

Hororata Residents Group Formation Plan

Prepared by the Hororata Citizens and Reserve Committee

Background

On the 8th December 2021 the Selwyn District Council made the following decision:

1. That Council establish and maintain a “Selwyn District Community Stakeholder List”, recognising and including official Selwyn Residents Groups on it, based on criteria specified in the Report to Council, “The Future Of Selwyn’s Community Committees Of Council”
2. That Council commence routine communication, on a geographic basis, via an online newsletter or similar, with official Selwyn Residents Groups and other subscribers, commencing in early 2022.
3. That, for 2022 / 2023 year, Council approves \$24,000 be allocated as additional funding for the Selwyn Community Grants Fund, to respond to eligible project requests from official “Residents Groups”.
4. That 24 specified committees be given the following options:

Option i)

i) To be recognised by Council as an official Residents Group, subject to the group complying with the following conditions:

- the group has a clearly defined geographic boundary and it is within Selwyn
- the group allows any resident from within that defined geographical boundary to join the group
- the group holds public elections for any office holders, not less than three yearly
- the group publicly notifies its election
- the group demonstrates it has communication processes in place with group members and also the local geographic community
- the group is interested and actively involved with local community matters

A Residents Group may be a legal entity but is not required to be. A Residents Group is not a “Committee of Council” and a Council staff member can be a member of a Residents Group if they reside within the specified geographic area.

Option ii)

ii) To continue as a Committee of Council unless it is an incorporated entity which is a separate legal person from the Council as a separate legal entity’s activities are required to be managed in accordance with its own rules or constitution and any applicable laws and regulations.

Option iii)

iii) To distance itself from any role or direct interface with Selwyn Council.

Option iv)

iv) To implement a different option, separate to becoming a Committee of Council or a Residents Group.

Committee Decision

On 9th February 2022 at a combined meeting between the Hororata Reserve and Hororata Citizens Committee it was voted that the best way forward for our community to be represented was Option 1 – form a Residents Committee. This would see the Hororata Reserve Committee (which would be dissolved by the Council as a ‘Committee of Council’ June 2022) and the Hororata Citizens Committee be disbanded and replaced with a Residents Group. The benefits of not being a committee of Council are:

- 1- Can make submissions to Council
- 2- Can apply for funding from the Council
- 3- Not a legal entity of Council therefore is not bound by the rules of Council
- 4- Can lobby Council as a recognised stakeholder

It is important that Hororata has a Residents Group that is recognised by the Council to ensure our community has a voice in what happens in our area.

This document outlines how the Residents Group will be formed and the rules the group will operate under.

Hororata Residents Group Purpose:

- To be a recognised stakeholder of the Selwyn Council providing a link between the community and Council.
- To have a united voice communicating with Council ensuring that our community has influence and a say on projects, activities, improvements, services and maintenance on public land/facilities in the area.
- To develop a facility to meet the current and future needs of the community.
- To protect and promote our districts heritage.
- To enhance the Hororata Reserve by ensuring existing recreation and sporting activities continue as well as increasing participation in these and creating opportunities for new activities.

Formation

It is important that the Residents Group has:

- a transparent and efficient structure that fairly represents the community
- is open to all residents in the area
- that groups/community organisations have representation on the group
- has one voice

The Hororata Reserve and Citizens Committee discussed various options for the formation of this group. Having a united voice is important and the committee decided it would be best if the Residents Group is formed as part of the current Go Hororata group. Go Hororata already has a structure in place and while its focus has been on facilities for the community this could be broadened to cover the purpose listed above.

Whether the group is called Go Hororata or a new name can be decided by the committee once formed. For the purpose of this document, we will continue to refer to the new committee as the Hororata Residents Committee.

Proposed structure

The committee will be formed at an AGM held each year.

There will be no less than 11 and no more than 15 members of the committee.

The following groups would nominate a representative who would be voted onto the committee at the AGM. Note: a person can represent more than one group, the nominated representative must reside in the Malvern District. The group would need to nominate their representative in writing before the AGM.

- Hororata Rifle Club
- Hororata Tennis Club
- Hororata Primary School
- Hororata Parish
- Hororata Community Trust
- Hororata Playcentre
- Hororata Historical Society
- Community Response Team
- Hororata Fire Brigade

The remaining places on the committee would be filled with residents nominated and voted on at the AGM. Nominated committee members must reside in the geographic area defined in this document.

All committee members need to commit to attending six meetings a year. Committee meetings will be held bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month in the Hororata Hall.

There is no official Equestrian group to nominate a representative but it is generally felt someone with equestrian knowledge needs to be on the committee, this person can be nominated at the meeting.

If the number of people nominated means the maximum number of committee members exceeds 15 then the AGM will vote on the nominees. Two independent people will scrutineer the results.

The committee will elect a chairperson at their first meeting.

All meetings would be open to anyone to attend however the elected members would be the only ones who had voting rights.

The committee could co-opt people onto it for specific projects however only the elected members would have voting rights.

The elected committee must act in the best interests of the community and be open to discussion/feedback.

A minimum of 7 elected members present at a meeting for a quorum.

Committee would ask the Hororata Community Trust if it would provide a secretary (no voting rights).

Minutes of meetings will be recorded and available publicly, once confirmed, on the hororata.org.nz website and a dedicated Facebook page. Minutes will also be sent to the Malvern Community Board and Selwyn Council.

The committee will request that a Malvern Community Board representatives attends the meetings of the resident’s group as a connection to the Council. They will not have voting rights. Local Councillors will also be invited to attend meetings.

The committee will request that Council staff engage with them prior to annual budgets to discuss projects in the community.

The committee will request the Council provides eight free booking of the Hororata Hall to accommodate the Residents group meetings.

The committee will not be a legal entity, it will be a collaborative, a lobby group working for the benefit of the community.

Defined Geographic Area

The Council states that to be a recognised Residents Group that it must have a defined geographical area. Below is the proposed area. Note this is based loosely on the Civil Defence and Hororata Primary school boundaries. Remembering that there are no longer targeted rateable areas.

