

KIHIKIHI DOMAIN STRATEGIC PLAN & RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1. Introduction

1.1 Kihikihi Domain

The Waipa District Council is responsible for the management of the Kihikihi Recreation Reserve under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Kihikihi Recreation Reserve comprises two areas of land within the township of Kihikihi, being the bowling club and the Kihikihi Domain. The Domain is located in the north eastern sector of Kihikihi township, bounded by North, Oliver, Grey and Atkinson Streets (Figure 1.1). At 22 ha, it is the largest recreational area in Kihikihi and services a large number of permanently located and casual outdoor activities, particularly equestrian events.

The Kihikihi Domain provides open space for casual and recreational activities by residents of the Waipa District and beyond. Activities on the Domain include a wide range of equestrian related activities, the speedway, cricket, rugby and tennis.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

Due to the importance of the Kihikihi Domain for a wide range of other sporting and recreational opportunities in the Waipa District and particularly equestrian activities, this document has been prepared to fulfil two functions, as follows:

- To provide strategic direction and planning for the future and on-going operation and development of the Kihikihi Domain and its linkages with adjoining properties; and
- To undertake a review of the existing Reserve Management Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Strategic Plan for the Domain is addressed in the first part of this document (Sections 2 and 3) and is followed by the detail of the Reserve Management Plan (Sections 4 to 9).

The following sections outline some of the key sections of the Reserves Act 1977, relevant to the preparation of this Management Plan.

1.2.1 Legal Description and Reserve Classification

Excluding access tracks located on paper road, Kihikihi Domain contains 22 hectares and is legally described as follows:

- Town of Kihikihi Block VII Puniu Survey District Allotments 220 to 225, 228 to 241, 359 to 380;
- Lot 18 DPS 4908;
- Allotment 422 SO 46918; and
- Allotments 381 to 390.

A cadastral plan of the Kihikihi Domain and its surrounds is provided as Figure 1.1.

The majority of Kihikihi Domain is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. A copy of the relevant Gazette Notices are attached as Appendix A.

FIGURE 1.1: KIHIKIHI DOMAIN



As shown in Figure 1.1, the three lots at the far south of the Domain are owned by Waipa District Council, but are not gazetted as Recreation Reserve. In addition, the east end of Grey Street, which divides the two main Domain areas but is used for Domain purposes, is vested as road, rather than gazetted as Recreation Reserve. Recommended policies and actions to address these anomalies are provided in Sections 2.2.2 and 3.1 of this document, respectively. It is not considered necessary to stop Atkinson Street and gazette it as Recreation Reserve as this paper road is currently used as an access route along the eastern side of the Kihikihi Domain.

1.2.2 Purpose of a Recreation Reserve

Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 states that the purpose of a Recreation Reserve is to provide:

“... areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.”

1.2.3 Purpose of this Strategic Plan and Reserve Management Plan

Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires the “administering body” (i.e. the Waipa District Council in relation to the Kihikihi Domain) to prepare a Reserve Management Plan for any reserve under its control, management or administration.

Section 41(3) of the Reserves Act 1977 states:

“the management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body’s resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purpose for which it is classified, and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out in Section 17 ... of this Act for a reserve of that classification.”

Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977 states:

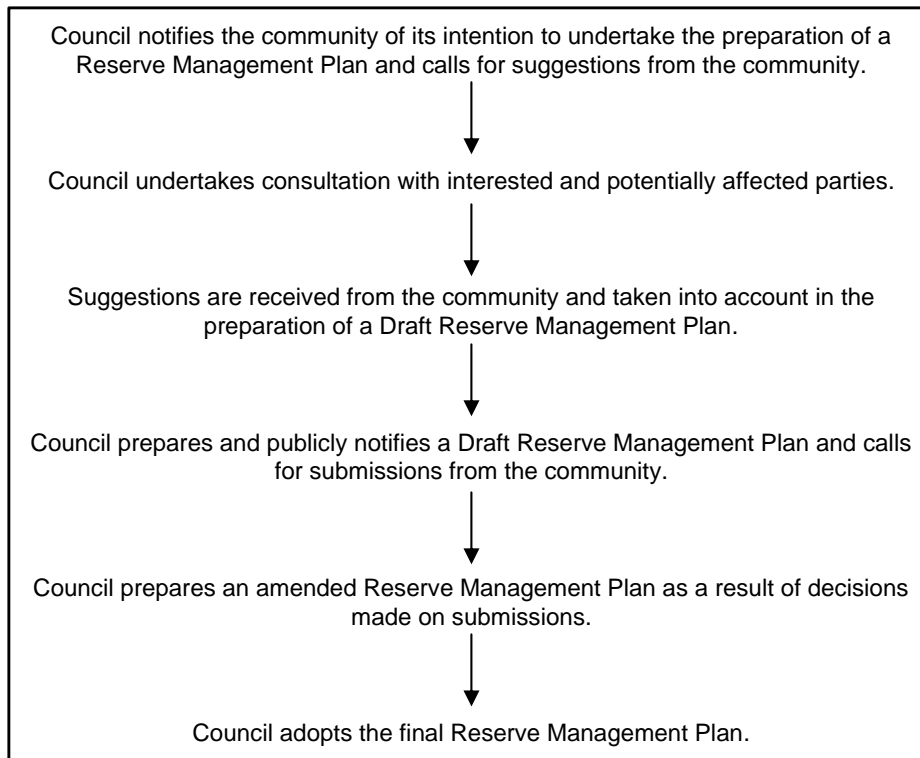
“the administering body of any reserve shall keep its management plan under continuous review, so that, subject to subsection (3) of this section, the plan is adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge ...”.

A Reserve Management Plan was prepared and approved by Waipa District Council in the early 1990s. This Plan has guided the development and management of activities on the Kihikihi Domain up until the present time. The existing Reserve Management Plan will be replaced by this new Strategic Plan and Reserve Management Plan which will guide the future use, development and on-going management of the Kihikihi Domain.

1.2.4 The Statutory Process

In addition to the matters discussed above, Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 prescribes the process by which a reserve management plan shall be prepared. This process is summarised in the following Figure 1.2 Reserve Management Plan Preparation Procedure.

FIGURE 1.2: RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPRATION PROCEDURE



1.2.5 Methodology

The Waipa District Council engaged Environmental Management Services Ltd (EMS) to undertake the preparation of a Draft Reserve Management Plan for the Kihikihi Domain (including a Strategic Plan so as to incorporate a wider perspective).

