



LOOKING AFTER LOCAL INTERESTS

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHSHORE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

This past month, April, I attended a presentation by city council drainage engineers to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board. The presentation focused on flood protection for South Brighton and Southshore. Board members, and I, were very surprised by the estimated costs of building a stopbank along the estuary edge. The engineers had commissioned a top-of-the-head costing for a stopbank from South Brighton Park extending the length of Southshore. To protect us from known flood levels the bank would cost \$34m; to protect us from the sea level rise predicted for the rest of the century would cost \$69m.

For the \$34m option, half the cost would be in the physical works themselves, the other half would be on purchasing land (about \$6m), pump stations and a storm water detention basin.

The costs can be scrutinised more fully and would likely be reduced, but the key issue for the engineers at this stage is whether they can use the Red Zone as a platform for the stopbanks.

Flood protection is a huge issue for us as residents. The bund along the Red Zone can stop minor flooding but it is lightly constructed of topsoil and would be washed away in a major flood. It has been difficult to get commitments from the council or government on the estuary edge. But the SSRA hopes to force the issue to a head by making this the foremost topic of our submission to the council's draft annual plan. I urge you, if you are concerned about protecting Southshore from estuary flooding then please make a submission to the council's annual plan. Use the wording from our SSRA submission on Page 2 if you wish.

Bill Simpson
Chair, SSRA

What's it like to be on the SSRA committee ?

New members are always welcome and the AGM in May is the opportunity to get onto the committee. The committee meets monthly (usually the second Thursday of the month). Meetings start at 7.30 pm and generally finish about 9 pm. As a committee member you are expected to know what issues are concerning your neighbours, and be able to raise those concerns so they can be addressed.

Depending on your own interests you can help organise planting sessions, social events, submissions to the council, letters to community boards and so on. If you want to know more just call one of the current committee members.

SOUTHSHORE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****Thursday 26 May 2016**

7.00 pm – refreshments. 7.30 pm - AGM
St Lukes Church 212 Pine Avenue, South
New Brighton.

Guest speaker: Andre Lovatt, Chairman of
Regenerate Christchurch

ABOUT THE SOUTHSHORE BEACON

The Beacon is published by the Southshore Residents Association. Letters and articles from residents are welcome — send to ssrabeacon@gmail.com For advertising, contact Jewells Wise 388 0627 or jewellsw@xtra.co.nz

The next issue will be distributed in early June. The deadline for articles and ads is 26th May.

SSRA

KEEP IN TOUCH

Tell your committee about your concerns and ideas for Southshore.

Consider being on the committee.

Visit our facebook site, send us an e-mail or call a committee member

Facebook; search for The Southshore Beacon

e-mail; mail@ssra.org.nz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair

Bill Simpson388 6261

Vice-Chair

Lynda Burdekin388 6082

Secretary

Kathy Morris388 2592

Treasurer

Denise George388 7094

Committee

Cherylan Davies388 2094

Scott Butcher 388 1056

Sue Carbines388 3696

Sue Porter388 6938

Suzanne Richards388 1027

Community Board Rep

Tim Sintes 388 4927

SOUTHSHORE RESIDENTS ASSN
C/o 109A Rocking Horse Road,
Christchurch, 8062

The next committee meeting is on Thursday 12 May, feel free to come along, Call our secretary for time and place.

Make a submission

Public consultation on the Council's Annual Plan 2016-17 will close on 10th May. Read the consultation document online at www.ccc.govt.nz/annualplan or at Council libraries and service centres. Make submissions on issues you feel strongly about. Submission forms are available online and at Council libraries and service centres, or by phoning 03 941 8999.

Southshore submission to City Council Draft Annual Plan 2016/2017

We want the Council to progress flood protection for Southshore in the coming year.

Currently the only way the Council protects Southshore residents from estuary and river flooding is by requiring new homes to be built at high floor levels. Other protective measures, such as stop banks, are not in place. So instead of the cost being jointly shared by the community (Council) and individual homeowners (through rates, or by raised floor levels) the only protection in Southshore is for the small number of "rebuilt" homes, and the cost of that is solely borne by the individual homeowner.

