate entities.

- KWGS (Keep Whangaparaoa's Green Spaces) focussing on ensuring the 999-year Encumbrance is upheld by the Council and preserving the golf course land as open space zoning, and
- GHCT (Gulf Harbour Community Trust) focussing on the 'boots on the ground' maintenance of the golf course environment.

We maintain close linkages with GHCT and are pleased to announce that Bret Taylor has recently joined the KWGS committee as our Treasurer. Bret is a stalwart of the GHCT monthly working groups, and I believe he has attended 12 of the 14 Sunday working bees so far. An expert at attacking Woolly Nightshade and Pampas Grass, but with an impressive corporate background, a great addition to the KWGS team. Hamish Orrick, our former Treasurer had to step down due to pressing work commitments, but we will maintain close contact with him. I thank him for his contribution as Treasurer and valuable finance expertise.

Since my last report in October, KWGS has been working on a submission to Auckland Council on Plan Change 120 which addresses housing intensification and resilience in Auckland. We have sent you a couple of posts on the submission process and encouraged you to make individual submissions. I want to thank those of you who have made submissions and remind others that submissions can still be made up until 19th December.

The draft Plan Change 120 keeps the golf course land zoned as Open Space. Our

submission to Council has therefore focussed on this fact and supports Plan Change 120 to the extent that it proposes to retain the Gulf Harbour Golf Course land at 180 Gulf Harbour Drive as an Open Space – Active Recreation Zone.

On the legal front, I updated you on the liquidation of GHCC (2016) Ltd in my October report. We are maintaining close contact with the liquidators who are working for us on a pro bono basis. We understand that a statutory demand has been served against Long River Investments by GHCC 2016 Ltd, and the application process has begun in court. We are following up with Auckland Council on their attempts to recover the clubhouse demolition costs from Long River Investments but have nothing to report at this time.

On other legal matters, we took advice from our lawyers on pursuing a Class Action process against Long River Investments. Based on this advice, KWGS will not pursue this avenue at this time.

It's worth remembering that KWGS's initial mission was to ensure that the 999-year Encumbrance is set in concrete by the Council and in that regard we have been successful. Along the way we have reacted to various events that could undermine the Encumbrance. For example, when Long River Investments submitted a Resource Consent application that, had it been successful, could have resulted in the front eight holes being sold for housing development we submitted an eight-page legal planning document to the Council planning and consenting teams. No doubt in part because of our input, the Commissioner assigned to this application determined it should be a Notified Consent which was a huge win for us. While this may seem like a simple win, there are many planning and legal hours that go into reacting to potential threats to the golf course land and these all cost.

This fight may well take years as many others like it have done. So, while at times it may seem as though nothing much is happening, you can be assured KWGS is still very actively involved. We appreciate your financial support and remind you if you would like to donate to the KWGS cause, details of how to do this are on our website. You can be assured the money you have contributed is spent thoughtfully and carefully.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Nigel Varey
President Keep Whangaparaoa's Green Spaces Inc

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