The methodology undertaken to prepare this document has involved the following:

- Liaison with representatives of Waipa District Council;
- Site visits;
- Analysis of existing statutory documentation prepared under the Reserves Act 1977, the Local Government Act 1974, and the Resource Management Act 1991 relating to the management of the Kihikihi Domain and the surrounding environment;
- Consultation with interested and potentially affected parties. This included a series of meetings and telephone discussions with key stakeholders. Parties consulted included user groups (including sporting clubs), event organisers, local landowners and neighbours, Council departments and tangata whenua; and
- Preparation of this Strategic Plan and Draft Reserve Management Plan document.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2. Strategic Plan

2.1 Introduction

In addition to simply preparing a revised and updated Reserve Management Plan, the review process provides an opportunity to promote a more strategic approach to planning for the future and ongoing use, development and management of the Kihikihi Domain and neighbouring private land associated with certain Domain activities.

It is proposed that Kihikihi Domain be reinforced as a major equestrian venue with the primary focus being the on-going use and development of the Domain as a competition and organised training venue for equestrian sports. In many ways the site is unique, in that its character and open space lends itself well to sports and recreation that require expansive, open, grassed fields. It is centrally located in the Waikato region, a NZ equestrian stronghold, and its proximity to services and infrastructure associated with greater Hamilton City, Te Awamutu and Cambridge will ensure users and visitors are well catered for. In particular, Kihikihi is located near regionally-based services for equestrian activities, such as the Cambridge Equine Hospital and other equine veterinary practices, and these connections are important to the ongoing use of the Domain for equestrian sports.

Over recent years the site has successfully hosted international and national polo events, national show jumping, cross country and dressage. The desire to achieve this outcome is consistent with the feedback from consultation undertaken with a wide range of interested and potentially affected parties (as discussed in the Section 8 of this document).

Ongoing equestrian use is however dependant on two adjoining private holdings. One property has a cross country circuit, the second a polo field. While both land owners have supported and continue to support equestrian events, securing the use of these properties in the short term by some mutually beneficial arrangement and extending the Reserve classification over this land in the longer term, will be necessary if the full potential of the site is to be realised.

Other activities on the Domain, including the speedway, should enjoy, as a minimum, the continued use of the facilities within their current operational area and activities, and the ability to upgrade these facilities to meet safety and operational needs.

It is envisaged that sporting events, particularly large events, would take precedence and the allocation of space for such events would continue. When sport events are not being held, the Domain and its various public facilities, including its status as a dog exercise area, will be available for public use and enjoyment. New passive activities will be considered and where appropriate encouraged by Council. Such new activities should only be permitted where these will not adversely affect existing activities and events and are not catered for at other venues within the wider Te Awamutu district.

Management of the Kihikihi Domain is largely undertaken by well-coordinated volunteer effort working through Kihikihi Domain Sports Incorporated. To date, this approach has worked well for the wide range of user groups. Provision will be made to better support the Sport Group.

The proposed strategic direction for the management of the Kihikihi Domain and the wider area is outlined in the following primary objective and policies.

2.2 Strategic Vision and Policies for the Kihikihi Domain

The Kihikihi Domain comprises gazetted Reserve land and Council-owned land, as described in Section 1.2.1 of this document. As some Domain activities extend to adjoining private land with equestrian infrastructure (as shown on Figure 3.1), this land is included in the wider area addressed by the strategic vision and policies.

2.3 Strategic Vision

The management of the Kihikihi Domain (and adjoining private land) as a recreational venue characterised by large areas of open space in a park-like setting to facilitate a wide range of sporting and recreational activities (and equestrian activities in particular), requiring open grassed areas for events and/or parking.

2.4 Strategic Policies

2.4.1 Gazetting Council Land

- a) To gazette as Recreation Reserve the three properties to the south of the Kihikihi Domain (to the north of Atkinson Street).
- b) To stop the east end of Grey Street from the intersection with Dick Street to the intersection with Atkinson Street, and gazette as Recreation Reserve.

Justification

As a priority, Council should legitimise the current use of non-reserve land by gazetting as Recreation Reserve the three lots to the south of the Domain, and stopping the eastern end of Grey Street and also gazetting this as Recreation Reserve.

2.4.2 Equestrian Use

- a) To promote the on-going use and development of the Kihikihi Domain for a wide range of equestrian sporting events and outdoor pursuits;
- b) To encourage regional, national, and international events to be held on the Kihikihi Domain;
- c) To facilitate the use of the Kihikihi Domain as a competition venue for equestrian sporting events and outdoor pursuits; and,
- d) To ensure that facilities are provided on the Kihikihi Domain of a standard that is appropriate to the achievement of the strategic vision and cater for expected use.

Justification

The emphasis over the next five years is to further consolidate the Kihikihi Domain as an equestrian venue. This will likely require additional infrastructure like covered yards and riding arena/s for dressage and rodeo activities. Any new facilities will be scrutinised in terms of their impact (if any) on other activities and the wider environment.

A priority for all large events is the provision of adequate toilet facilities. Consideration of either the purchasing of portable toilets, which would be hired to clubs for specific events or, otherwise require that such facilities be arranged and/or provided by event organisers on an 'as required' basis.

2.4.3 Maintaining Existing Use

- a) Priority use of the Domain will be given to residing sports groups;
- b) A change to the Waipa District Plan will be promoted during the District Plan review. The purpose will be to include planning provisions which appropriately recognise and provide for a range of Domain activities without the need for resource consents; and,
- c) To allow the continued use and enjoyment of the Kihikihi Domain by the general public except when and where organised sporting or recreational events are being held.

Justification

There is a long history of Domain use by certain sport groups. Continued use by these groups will be fostered and future development of the Domain will take into account relationships and potential conflicts between users groups and neighbouring residents.

Council will consider encouraging new activities on the Domain where these can be undertaken without compromising the equestrian or other existing activities. This could include a running / walking / cycling track around the perimeter, possibly incorporating equipment for an exercise circuit to provide for the increasing number of casual users.

As discussed in Section 7.2, the current Rural and Residential Zone provisions in the Waipa District Plan applying to the Kihikihi Domain (and many other reserves) are likely to result in the need for a resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 in relation to most forms of new development and/or activities that one would expect to occur on a Recreation Reserve. This is inefficient and involves additional costs and delays associated with the ability to develop a reserve for its intended purpose.

2.4.4 Non-Reserve Land

- a) To use the Reserve Management Plan objectives and policies identified in Section 8.0 to guide Council in the management of non-reserve land.

Justification

As a small part of the Kihikihi Domain has yet to be gazetted as Recreation Reserve, its management as non-reserve land needs to be specifically addressed.

2.4.5 Relationship with Adjoining Landowners

- a) Council will work with the adjoining land owners to progress a mutually beneficial arrangement that will enable large equestrian events to continue to be hosted at the Kihikihi Domain; and,
- b) Council will pursue the addition of land to the Kihikihi Domain as opportunities arise in order to secure long term, the use of the site for large equestrian events.