The reality is that most homes in Southshore are not "rebuilt" and are not therefore protected from extreme floods. We realise that the Council has tried to address this through the planning process, but even that process has merely indicated that perhaps new development should not be allowed. In the meantime, and despite several instances of flooding in the past two years, nothing is being done to protect the bulk of existing residents.

We want the Council to urgently address the question of flood protection for Southshore. We realise that there is a contrary opinion which says a managed retreat is the only option, but in the meantime (and probably for the next 40 to 50 years if sea-level predictions are accurate) Southshore continues to be a viable, living community.

The Council has budget and resources (land) at the South Brighton Park with which it could modestly trial estuary edge protection.

Flood protection could be designed with a 40 year life (i.e. taking sea-level rise over that period into account) and in such a way that towards the end of that period further decisions could be made whether to enhance flood protection for another period or to abandon the area altogether at that point.

Local government in New Zealand has traditionally had a major role in protecting communities. The City Council needs to exercise that role in regards to Southshore.

We want the Council to consider a new fee for long term "self-sustained" campers at its camping ground at South Brighton (and at any other camping sites that it controls).

There are "campers" such as people who have come to Christchurch to work in the rebuilding industry who need reasonably priced facilities such as those available at camping grounds. Some of those people use public parks or empty residential sections. We have experienced such cases in Southshore. The Council should investigate whether there is sufficient need to create a fee structure at its South Brighton camping ground to accommodate such cases. The current fee for a "powered" site is \$36 per night for two people.

If the client has a "self-sustained" campervan or caravan (i.e. with their own cooking, toilet, shower and washing facilities), then they may only need access to a grey-water dumping facility rather than access to campground toilets, showers and so on.

A new fee should be set so as to attract those "campers" away from unsuitable public parks or empty sections.

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REGULAR EVENTS — SOUTHSHORE

DROP-IN

Every Wednesday, 10 am to 12 noon.

Drop-in for tea, coffee and a chat at South New Brighton Community Centre, Beatty Street. Ample parking.

OTHER COFFEE MORNING OPTIONS

Every Thursday morning 10-12 noon with hostess Marie Kemp at 68 Jellicoe Street.

Every Saturday morning 10-12 noon with Hostess Jewell Wise at 91B Rockinghorse Road

DEPRESSION SUPPORT

Janet Robson from Depression Support is at the South New Brighton Community Centre (Beatty Street) every second and fourth Wednesday of the month 10 am to 12.00 noon. If you are finding life tough and need someone to talk with come and speak with Janet or contact her direct on 027 487 6269 or Email janet@dsn.org.nz

RED CROSS

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. Come along and chat to the friendly Red Cross staff between 10am and 12 noon at South New Brighton Community Centre in Beatty Street. They can provide support for those who need it and also advise on other organisations or agencies that can provide further support.

MAHJONG CLUB

Every Monday 12.30-3pm followed with a cuppa at the South New Brighton Community Centre in Beatty Street. For more details on this activity ring Lorraine 388 5122.

BOOK AND JIG-SAW EXCHANGE.

Every Saturday morning between 10 -12 with Jewells Wise at 91B Rockinghorse Road or prior arrangement with Jewells Ph 388 0627. Swap a book or leave \$2 donation.

VEGE CO-OP

On Tuesdays 3.00-6.30pm you can collect your fruit and vege packs from Flat 1 at 14 Heron Street. These packs cost 12 dollars each. Phone Jeanette on 382 1108 or email southshore47@xtra.co.nz for more details.

