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| Meeting: | Community Meeting - Cooks Beach and Flaxmill Bay – Coastal Erosion Protection Projects Update from tcdc |
| Location: | Cooks Beach Hall, 16th August 2019, 14:00hrs  |
| Minutes: | Cyndy Lomas – Secretary MBSRRA |
| Apologies: | Bruce and Sally Chambers, Bruce and Judy Philphott, Geoff Perkins, Sue Oxley and Murray Mc Clean |

Meeting opened by Graeme Lomas, President MBSRRA - A warm welcome to the Council and those who attended the meeting.

A presentation was given from TCDC on the proposed remediation plans to address erosion at Cook’s Beach and Flaxmill Bay. A summary of the presentation points are outlined below. The full power point presentation can be viewed at: <https://mercurybaysouthratepayers.weebly.com/erosion.html>

**Flaxmill Bay**

* A Rock Wall is proposed as a solution to protect infrastructure and beach.
* To implement the rock wall it is necessary for three pohutukawa trees to be moved.
* A groyne is proposed to be built at the mouth of the estuary
* The groyne resource consent is expected to be completed in September 2019
* Resource consent has already been granted for the rock wall
* Construction of the rock wall is expected to commence in February or March 2020.
* Once the consenting process is completed contractors will be engaged to complete the work.

 **Cooks Beach**

* A backstop wall is to be built at the eastern part of the beach. The wall will be built below ground level with a layer of thick sand above supporting heavy planting and beach nourishment.
* The 2-metre-thick wall will impede sand from being undermined
* This type of erosion management has been successfully implemented St Heliers and Tamaki Beach.
* Lorenzo has won the contract and work will start in late September and early October 2019.

***Cairn Reinstatement***

* Will be a nautical theme shaped as the bow of a boat.
* It will be planted out in natives. Natives will be planted through the pines trees but when the roots have bound, the pine trees will be removed.
* Work will commence on the 26th August and is anticipated to take 2-3 weeks to complete.

**Questions and Answers**

 **Cooks Beach**

Q: Cairn looks unsightly

*A: The Cairn is a commonplace design of the era and a sextant will be used to dress it up.*

Q: Is the Work going to have significant ecological impact?

*A: 1000 meters cubed will be taken from the estuary. 5 meters surrounds for the pipi bed. It will be closely monitored*

Q: How deep will the Rock wall be

*A: 3-4 Meters. A groyne could be considered if necessary, further down the track if the sand eroded back.*

**Flaxmill Bay – Summary of discussion**

* **Rock Wall**

There was cynicism from members of the public that a rock wall would not work under the guidelines that the council had provided.

The following concerns and comments were raised:

* + Members of the public explained that there were examples elsewhere where the rock wall undermined the land behind it in a storm event.
	+ That the rock wall would not be aesthetically pleasing and would detract from the natural beauty of the beach.
	+ By building a rock wall the public would not have access to that part of the beach
	+ Council attendees explained that the rock wall was only to preserve the road and not look at the whole picture holistically taking away amenities for launching boats (due to the placement of the groyne) and recreational usage.
	+ In its place there should be 3 to 4 groynes which will build sand on the western side.
	+ Question - Is the Rock wall a done deal?

*Answer - Consent has been granted.*

* + The general feeling of people attending the meeting was that the evaluation process for the planned remediation plan needed to slow down to ensure that options were evaluated in context to the requirements of Flaxmill Bay. A rushed or ad-hoc approach could have significant negative impacts for the environment and communities.
	+ Members of the public raised that TCDC had not notified the public as they had previously promised and that the community needed to be aware of what is happening. In addition, some members of the public questioned whether that there was a breach in resource consent as plans and documents had not been provided to the public.
	+ TCDC representatives and consultants responded to the concerns raised by members of the public by committing to reviewing the plans and respond within the next two to three weeks or if any additional information became available.

Meeting closed at 5pm.