Justification

Given the key role of the neighbouring private land in hosting large equestrian events, it is important that a binding relationship between Council and the adjoining land owners is negotiated. Council will work with the landowners to achieved a mutually beneficial arrangement that clearly acknowledges the contribution made by the landowners, the facilities that they have provided, and need to work cooperatively to successfully host large equestrian events.

Longer term however, it is desirable to formally include the land used for equestrian events into the Kihikihi Domain. There are a number of options available to achieve this outcome and all of these will be considered when opportunities arise.

2.4.6 Domain Name and Signage

- a) The name of the site will be “Kihikihi Domain”; and,
- b) All signage will be amended as necessary to be consistent in referring to the reserve as “Kihikihi Domain”. All signs will meet Council’s design standards for signs.

Justification

The official name of the reserve is the “Kihikihi Domain” (as referred to throughout this document). Directional signage around the site, however, refers to several other names, including Waipa Equestrian Park, which is a potential source of confusion for visitors unfamiliar with the Domain.

Despite the intended primary use for equestrian sporting activities and events, the range of activities undertaken on the Domain does not justify amending the name to refer to equestrian activities. Amendments to road signage will be necessary to ensure consistency with the existing name. No change is necessary to the gate signage, which is of a high standard and clearly indicates the reserve as “Kihikihi Domain”.

2.4.7 Landscaping

- a) A landscape plan showing strategic links to key site elements will be prepared. This plan will provide an overview of how landscaping can support and enhance the ongoing use of the site and will also provide landscaping guidance for new developments.

Justification

Landscaping throughout the Domain is proposed to enhance the existing landscape features and values. To protect the open space character of the Domain, it is proposed that new plantings of shrubs and groundcover will help define activity areas and/or soften the appearance of buildings. Forward planning to ensure an open and available landscape is retained, is essential.

2.4.8 Site Management

- a) Council will accept a greater level of responsibility for events management, and will act as necessary to provide the appropriate level of administration and management support and will work with the Kihikihi Domain Sports Incorporated to prepare a site development plan that will consider all facets of development and future expansion; and,
- b) Council will clarify with tenanted users, their use of the Domain and where necessary, ensure signage clearly displays rights of causal users.

Justification

The co-ordination and management of events and activities is currently undertaken by a management committee of volunteers from the various sporting groups that use the Kihikihi Domain. There is generally a high level of satisfaction with the current management regime (in terms of personnel and functions). Event bookings are well coordinated, and there appears to be a very good working relationship with tenants, user groups and event organisers.

Some confusion does exist with casual Domain users including dog walkers. There is uncertainty of occupation rights outside event times. This matter requires clarification and where appropriate tenancy agreements will be modified.

No specific changes are proposed in relation to the management of the Kihikihi Domain at this stage. This is a matter which the Waipa District Council will review on a periodic basis as the Kihikihi Domain further develops and progressively achieves the outcomes embodied in this Strategic Plan and Reserve Management Plan.

Council will work with Kihikihi Domain Sport Incorporated to prepare a site development plan. The purposes of such a plan is to ensure a co-ordinated and agreed approach to any modification or expansion to the existing infrastructure or event facilities on the Kihikihi Domain.

There would continue to be a need for an overall Site Manager (with an appropriate level of administrative assistance). However, as the events become larger and or more prolific, a dedicated Events Manager may be required. An Events Manager would be responsible for:

- Liaison with all user groups;
- Promotion of the Kihikihi Domain and its facilities;
- The coordination of event bookings;
- Assisting with the running of events;
- Fund raising for developments on the Kihikihi Domain; and
- Communications with neighbouring residents regarding events.

Council’s website is an important tool in advising the community about the Domain and how it is managed. This document will ultimately be available electronically on the website, together with a shortcut to a location map for the Domain.

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3. Description of the Kihikihi Domain

Figure 3.1 provides an aerial photograph of the Kihikihi Domain and identifies a number of key features on and adjacent to the site.

The following sections of this document provide a description of various aspects of the Kihikihi Domain.

3.1 Historical Background

Kihikihi Domain was initially called the Kihikihi Recreation Reserve, but its name was changed in 1883 when the Kihikihi Town Board was formed. In the early 1870s and 1880s, horse races were held at the Domain every March, and were very popular, attracting people from far and wide. The grandstand was built for the March 1888 meeting, and was moved to its present site in 1954 (and now faces the polo field). Around the turn of the last century, polo was played at the Domain instead of its usual venue at a local farm, and this became an ongoing feature.

Other sports played at the Domain included football, cricket, hockey, athletics and hack racing. From the early 1890s a big sports day was held every New Year's Day, and became a major event. A Kihikihi Rugby Club existed back in the 1880s, but several recesses occurred due to population moves and two world wars. The club reformed finally in 1958 and over the years the facilities have been established with both public money and thousands of voluntary work hours. Cricket has its own pavilion and facilities at the Reserve, as has the Tennis Club which has been active since 1913. The local bowling club and its greens was where the tennis courts are now sited and were opened in 1934. These were moved to the existing site on Lyon Street (opposite the Alpha Hotel) in 1946.

In the 1950s the Midget Car Club bulldozed a track at their own expense. Athletics were held in the middle of the midget track. The old building associated with the car club was replaced in the 1970s when the Kihikihi ¼ Midget Club became the Kihikihi Speedway Club. The Pony Club has used the Domain area over many years. Kihikihi School organised the annual rodeo at Tiki Road from around 1961 until the mid 1980s, when it was located at the Domain and taken over by the Waikato Rodeo Association. Various other activities have established over the years and become permanent fixtures at the Domain or have discontinued using the site.

In addition to the Kihikihi Domain area, the neighbouring private land (owned by the Nicholson and Kay families) has been developed by the owners to consolidate and complement equestrian activities on the Domain. These linkages are discussed more fully in Section 5.1 of this document.

FIGURE 3.1: KIHIKIHI DOMAIN, USE AND ITS FEATURES



3.2 Topography and Physical Features

The Kihikihi Domain is generally flat (75%) with the remainder in undulating ground and some steep banks. The majority of the Domain is covered in grass which is mowed on a regular basis.

The soil type is described as moderately fertile yellow brown loams on undulating to rolling slopes with a slight erosion hazard when cultivated.

Over the years, the area has been extensively modified to cater for field sports, improve drainage and provide spectator viewing.

Major earthworks were undertaken in the late 1980s to modify the area south of the polo field for pony club use and subsequently resiting the rugby fields adjacent to the cricket ground. In early 2000, further surface contouring and tree removal was undertaken for the southern fields.

Buildings on the Domain are generally in clusters. The rugby and tennis clubrooms adjoin the tennis courts, the polo grandstand, pony club shed, toilets and rugby league clubrooms are situated in proximity to their associated sports areas. Southwest of the cricket wicket are the cricket pavilion, clubrooms and toilets, and the speedway area has a cluster of related buildings along the Grey Street boundary. Rodeo and other equestrian groups also have their own buildings.

