

Submission re Flaxbourne Settlers Association

Monday, 9 May 2022

Applicant: John Hickman (Treasurer) on behalf of the Flaxbourne Settlers Association (FSA)

Priority Urgent

The Flaxbourne community Hall (Ward Hall) has an ageing septic system that regularly overflows when the hall is used by large groups including Ward School. We understand this system is non-compliant for the maximum number of people that use the hall.

The septic system is adjacent to the children's playground.

The Flaxbourne Heritage Trust (FHT) is seeking to build a new Heritage Centre in the same location. This build requires toilets to be included and a new septic system. I am also a trustee and Treasurer on the Heritage Trust. The Trust is looking to build within the next 12 months (building consent application is ready to submit Mid May).

Council has already allocated \$170,000 in a previous budget to spend on community toilet facilities in Ward and we understand this was part of a government grant for assisting the improvement of public facilities.

On behalf of both the FSA and the FHT I would like to apply for the use of this money to build a new single septic system that would cater for both buildings.

The Rai Valley community recently upgraded its septic system/drainage field at a cost of \$140,000.

The need for this is urgent. An overflowing (undersized) septic system is not healthy and to tie this development in with the Heritage Centre is practical whilst building plans are being made.

This submission will also be made through the Flaxbourne Heritage Trust.

Plan below.

Priority Short- medium term

The community is about to benefit from the development of the Whale Trail Cycleway and the Heritage Centre is likely to be utilised as the hub for local information and bookings for accommodation and local tourism. The need for community access to public toilets in this location is also required.

In addition to the funding sought for a septic system, the community wishes to seek additional funding (cost yet to be determined) to provide public access to the Hall toilets or build a separate public toilet on the outside of the Hall for use when the hall is closed and to reduce the demand on the Heritage Centre toilets (2 to be provided internally).

We wish to seek MDC support to investigate potential options and determine a possible cost for future Plan submissions. This priority is for a 2-3 year period. Funds not utilised on the septic system project could be held for this. It will most likely need another similar amount or more to the \$170,000 already available.

Hall Improvements

Urgent Priority

Provision of a safety rail from the car park to the Hall entrance to prevent those that are less able from tripping over a small wooden pathway step and down onto the lawn (has happened twice in recent months). Photo provided. \$2000 (Estimate only) to be carried out by council.

Medium term priority

In time we wish to seek additional improvements to the community Hall namely improved kitchen facilities to adequately cater for larger groups. We wish to add an IT and sound system to the hall so meetings using computers/screens/displays can link into existing cabling and power for organised and efficient displays. These items will be quoted in time and applied for in future Plan submissions.

Weld Park (Flaxbourne Domain)

Urgent

Painting of the Domain sheds. We have been gifted a supply of paint but we seek \$2000 to paint the Domain sheds and improve their public appearance. It is unknown when these were last painted.

Building Renovations – We seek \$5000 to tidy/upgrade one of the buildings that has a small office in it. This is mainly used during the A&P show but it is also required for several other events at the Domain. The tidy up will include shelving/storage and a more appropriate office space. We have not had quotes for these jobs but if approved we will submit invoices to MDC for payment from funds granted up to the amount allowed. The buildings are owned by MDC.

Waterpipe supply and install to the horse pen area. \$550inc GST for 200m of 25mm pipe plus \$300 of fittings. Volunteers will use a tractor to rip/bury this pipe from the supply at the southern end of the Domain to the horse area for water troughs and a wash hose. The domain is frequently used for horse events and overnight stays.

Plan below.

Flaxbourne Settlers Association operational funding

The Settlers association has a long period of history in assisting with the operation, maintenance and cleanliness of the community assets and grounds. MDC currently funds the FSA \$21,000/year to carry out these services however overtime this has proven to be marginal at covering expenses. MDC recently tendered the contract to a company and received a tender price of \$35,000per year to mow lawns and maintain general tidiness but this did not allow for the management, upkeep and maintenance of the community hall and other buildings, its hedges and structures

We seek an increase in the yearly operational grant from \$21,000 per year to \$35,000per year. The FSA does receive some income from the hiring of community assets and has received an average of \$2262per year from providing goods and services since 2016.

Money is largely spent on Insurance, mowing the cemetery Hall and the Domain, payment to contractors for repairs and maintenance (including large hedge rows bi annually), cleaning of Domain toilets weekly, spraying the cemetery, buildings and lawn areas as well as power costs for the Domain and Hall. Payments for all tasks have increased in the last year.

Financial statements for the years 2009 until now can be provided if required.

Please see the Profit and Loss attached to the year March 2022.

Note: this year includes 2 annual operating grants in the income as the previous years' income was missed. FSA has historical funds of circa \$180,000 to date including an insurance payout for 3 damaged tennis courts in the earthquake of 2016 (just settled recently) Funding is to be used to reinstate the courts at the domain.

Note: these courts were insured by the FSA.

Please see the Profit and Loss attached to the year March 2021.

Note: a grant of \$189,000 from the NZ Lotteries Commission was transferred from FSA to FHT and is an unusual item in the P&L to be excluded.

Note: TvA accounting firm is now overseeing the management of the accounts and has done for these two years attached.