

Item: No. – 2- Hawea Flat School Track

Purpose – Information

- 1 To update the Board about a possible project to provide direct public access to the Hawea Flat School over privately held farm land to an adjoining Council reserve.

Executive Summary

- 2 An opportunity to create more direct public access to the Hawea School over privately held farm land to an adjoining Council reserve was identified by the Hawea Community a number of years ago. The Upper Clutha Trails Trust is seeking formal Council approval to progress this.

Recommendation

1. *That the report be noted.*

Prepared by:



Jane Robertson
Governance Advisor

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Ruth Stokes
General Manager, Operations

Discussion

3. An opportunity to create more direct public access to the Hawea School over privately held farm land to an adjoining Council reserve was identified by the Hawea Community a number of years ago. This idea was subsequently pursued by the Upper Clutha Trails Trust (UCTT) which has undertaken negotiations with the landowner to create this access. The UCTT has prepared a draft agreement proposing a land swap between Council and the landowner to create a walking/cycle track. The UCTT is now seeking Council support for the access.
4. Should Council resolve to support delivering the access, there are then a number of considerations in deciding whether to pursue the land swap. First is whether the land swap is the preferred method of securing the access. Other options include obtaining an easement in favour of Council (either on a willing seller – willing buyer basis or through the Public Works Act) or direct purchase of land. Once the preferred method is agreed there are various steps to be taken if that method includes the divestment in one form or another of reserve/public park land, which includes public notification of Council’s intention to do so.
5. To progress the proposal requires a Council resolution to endorse securing the access and delegating authority to a Council officer to negotiate and enter into a preferred arrangement, subject to budget constraints and procedural/notification steps. A report to begin this process will be submitted to the Property Subcommittee in early 2014.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose

The author has reviewed Section 10 of the LGA. This matter gives effect to the purpose of local government because:

Activity (local democracy, infrastructure, local public services, or performance of regulatory functions)	The provision of reserves and other community infrastructure is identified as a core function of local government.
Quality (efficient, effective and appropriate to present and future circumstances)	
Economic (most cost-effective for households and businesses)	

Significance of Decision

- 6 The report author has reviewed the Significance Policy. The report recommendation is not significant under the Council's Policy on Significance, which includes the following thresholds:

- Moderately affects a large number of ratepayers;
- Substantially affects small number of ratepayers;
- History of generating wide public interest in district;
- Involves more than \$2 million of budgeted or \$200,000 of unbudgeted expenditure;
- Involves ownership, control, construction, replacement or abandonment of a strategic asset (as defined in the Act and/or Policy);
- Involves Council's shareholding in CCTO or CCO;
- Affects capacity to carry out, or the cost of carrying out, activity identified in the LTP.

7 If significant, please briefly explain on which criteria and why.

Consultation - Interested or Affected Persons

8 Community consultation undertaken in 2003 (the Wanaka 2020 process) identified a wish to link the Lake Hawea and Hawea Flat communities with a cycle/walkway and this was also included in the Hawea Flat School Transport Plan.

Relevant Council Policies and Plans

9 None.

Risk Management

10 This report raises no issues which are relevant to the matters contained in the risk register.