The remainder of the Domain is primarily open grassed areas. This open space characterises the Domain and provides flexibility for sports that require extensive open space.

The Domain is not landscaped or planted to any large extent. There are a line of mature English trees along the access from Oliver Street. Oak trees line the perimeter of the cricket ground and groups of specimen trees are located throughout the Domain.

3.3 Infrastructure

Vehicular access to the Kihikihi Domain is via four main access points as follows:

- Dick Street (Gate 1);
- Atkinson Street (Gate 4);
- Grey Street (Gate 2); and
- Oliver Street (Gate 3).

In addition, there are specific entrance points to the speedway area (from Oliver and Grey Streets) and to the tennis / rugby club (from Herbert Street).

3.4 Maintenance

Turf maintenance (mowing) is coordinated and funded by Waipa District Council. Code-specific turf maintenance is carried out by individual clubs e.g. polo.

3.5 Landscape Values

The Kihikihi Domain is not noted as having any particular landscape values under the District Plan. However, its open space character is a key feature of the site and this plan recognises and supports the maintenance of this landscape value.

3.6 Cultural Value and Archaeological Sites

Consultation has been undertaken with Nga Iwi Toopu O Waipa as discussed in Section 8 of this document.

The Waipa District Plan does not indicate any recorded archaeological, cultural or heritage sites on the Kihikihi Domain or in the near vicinity. There are no known specific cultural values associated with the site other than the use of the Domain by tangata whenua for recreational activities.

3.7 Adjoining Land Uses

The Kihikihi Domain lies to the northeast of the town's residential area, including a residential block bounded by Oliver Street, Whitmore Street, Dick Street and Grey Street which is subject to a minimum lot size of 1000m². A small block of residential land is located immediately adjoining the Domain land in its northwest corner. Whilst most of the residential land has been subdivided, there is potential for further intensification particularly in properties adjoining the speedway area of the Domain.

Several Rural Zone properties adjoin the Domain's eastern side, and those within the area bounded by the Kihikihi-Arapuni Road, Kimberley Road and Hairini Road are working farms, utilised by their owners for equestrian events and to facilitate Domain-related equestrian activities e.g. polo and eventing. These properties are largely in open space and are maintained for equestrian activity by the landowners. The strategic link with these properties is discussed in Section 3.1 of this document.

3.8 Activities and Events

Activities conducted from the Kihikihi Domain are many and varied. To illustrate the extent of usage, the Event Schedule for the 2008 - 2009 year summer season is presented in Appendix B.

Equestrian events are the predominant regular fixtures of all booked events. Events and activities on the Domain include:

- Rodeo
- Dressage
- Show jumping
- Polo
- Riding for the disabled
- Cattle club
- Pony club
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Tennis

- School calf day, cross country.

In addition to organised events and activities, residents of the Waipa District and beyond use the Kihikihi Domain extensively on a casual basis as a recreational facility, including for walking and dog walking and exercising.

4. Linkages with Surrounding Environment

The Kihikihi Domain has a number of existing and potential strategic linkages with other locations adjoining the Domain or within the surrounding environment. These are discussed as follows.

4.1 Neighbouring Private Land

Portions of the farmed properties to the east of the Domain have been developed to complement and facilitate equestrian activity on the Domain. These include a cross country course and a polo field.

Effectively these properties are considered by the equestrian community as forming a critical part of the horse-related activities on the Domain and have assisted establishing the Domain as a pre-eminent location for such sports.

Noise generated by the speedway is an issue for some owners of residential properties nearby.

4.2 Te Awamutu Events Centre

The Te Awamutu Events Centre is located in Te Awamutu approximately 5 km drive from the Kihikihi Domain. A range of sporting clubs have regular training and events at this Centre, which is seen as complementary to the nature of activities established at the Domain.

4.3 Proposed Park Road Development, Te Awamutu

A proposal is before Council for a new sports centre at an existing site representing four codes, namely netball, BMX, soccer and rugby. These activities do not conflict with those undertaken at the Kihikihi Domain, and thus the centre may be considered complementary to the Domain.

5. Statutory Controls

5.1 Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 sets out the purpose of a Recreation Reserve, as noted in section 1.2 of this document. Section 41 of the Act requires Waipa District Council as the “administering body” of the Kihikihi Domain, to prepare a Reserve Management Plan for this site. In accordance with section 41(4) of the Reserves Act, Council must keep this Management Plan under continuous review.

5.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act 1991 introduced a management regime covering the use and development of New Zealand’s natural and physical resources. It established the framework for the development and implementation of District and Regional Plans, each of which can impact on reserve development.

The District and Regional Plans contain objectives, policies and rules governing the control of environmental effects resulting from the use and development of resources. The legislation requires resource consent for activities whose effects are likely to be significant. Linkage with the District Plan is addressed in Section 7.2 of this Management Plan.

5.3 Local Government Acts 1974 and 2002

The Local Government Act 1974 has been replaced, in part, by the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). The 2002 Act imposes a requirement for Councils to prepare Annual Plans, the purpose of which is to signal expenditure. Capital expenditure resulting from management plan policies is traditionally signalled within the Annual Plan.

The Local Government Act 2002 also introduced a requirement for Councils to produce a Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The LTCCP replaces the former Long Term Financial Strategy and requires that proposed expenditure is signalled over a 10 year period.

5.4 Other Legislation

The management of non-classified or non-Council owned land may be affected by legislation other than the Reserves Act, the RMA or the LGA. Other legislation has the potential to impose limitations or requirements that impact on Councils management of non-classified land. Details are not known at this stage.

6. Linkages with other Documentation

6.1 Waipa District Plan

The Waipa District Plan regulates activities within the jurisdiction of the Waipa District Council under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Most of the Kihikihi Domain is identified in the Waipa District Plan as a Recreation Reserve and falls predominantly within the Residential Zone of the Waipa District Plan. The southernmost block (the area bounded by Grey, Dick and Atkinson Streets), is not identified as Recreation Reserve, despite most of the area being gazetted for this purpose, and is zoned Rural.

The Waipa District Plan includes the following objectives under the heading of *Recreational Activity and the Provision of Reserves*:

Objective RC1 – To accommodate the wide ranging recreational activity needs of the community in all areas within the District.

Objective RC2 – To accommodate the provisions of Council’s overall Recreation and Reserve Strategy Plan¹.

Objective RC3 – To provide opportunities for further recreational activity and facilities in urban and rural settlements where appropriate without there being adverse effects on other activities or any detracting from the local amenity values.

These objectives are followed by a number of policies including the following policy under the heading of *Recreation Activity in Rural Areas*:

Policy RC1 – To ensure that recreational activities do not adversely affect the rural environment or the sustainable management of any significant natural or physical resource.

