

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū
Banks Peninsula Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Monday 11 April 2022
Time: 10am
Venue: Held by Audio / Video Link

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4.1. Sue Church - Akaroa Wastewater Community Reference Group

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Community Board Meeting – 11th April 2022 – via Zoom – Sue Church

I am speaking today as a Robinsons Bay representative on the Council's Akaroa Wastewater Community Reference Group.

I just wanted to provide a bit of a 'heads up' following on from the Groups recommendation that the Heritage area on the Robinsons Bay wastewater site be protected. This site is significant as it is home of the first powered saw mill in Canterbury, built around 1855. The area has already been assessed to have 'medium to high' archaeological value, with the site originally home to the mill itself, buildings, water wheel, mill dam, flume, spillway, water race and tramway. Many of these features are still apparent in the landscape today. This area is adjacent to the historic Pavitt Cottage, with the Wynn Williams Cottage located further beyond.

One of the shared principles agreed by the reference group was that:

'Each facet of the project must be designed to avoid, or minimise, adverse effects on the environment, historical sites and affected communities, specifically Robinsons Bay and Takamātua.'

The group acknowledged that the *'Preservation and Protection of the Robinsons Bay Sawmill Heritage Site'* was important, with it having *'immense historic and archaeological significance.'*

A range of possible options were discussed, including creating a Historic Scenic Reserve, Council leasing the area to a community group, or Council gifting the land to a Community Charitable Trust. Note the community is in favour of the latter option.

It was requested that the *'Sawmill heritage and archaeological features (including the historic Wynn Williams Cottage) be subdivided and appropriately fenced from the wastewater scheme and gifted to a Community Charitable Trust with provision for public access and appreciation.'*

The Robinsons Bay Ratepayers Association have commissioned a professional heritage report of the area, to both gain an accurate picture, and provide a record of its significance. The Ratepayers Association would like to request an opportunity to present a deputation or at a workshop to discuss the report's findings at the May 16th Community Board meeting, and are seeking your support for this project going forward.