



Report 07.24  
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Committee Landcare  
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## Consultation Strategy for Management Plan reviews

### 1. Purpose

To confirm a consultation strategy for the Parks Management Plan Reviews.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

At the Landcare meeting of 30 November the Committee resolved to recommend to Council that the draft of the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park management plan be released for public consultation.

It was noted at the meeting that proposals in the draft were likely to significantly affect the park, including some aspects that submitters valued about the park. As part of the debate that accompanied the resolution, Councillors expressed a wish to maximise community awareness and participation in the review process for Battle Hill and for ensuing park plans in recognition of the importance of the public in developing park plans.

### 4. Comment

Following the approval of the Regional Parks Network Management Plan in 2003, the Council embarked on a review of all park management plans. At that point a process and timetable was approved by the Committee (report 03.450), including a description of the three phases of plan development and consultation.

The timetable was updated and the process clarified for the Committee in November 2004 (report 04.632).

Communications so far have been in line with this process. With this request from the Committee, this process is being reviewed.

Through providing for extensive discussions with stakeholders and interested parties together with dissemination of material via commissioned advertising, press releases, newsletters, our offices and via our website, the process was a comprehensive model for community involvement in developing a park management plan. Therefore, we propose no substantive changes to the original process.

The nature of those changes we do propose offer an opportunity to generate widespread public interest and debate about the draft and build understanding of the review process. We will do this via in depth discussions with local media, ideally leading to one or more feature articles exploring the implications in more detail, promoting the public meeting(s) and inviting submissions. (See Attachment 1)

No doubt, more could always be done, however this model gives a good balance between good consultation process and resources.

## **5. Communication**

The Management Plan Review process provides significant communication opportunities. We will continue to leverage these as much as possible, reinforcing the opportunities for members of the community to get involved in an informed and appropriate manner.

## **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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**Attachment 1: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park consultation strategy**