The explanation to this policy states:

“Recreational activities, including tourist, community and cultural facilities are allowed in the Rural Zone along with most other ‘non-farming’ activities but subject to siting restrictions and other performance standards.”

The Rural Zone rules restrict the size of ‘non-farming’ activities, such as recreational activities on a Recreation Reserve, through Rule 2.4.9(2), which states:

Activities shall not exceed the following standards:

¹ Council’s ‘Recreation and Reserve Strategy’ forms part of the Community Leisure Plan (May 2002).

- (a) *The aggregate floor area of buildings and/or land used for the non-farming activity shall not exceed 100 m² **provided** that this condition shall not apply to that part of a dwelling house used solely for residential activity.*
- (b) *The number of persons engaged in the activity at any one time on the site shall not exceed five persons.*
- (c) *The number of guests who are provided with board and lodgings and/or meals shall not exceed ten persons at any one time.*

*Activities which do not comply with the requirements of Rule 2.4.9 shall require a resource consent for a **Discretionary Activity** which shall be considered in accordance with Rule 2.7.10.²*

Accordingly, new activities on the Kihikihi Domain within the Rural Zone (e.g. a new building) will require a Discretionary Activity resource consent application to be granted by the Waipa District Council.

Policy RC7, under the heading of Recreational Activity in Urban Areas is as follows:

Policy RC7 - To allow recreation activities on private land in residential, commercial, industrial, rural-residential and village settlement areas subject to them meeting the appropriate level of performance standards and design guidelines.

The explanation to this policy states:

“Recreational activities, which include cultural, community, tourist, heritage, active and passive recreational pursuits, will be permitted within the relevant activity areas to a level appropriate to the quality of the local environment. Generally they have to meet the same performance standards as other activities in the same zone.”

New buildings and other new activities on the Domain within the Residential Zone, may also trigger the need for a resource consent application.

In situations in which the Waipa District Council has to make a resource consent application to itself, the matter is usually determined by an Independent Commissioner.

Policy RC 3 of the District Plan refers to the identification of reserves and recreational areas. It seeks to identify recreational areas (other than reserves) according to their existing function or character. The preparation of this generic management plan will assist in that process.

² Rule 2.7.10 contains assessment criteria for allowing ‘non-farming’ activities in the Rural Zone.

6.1.1 Resource Consent

The Kihikihi Speedway Club holds a land use consent (LU/0157/06) for its existing operations, and is planning to lodge a resource consent application in the near future to reflect the evolving operations of the speedway.

6.2 Waikato Regional Policy Statement

The Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) contains a large number of objectives and policies directed at promoting the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the Waikato Region. Any relevant objectives and policies in the RPS will need to be considered as part of the assessment of any resource consent application required for activities on the Kihikihi Domain.

6.3 Waikato Regional Plan

The Waikato Regional Plan contains objectives, policies and methods (mainly rules) in relation to the management of natural and physical resources within the jurisdiction of Environment Waikato. Of particular relevance to the Kihikihi Domain is the possibility that a resource consent may be required from Environment Waikato for some future developments, although this is unlikely given the nature of the activities provided for in this Reserve Management Plan.

6.4 Long Term Council Community Plan

The Local Government Act 2002 introduced a requirement for all Local Authorities to adopt a Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) by 1st July 2004. The LTCCP is a 10-year Plan driven by the expectations (outcomes) of the community.

Waipa District Council undertook the outcomes phase of the LTCCP in November 2002. Of the priority issues identified by the community, the most topical concerned reserves.

The community recognised the value of reserves, not only within a recreational context, but in terms of their contribution towards community health. This position is distilled in one of Council's stated community outcomes, being a "Fit and Active Community". Reserves were also recognised as playing an important role in the District's long-term environmental management.

6.5 Waipa District Council Dog Control Bylaw

The Waipa District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2004 identifies the Kihikihi Domain as a dog exercise area with the note that preferential bookings will take precedence. Dog exercise area is defined in the bylaw as a designated public place where a dog may be exercised off a leash, but under control.

The Bylaw's policy on 'fouling' is applicable to all public places, reserves included. Section 20(5) of the Dog Control Act 1996 provides that every person who commits a breach of the Bylaw commits an offence. The offence is liable for penalties described by Section 242(4) of the Local Government Act 2002. At the date of making this Management Plan, the fine does not exceed \$20,000.

6.6 Waipa District Council Community Leisure Plan

The draft Reserve Management Plan is consistent with the vision and relevant key result areas articulated in the Waipa District Council Community Leisure Plan (May 2002). The Leisure Plan has now largely been superseded by the LTCCP.

7. Key Results of Consultation

Appendix C provides a summary of the key results of the consultation undertaken with interested and potentially affected parties as part of the preparation of this document. Generally, consultation feedback has confirmed the main issues facing the management and ongoing strategic development of the Domain – there have been no surprises.

8. Management Objectives and Policies

The following objectives and policies have been developed to assist with decision making in relation to the on-going management and development of the Kihikihi Domain.

Implementation methods have not been specified for each of the objectives and policies. This is due to the objectives and policies being written in a manner that is intended to clearly outline what is to be achieved and allow the Reserve Manager(s) a degree of flexibility as to exactly how the desired outcomes are to be achieved.

Buildings and Structures

8.1 Objective

To limit the extent of buildings and structures to only those which are necessary for the intended uses of the Kihikihi Domain (as documented in this Reserve Management Plan).

8.2 Policies

- 8.2.1 To allow the continued existence and use of existing club-houses and associated buildings and structures on the Kihikihi Domain for the purposes associated with the use of the Kihikihi Domain as detailed in this Reserve Management Plan.
- 8.2.2 To require the occupiers of buildings on the Kihikihi Domain to ensure that adequate maintenance is undertaken to maintain and/or enhance the quality and visual appearance of those buildings, and to ensure compliance with Building Act legislation.
- 8.2.3 To encourage the co-siting of similar types of activities (including within existing buildings) so as to minimise the need for additional buildings and structures on the Kihikihi Domain.
- 8.2.4 To visually integrate existing and any proposed buildings into their surroundings. This could include planting appropriate shrub and groundcover species around existing and/or proposed buildings and storage areas (e.g. rubbish bins), particularly along blank walls (club buildings).
- 8.2.5 To require an application to be made under the Reserves Act 1977 for any new club-house or building or structure not otherwise provided for in this Reserve Management Plan. Council will respond to any application to, for example, construct covered yards, or a covered arena, however this policy does not indicate an ability or willingness of Council to fund or part fund such a project. Any such application will be assessed in relation to the following criteria:
 - The extent to which the proposed building or structure is necessary and desirable to enable the intended uses of the Kihikihi Domain (as documented in this Reserve Management Plan);
 - The extent to which the proposed building or structure will compromise the use of the Kihikihi Domain for other intended purposes, including the use of open spaces for sports activities and/or carparking;

- The effect of the proposed building or structure on the landscape, visual, and/or amenity values of the Kihikihi Domain; and
 - The degree to which the proposed building is consistent with the objectives and policies of this Reserve Management Plan.
- 8.2.6 To provide public toilet facilities and amenities that are adequate for the level of demand (including requiring event organisers to provide port-a-loos if required to supplement on-site capacity).
- 8.2.7 To require that all buildings be painted (or repainted as the opportunity arises) in a colour scheme that blends in with the natural environment of the Kihikihi Domain. A consistent and co-ordinated colour scheme for all buildings throughout the Kihikihi Domain is considered to be a desirable outcome.
- 8.2.8 To adopt a unified approach to the design of the 'furniture' (such as seats, picnic tables, rubbish bins, signage, etc), while ensuring that it is complementary to the values and qualities of the Kihikihi Domain (i.e. 'rural' rather than 'urban' in character).