WELCOME PACK

If you have new neighbours who have moved to Southshore recently give them one of our welcome packs. These packs are free and contain an Estuary Field guide, an Introduction to Southshore booklet and a list of local organisations. If you would like one of these contact Kathy on 388 2592 or email mail@ssra.org.nz

SOUTH BRIGHTON PARK WORKING BEE

Sundays 8th & 22nd May 2 pm to 4 pm
Meet at the corner of Ebbtide Street
and Estuary Road

These working bees are helping to restore and enhance the park. They meet fortnightly. Volunteers will be planting, weeding, pruning and mulching. Tools are provided but bring gardening gloves, a water bottle and stout footwear. The contact is Scott Butcher info@estuary.org.nz or 022 343 9069

THE MOTHER OF ALL CLEAN UPS

Volunteers wanted to collect litter from the estuary edge

Saturday 7th May, 2016
(The eve of Mothers Day)

Meet at the estuary end of Penguin Street for a briefing at 10am, clean-up between 10.30 and 12pm

Wear close-toed shoes, boots or gumboots. No sandals, jandals or bare feet. You will be provided with bags for collection, but please bring gloves.

More information will be posted regularly on our facebook page: <http://facebook.com/SouthshoreResidentsAssn>

Southshore Submission to City Council Draft Annual Plan 2016/2017

(Continued from Page 2)

We want the Council to be more proactive in publicising new building regulations especially regulations regarding floor levels.

In recent months several long term residents of Southshore who thought they had finalised plans for rebuilding their homes were shocked to find their applications turned down by the Council because of the changes in floor level requirements. For these people it has been a long, tortuous struggle to finally get agreement with insurers. It would be easy to blame project managers, building advisers or lawyers for not forewarning the homeowners but it seems that even those professionals have been caught out. So, we urge the Council to be active in promoting requirements.

We want the Council to be more active in protecting communities and residents from substandard "As-Is" housing.

In Southshore, as in other areas in the city, many houses have been sold "As-Is" following settlement of insurance claims. Many of those properties have not been repaired and they may have been sold cheaply or rented out. There appears to be no control over the standard of this housing. As a community we are concerned about slum conditions associated with those properties. As a residents' association we are also concerned about the safety of residents of those houses in case of major earthquakes.

Where possible the Council should be exercising control over the standard of those properties as dwelling places. The Council should also be using its influence with government departments and the insurance and finance industries to ensure these properties do not become unhealthy and unsafe hovels.

GARDENING

WITH LEE OSBORN ...

Divide and Conquer

Division is an easy way to propagate clumping or rosette forming perennials. With many, as well as making your plants go a lot further at no cost, you are doing them a favour by revitalising the original clump. The beauty of division is that roots are already present so it's faster than cuttings and the new plants don't need so much care. However they do need some until they are growing strongly so don't neglect them too soon.

Like cuttings, the new plant will be identical to the parent plant. Either pot up the divisions or plant them straight into the garden. To minimise rotting and disease, try to avoid cut and torn stems. This is done by gently pulling clumps apart rather than slicing through them with a spade or following the old advice of using two forks back to back.

With large woody clumps, cut surfaces are unavoidable but dusting them with a fungicide

or sulphur can prevent them rotting before they form new roots. Be patient. Some plants sulk for a while before eventually growing happily. Water plants 24 hours before dividing to give plants their best chance but without you having to work in mud. If the soil doesn't shake free easily a gentle hosing works well. Placing clumps in a bucket of water is surprisingly helpful because individual crowns seem to float apart as you untangle the roots.

Timing is critical for some species but not others as the following lists show:

Anytime – agapanthus, carex, echeveria, helichrysum, libertia, nepeta (catmint), ophiopogon (Mondo grass), pachysandra, phormium (NZ flax), sedum, sempervivum, thymes.

Autumn – ajuga, astelia, bergenia, cerastium (snow in summer), comfrey, gazania, helleborus (winter rose), heuchera, salvia, strelitzia (bird of paradise).

Winter – arthropodium (Renga lily), campanula, canna, delphinium, Echinacea, erigeron, hemerocallis (day lily), hosta, liatris, penstemon, perovskia, rhubarb.

Summer – arum

Spring – clivia, dahlia, kniphofia (red hot poker).

Dividing plants is a good way of planning ahead and cheaply making a statement in a garden by planting a large area in one species but it's also a way of sharing plants, which is something that most gardeners enjoy.

