

stuff

South New Brighton flood risk plans partially approved

DAVID WALKER/STUFF

Nearly 350 Southshore residents signed a petition expressing "anger and disappointment at the late and inadequate response" to flood risk after the July storm. This aerial photo shows South Brighton and Southshore, with Mt Pleasant and Redcliffs in the background.

Plan to reduce flooding risk for parts of South New Brighton have been partly approved by Christchurch city councillors.

Councillors voted on Tuesday to approve a \$600,000 temporary bund running from Bridge St to South Brighton jetty on the estuary waterfront to protect about 19 homes from flooding risk. But consideration of a staff proposal to build a second bund through South New Brighton Park to further reduce flooding risk was deferred.

Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel said the bund was a short-term solution.

"These are all short term interventions, the long term solutions have to wait," she said.

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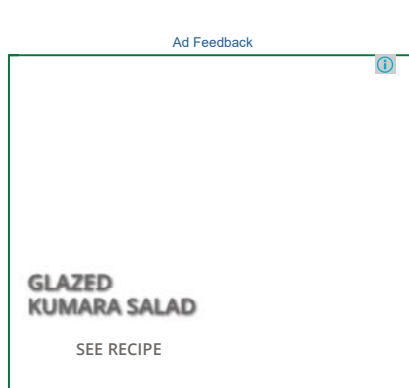
"This is a short-term temporary option and I'm happy to support one thing that offers a degree of protection for an area where there are houses."

Cr David East said the flood risk in South New Brighton was "distressing to some people in that community". He said land had sunk by over a metre in the 2011 earthquakes in some parts of South New Brighton.

"[A bund] offers a level of protection for people living there. It is a bit of a no-brainer giving those people added security."

The temporary bund was opposed by councillors Pauline Cotter, Deon Swiggs, Tim Scandrett, Mike Davidson, Sara Templeton and Jimmy Chen.

Templeton said the bund was not needed and referred to the total \$1 million cost of the two proposed bunds.



"Staff have told us that the risk to these houses is lower than previously thought . . . These are clearly not necessary.

"A million dollars for this extra work may not seem like a lot of money to councillors, but a million dollars to our ratepayers is a lot of money. We are legally bound to be prudent with council money."

Davidson said suburbs like Heathcote had a greater need for flood protection.

"It is very clear that the risk to this area is not that high. We need to make sure that when we prioritise areas we do it on the risk of flooding.

"We have houses that are patiently waiting that have their houses flooded when there is just a small amount of rain."

A second bund through South New Brighton Park will be considered as part of broader regeneration plans for the area.

Councillors also voted for council staff to talk with Environment Canterbury to "clarify roles and responsibilities in this coastal environment and funding options".

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