8.3 Justification

Kihikihi Domain is characterised by large areas of open space and its continued use relies on this aspect. Restricting buildings and structures on the Domain, whilst allowing for the need to upgrade facilities, will help to fully utilise the Domain and maintain usable open space.

Public Access to the Kihikihi Domain

8.4 Objective

The continued freedom of public access to, and enjoyment of, the Kihikihi Domain except when and where events or organised training days are being held or in relation to sports for which land has been allocated.

8.5 Policies

- 8.5.1 To ensure that public access to the Kihikihi Domain is only limited to the extent necessary for the successful, safe and efficient organisation of events and/or where leases have been granted for the exclusive use of particular buildings and/or areas e.g. events / organised training days booked with the Kihikihi Sport Management Group.
- 8.5.2 To review, as a priority, all leases to ensure that they are adequate and appropriate for the needs of the leaseholders.
- 8.5.3 To maintain a walking/running/exercise circuit track around the perimeter of the Kihikihi Domain, ultimately providing a complete circuit. [show on plan]
- 8.5.4 To define the boundary and where necessary erect appropriate fences (for noise reduction, security and/or privacy) with sufficient access points for convenience and safety.
- 8.5.5 To prohibit use of the Kihikihi Domain for golf driving.

8.5.6 To prohibit use of the Kihikihi Domain for recreational motorbiking.

8.6 Justification

The freedom of entry and access to reserved is provided by Section 17(2)a of the Reserves Act. This is, however, subject to any lease or seasonal use agreement over the reserve and any action necessary for the protection of the reserve and its users.

Dogs

8.7 Objective

To reinforce the role of Kihikihi Domain as a dog exercise area and reduce the conflict between dog owners and other Domain users associated with this activity.

8.8 Policies

8.8.1 To allow dog exercise on the Domain, in accordance with Council's Dog Control Bylaw 2004, when events / organised training are not occurring.

8.9 Justification

Within urban areas dogs are essentially for recreational purposes. To that extent, it is important that dogs are able to be exercised within moderately controlled environments. These policies provide a balance between meeting this need and safeguarding other reserve users.

Roading and Parking

8.10 Objective

Vehicular access, internal roading, and on-site parking provided to a standard that is consistent with the primary objective for the Kihikihi Domain and that provides for the safety of the general public and those using the Kihikihi Domain.

8.11 Policies

8.11.1 To restrict vehicle access and carparking where appropriate to designated areas maintaining only those internal roads necessary for service and convenience.

8.11.2 To ensure that all car parking is contained within the site and access roads are not congested.

8.11.3 To delineate all main access points with signs denoting Council administration of the reserve.

8.11.4 To make safety improvements to the vehicular access arrangements for the Kihikihi Domain (subject to the approval of the Waipa District Council Asset Manager Roading).

8.12 Justification

Although the large open areas of the Kihikihi Domain are ideal for on-site event parking, vehicle access should be controlled to avoid adverse safety effects and damage to turf and plantings.

Infrastructure

8.13 Objective

Adequate on-site infrastructure provided to a standard that meets the demands for activities provided for in this Reserve Management Plan.

8.14 Policies

8.14.1 To ensure the Kihikihi Domain is adequately serviced with toilet facilities, reticulated water supply and electricity outlets consistent with user requirements and development.

8.14.2 To ensure that any new buildings are connected to underground services (as required) including water, power, sewerage and stormwater.

8.15 Justification

The large number of Domain users and large events held on site require adequate site facilities, and any new facilities should avoid being located in the Domain's open spaces.

Protection of Amenity Values

8.16 Objective

A high standard of amenity maintained for users of the Kihikihi Domain and for adjacent landowners and/or neighbours.

8.17 Policies

8.17.1 To maintain the facilities on the Kihikihi Domain to a high standard.

8.17.2 To provide and service rubbish bins on the Kihikihi Domain at appropriate locations.

8.17.3 To ensure facilities (e.g. toilets) are adequate at all times to meet peak demands.

8.17.4 To ensure that activities undertaken on the Kihikihi Domain comply with the relevant noise limits in the Waipa District Plan.

8.17.5 To require that any evening events on the Kihikihi Domain cease by midnight on Friday and Saturday nights and by 10.30pm on all other nights of the week.

8.17.6 To provide appropriate access arrangements for those with physical disabilities.

8.17.7 To allow for lighting associated with events that does not create a nuisance to neighbouring residents as a result of excessive glare (as defined by the Waipa District Plan).

8.17.8 To allow people associated with events on the site to be accommodated on site by self-serviced trucks and recreational vehicles.

8.18 Justification

Given the high usage, and the Domain's proximity to residential properties, it is important that the Domain is maintained in a clean and tidy state, and activities have minimal impact on neighbours. It is appropriate that visitors who must park overnight at the Domain due to the nature of their activity can stay on the site providing their vehicle is self-sufficient. Other forms of accommodation that is not self-sufficient e.g. camping, is not acceptable.

Landscape Development and Vegetation Management

8.19 Objective

The protection and enhancement of the existing landscape character of the Kihikihi Domain including the open grassed areas and mature deciduous specimen trees.

8.20 Policies

8.20.1 To protect and enhance the existing open grassed areas and large mature deciduous specimen tree character of the Kihikihi Domain. This would include confining shrub and groundcover planting to around existing and proposed buildings and the Domain perimeter, and strengthening the definition of the roadside boundaries.

8.20.2 To undertake the annual tree inspection programme and maintenance (remedial) pruning.

8.20.3 That all grassed areas are mown on a regular basis to the requirements of the Asset Manager Parks and Recreation.

8.20.4 To minimise the construction of impermeable surfaces, such as roads and pathways.

8.20.5 To minimise weeds throughout all areas of the Kihikihi Domain.

8.21 Justification

Whilst it is important to maintain the general landscape character of Kihikihi Domain it can be enhanced through maintenance and judicious planting, and limiting impermeable surfaces.

