Presentation to NPDC Council Meeting – Tuesday 9th June 2009. 4.30pm.

Illustration	Point to be made
 Aerial view of the Park from Brooklands end (Derek Hughes photographs)	David speaks to his submission
 Aerial view of the Park – close up of the racecourse area into the Park – newly built training yards.	ES – Intro – "It is unfortunate and regrettable that access to the Park has been blocked by developments which have significant effects on the neighbour – Pukekura Park. We have some suggestions as to how the effects of the proposed access road may be mitigated.

Option One

Options One

- Show original, existing, road route down to Moyes' Detour
- Draw attention to the two options, overlay
- Show the size of the batters,
- Orientate the audience by drawing attention to the direction … east, south … compass put up.
- Comment that the plans are not complete – truncated with no detail of what happens construction-wise at the bottom of the hill where the access joins Moyes' Detour.
- Introduce next slide to look at a ground level view.

Ground level view at shed. Option One. Outline in red trees to be felled

- Describe the windbreak properties of trees – not beautiful specimens as they bear the brunt of easterlies.
- Refer to David's comments on the 'ground drafts'.
- Shelter belt proposed will take 15 years to grow. NB from the council planner's report

The arborist's report contained in Appendix Five concludes that the effect of removing trees under Option One will have an impact on the trees to be retained; however, this impact will be minimal as the wind the remaining trees will be exposed to is from an easterly direction, which is uncommon in New Plymouth. To mitigate any wind effect it is proposed that a new fenced planting be established near the top of the new cutting, to the north of the existing road.

The arbortist report is actually not quite so definite – the severity of the infrequent winds may be devastating – "'strong winds from the east will cause more tree failures". In the opinion of those we have consulted, the risk of tree failure is high.

- There is no provision in the plan, or costing, for an artificial windbreak – cost, aesthetics, and maintenance costs. **We recommend that this is be factored into any cost for Option One.**

The view from below the new road

Option One Mitigation

- Do not use wide batters, (Width of council chamber illustrates width) but utilise a narrow cutting, as is common practice locally.
- The removal of the windbreak vegetation opens up the area to wind and chill shock.
- Construct artificial windbreak as per orchards

Slide of kohekohe canopy from below.

This archway of canopy trees is significant and the removal will change the aesthetics and visitor experience

Slide of George and Puriri

Slide of Puriri with wall of roots further along the escarpment

- Look at the significant Puriri. This tree is recorded on several notable and significant tree lists – due to its size and age. Note that the roadway is right up to the trunk, and covers over a large area below the canopy drip–line.
- Puriri are known to be sensitive to root disturbance. This tree has not been affected by the existing road.
- Research by the Friends (George Fuller) illustrate that there are other Puriri in the vicinity which are growing on the edge of the scarp – their feeding roots are in the bank behind and those on the scarp face are supporting the tree as a substantial wall below. This explains why the current road is not damaging the Puriri. The existing road is filled adjacent to the roots. An upgrade to the existing road could be designed to accommodate the Puriri.
- There is a high risk that the Option One road would damage the Puriri as the major feeding and anchorage roots are in the bank above it, and the creation of the batter will slice through to the Puriri.
- Option One will destroy the flow of ground water to the significant Puriri by draining water away.
- **We recommend that even with a narrow cutting, Option One is not to be preferred, as it involves destruction of irreplaceable canopy trees, and the catchment for the Puriri – both are vital to the trees that are left on the plan.**

The catchment area for the Puriri is under threat

Overlay option 2

- Option Two - The route is preferred by the Friends. as it follows an already an established route, and the trees are healthy.
- The size of the batter is the main difficulty with this option
- The Friends recommend that an engineering solution be found to keep the width of road to as close to the line of the existing one, and contain it.
- The cost of this must be weighed against the value of the trees. The national 'Standard Method for Tree Evaluation' (STEM) could be used to evaluate the intrinsic and monetary value of each tree, as well using as the tree health method (Visual Tree Assessment) employed by the council.

Kohekohe not Kamahi

Slides of kohekohe archway

- The main canopy trees in the area are Kohekohe, with Pukatea. The Arborist's report **incorrectly** identifies Kamahi as being the dominant canopy. There are no Kamahi in the area.
- The arborist's report is at variance with the evidence that the Friend's have amassed regarding local conditions.
- Our incoming information considers the history, the botany, the soil structure of the area, the ecology, the values and we have solicited other professional opinions regarding the area. These will be posted on the Friends' Kete so that the information is available to the public, and to the planners.

- Our information shows some values of the living system, and establishes some of the aesthetics which need to be considered in the planning process under the Park Management Plan 8.1.2 **"Council will only undertake development in a manner compatible with the Park's character and values**" (Appendix Four).
- In the report under 'Implications Assessment" p8, the present Options One and Two do not account for 'adverse effects'; and the 'compatibility' and 'risks' are underweighted. The bush which is marked for destruction in Options 1 and 2 is "significant", and a "significant landscape feature" The contribution of the development will be detrimental, not a contribution, to the "quality and visitor experience of the Park".
- There are mitigation and weighting tools available which allow planners be assured that they are considering the triple-bottom line. **The Friends recommend that the NPDC, with its aims for maintaining a sustainable environment, should take these values into account.** .(Triple bottom line – profit, people and planet - to take into account ecological and social performance in addition to financial performance.)