Signage

8.22 Objective

A high standard of signage on the Kihikihi Domain that adequately conveys information to the intended audience.

8.23 Policies

- 8.23.1 To develop a consistent style of signage for the Kihikihi Domain, implementing Council's signage guidelines.
- 8.23.2 To provide adequate directional signage so that visitors know how to get to the Kihikihi Domain and which entrance to use.
- 8.23.3 In keeping with the important role of Kihikihi Domain as a local, regional and national venue, site signage should be very clear for visitors. Site signage has recently been upgraded to clearly indicate gate numbering, but street signs refer to different names for the Domain. It is proposed that changeable 'up-coming event' signs be erected at appropriate locations on State Highway 3 and on the Kihikihi Domain itself.

8.24 Justification

As a major destination in Kihikihi, the Domain needs to be easy for visitors to locate, and sufficiently well signed to assist them entering the most appropriate entrance gate.

Commercial Activities

8.25 Objective

The extent of private commercial activities on the Kihikihi Domain be allowed to the extent reasonably necessary and desirable for the successful organisation of an event or organised activity.

8.26 Policies

- 8.26.1 To allow mobile vendors associated with events to operate on the Kihikihi Domain during events without the need for a concession. Vendors and commercial operators must be licensed by the Waipa District Council including Mobile Food Premises Licences as applicable.
- 8.26.2 To allow paid sporting coaches and trainers to undertake coaching and/or training activities without the need for a concession.
- 8.26.3 To require an application to be made under the Reserves Act 1977 for any private commercial activity on the Kihikihi Domain not otherwise provided for by this Reserve Management Plan.

Note: Some commercial activities may require a resource consent.

8.27 Justification

Some recreational experiences can only be provided by commercial entrepreneurs. Providing the activity is carefully controlled, the use of the Kihikihi Domain in this way is not contrary to the principles of the Reserves Act.

Liquor Licences

8.28 Objective

The sale and consumption of liquor undertaken in a responsible and controlled manner.

8.29 Policies

8.29.1 To allow the sale of liquor on the Kihikihi Domain associated with events or organised activities.

8.29.2 To ensure that any party selling liquor on the Kihikihi Domain holds a valid Liquor Licence.

8.30 Justification

The sale and consumption of liquor on the Domain in relation to events or organised activities can be undertaken in a responsible and controlled manner through the requirement that vendors be licenced.

Lease Charges

8.31 Objective

Lease holders are charged for rent and administration fees.

8.32 Policies

8.32.1 To charge rent and administration fees to clubs and other organisations leasing buildings and/or land areas on the Kihikihi Domain.

8.33 Justification

It is appropriate that Council charges rent and administration fees to lease holders to help recover the costs of operating and maintaining the Kihikihi Domain.

Event Fees

8.34 Objective

No charge to lease holders in relation to events and organised activities undertaken on the Kihikihi Domain within their respective lease areas.

8.35 Policies

8.35.1 To allow lease holders to charge entry fees for events and organised held on the part of the Kihikihi Domain that they lease.

8.36 Justification

Council recognises Kihikihi Domain's high community value as a sporting venue. There is no commercial imperative for Council to recover additional monies in relation to specific events. Provisions under the Reserves Act, permit lease holders may charge the public a fee to enter the part of the reserve that they lease.

Information

8.37 Objective

All existing and potential users of the Kihikihi Domain have access to information regarding the nature of the Kihikihi Domain and its events and available facilities.

8.38 Policies

- 8.38.1 To produce and make available brochures regarding the facilities and activities on the Kihikihi Domain (including any restrictions).
- 8.38.2 To install changeable 'up-coming event' signs at appropriate locations on State Highway 3 and on the Kihikihi Domain itself.
- 8.38.3 To use the Waipa District Council website as a means of conveying up-to-date information regarding the facilities and activities on the Kihikihi Domain (including any restrictions). This Reserve Management Plan could also be part of the information on the website regarding the Kihikihi Domain.

8.39 Justification

With the high level of Domain use, by a wide range of people and clubs, it is important that information on the Domain, its facilities and upcoming bookings and restrictions is available to potential users.

Liaison with Waikato-Tainui

8.40 Objective

Council will work with Waikato-Tainui and local Hapu to ensure their interests are adequately acknowledged and considered when managing Kihikihi Domain, and in particular, when disposing of land.

8.41 Policies

- 8.41.1 Formal notice will be given to Waikato-Tainui Te Kahanganui should any Crown derived land that has been vested in Council, be considered for disposal.

8.42 Justification

The obligations imposed by the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995 give Waikato-Tainui first right of refusal for every freehold parcel or real property situated in the Waikato Claims Area, that is owned by the Crown.

Council will work with Waikato-Tainui, the Department of Conservation and Land Information New Zealand to ensure the legal obligations under the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995 are met.

Appendices

A. Gazette Notices

PAR-2003 15:57 FROM LINZ HAM PROCESSING CENTR TO 1072395978 P.02/03

Extract from *N.Z. Gazette*, 10 January 1985, No. 1, page 15

Classification of Reserve

PURSUANT to the Reserves Act 1977, and to a delegation from the Minister of Lands, the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands hereby classifies the reserve, described in the Schedule hereto, as a recreation reserve, subject to the provisions of the said Act.

SCHEDULE

SOUTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT—WAIPA COUNTY—KIHIKIHI RECREATION RESERVE

16,592.1 hectares, more or less, being Allotments 220 to 225, 228 to 234, 236 to 241, 339 to 380, Town of Kihikihī, situated in Block VII, Puniu Survey District. Part *New Zealand Gazette*, 1883, page 249. S.O. Plan 2257.

1398 square metres, more or less, being Lot 18, D.P.S. 4508 situated in Block VII, Puniu Survey District. Certificate of title 107/198. Part *New Zealand Gazette*, 1960, page 1927.

4046 square metres, more or less, being Allotment 235, Town of Kihikihī, situated in Block VII, Puniu Survey District. Part *New Zealand Gazette*, 1895, page 407. S.O. Plan 2257.

2985 square metres, more or less, being Allotment 405, Town of Kihikihī, situated in Block VII, Puniu Survey District. Part *New Zealand Gazette*, 1942, page 2056. S.O. Plan 28776.

1,740.1 hectares, more or less, being Allotment 422, Town of Kihikihī, situated in Block VII, Puniu Survey District. Part *New Zealand Gazette*, 1974, page 1858. S.O. Plan 46918.

Dated at Hamilton this 14th day of December 1984.

G. L. VENDT,
Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands.

(L. and S. H.O. 1/54, D.O. 8/49)

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not registered.

62/59 107/198
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ASST LAND COMMISSIONER
LAND RESERVE
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 PARTICULARS ENTERED IN THE
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 A. A. 1. 1. 1.
 510/134
 913/186
 236/204
 238 201 - 210 mcd



TOTAL P. 03

Extract from *N.Z. Gazette*, 29 June 1995, No. 64, p. 1735

Declaration That Land is a Reserve

Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, and to a delegation from the Minister of Conservation, the Regional Conservator for the Waikato Conservancy of the Department of Conservation, hereby notifies that the following resolution was passed by The Waipa District Council on 20 February 1995:

"That, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 14 of the Reserves Act 1977, The Waipa District Council hereby resolves that the land held by the said council in fee simple, and described in the Schedule hereto, shall be, and the same is hereby, declared to be recreation reserve within the meaning of the said Act."

Schedule

South Auckland Land District—Waipa District

2.8328 hectares, more or less, being Allotments 381, 382, 383, 387, 388, 389 and 390, Town of Kihikihi, situated in Block VII, Puniu, Survey District. All certificates of title 510/134, 973/86, 23B/204, 23B/207, 23B/208, 23B/209 and 23B/210, S.O. Plan 324.

Dated at Hamilton this 16th day of June 1995.

STELLA F. PENNY, Regional Conservator, Waikato Conservancy.

(DOC File Ref: RRL 031)

1103

10/12

Notice No. 4112

B. 2008-2009 Event Schedule

Kihikihi Domain Schedule of Events, 2009

January 2009

3 and 4	Polo
10 and 11	Polo
17 and 18	Polo
24 and 25	Speedway

February 2009

5 – 7	Polo
14 & 15	Harness Dr & Goats
17, 24	Riding for the Disabled (RDA)
20, 22	Polo
21	Rodeo
28	Beth Guest (RDA)

March 2009

1	Speedway, Polo, Beth Guest (RDA)
3, 10, 17	RDA
8, 15, 22	Speedway
14, 15	Polo
19-22	Paint Horse

April 2009

4	Kihikihi Pony Club (Ribbon Day)
5, 26	Speedway
7, 28	RDA
10-12	Horse Trials
18 & 19	Ranch Horse
25	Pony Club Ribbon Day

May 2009

3	Speedway
4, 11, 18, 25	RDA
24	Dressage?

June 2009

2, 9, 16, 23, 30	RDA
10	College Cross Country

July 2009

21, 28	RDA
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August 2009

No bookings as yet

September 2009

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 RDA

6 Dressage

October 2009

11 Dressage

20, 27 RDA

November 2009

3, 10, 17, 24 RDA

5 - 8 Show Jumping

27 – 29 Dressage

December 2009

1, 8, 15 RDA

4 – 6 Dressage

C. Key Results of Consultation

Current Perceptions

- The Domain is appreciated as a special facility, well-used by the community.
- Some conflict exists between Domain users, including casual users, and there is confusion over which group takes precedence at various times.
- Some of the Domain facilities need upgrading, such as the toilets, gateways, clubrooms and the swings near the tennis courts.
- Traffic is an issue on Oliver Street during weekend events.
- Night time noise from the rugby clubrooms and motorbike use are a regular problem.
- Concerns exist about the servicing available by Council facilities e.g. for water supply, wastewater treatment and collection, stormwater disposal and roading.

Observations

- The Domain is referred to by different terms on various street signs. The existing signage is confusing and needs to be rationalised.
- The existing gate signage is clear and should be retained.
- Overall, the Kihikihi Domain Sports Incorporated Committee coordinates the various activities and allocation of events and fixture on the Domain very well. The system is not perfect as events can be rained off without recourse to back up days, but this is more a function of high demand / usage rather than being a management issue. The Board is highly reliant on volunteer effort, which seems inconsistent with such a heavily used recreational public space.

Attitudes

- A number of sporting and recreational organisations have a very long history of use associated with the Domain, and this is probably a factor in the strong support for the continued diversity of activities that use the Domain. In addition, the community seeks that the existing mix of sports and activities be protected from new ones that may come in and take over the Domain space.
- There is acknowledgement that although the Domain hosts a wide variety of sporting and recreational uses, equestrian activities predominate.
- Attitudes towards the speedway vary, from wanting it moved from the Domain to having it remain at the current level of activity.
- The value of the Domain for horse sports is recognised and this should be maintained.
- Dog owners strongly support the Domain as an exercise location, and are adamant that such use should be preserved.
- Casual users value the Domain and do not want to see their activities prevented or to see Domain use restricted to organised sport.
- Typically activities using the Domain require large areas of open space, whether for the activity itself and/or for parking. The Domain works for the variety of activities because of the large open spaces, uncluttered by immovable buildings, facilities and trees.

Opportunities (Needs Assessment)

- The maintenance of large open areas is key to providing continued flexibility in supporting a range of activities, although it is considered that the Domain would benefit from some judicious landscaping and ornamentation to improve natural character and define areas.
- Planting and landscaping could enhance the Domain and help reduce potential conflict between users, but would need to be restricted to the periphery, unused areas and/or amongst existing buildings to maintain the extent of open grassed areas. Landscaping should not be dense, in keeping with the open nature of the Domain and to avoid safety issues.
- A key interface issue is the proximity of the speedway to existing residential activities, which have potential to intensify further. An earth bund and landscaping around the speedway site would assist in visual and noise screening.
- Rugby, netball and BMX activities are proposed to be catered for by the development at Park Road, and so there is no need for duplication of facilities at the Domain (beyond the club rugby games that presently occur on the Domain).
- There appears to be an increased need for toilets associated with events, however a permanent location would suit some but not all activities. A suggested solution is a high standard of portable toilets either hired on an event basis or purchased by Council for use by various activities when required.
- The equestrian activities need to recognise and take into account the fact that they extend beyond the boundary of the Domain and utilise adjoining private land. This land currently could be secured by Council (and ultimately gazetted as reserve) to formalise and legitimise its use for this purpose.
- Dressage Waikato request covered yards and riding arena (and bifold panelling). The Waikato Rodeo Association also request a covered main arena and lighting, for night rodeo.
- The Kihikihi Sport Management Group is highly reliant on volunteer effort, which seems inconsistent with such a heavily used recreational public space.
- There is potential to enhance existing features and use of the site, such as formalising an all weather walking/running track around the Domain. This could incorporate an exercise circuit and additional seating along the way.
- Whilst the existing activities should be protected, there may be opportunity to allow the introduction of other recreational activities, including those that are more community in nature e.g. markets, cultural, public picnicking areas / roofed picnic areas and family friendly activities.

Tangata Whenua

Consultation was undertaken with Nga Iwi Toopu O Waipa (NITOW) as part of the mail out to stakeholders. A NITOW representative advised in a telephone conversation that there were no particular issues with the Domain's ongoing management other than a desire to see the current activities continued and not squeezed out by new events and activities.

The Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company, representing Tainui, have advised that Waikato-Tainui have rights of first refusal over the Kihikihi Domain, and make recommendations for Council to recognise these rights.

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