

Chigwell Community Orchard Proposal

Community engagement outcomes

31 January 2019



Community engagement project

Glenorchy City Council received a proposal from Chigwell Orchard Relocation Project Inc. (CORP) and the Chigwell Child and Family Centre to allocate a section of Bethune Street Reserve in Chigwell for the establishment of a community orchard.

During December 2018 and January 2019, Council undertook a community engagement project to inform residents about the proposal and provided an opportunity for community feedback by contacting council directly or completing a survey.

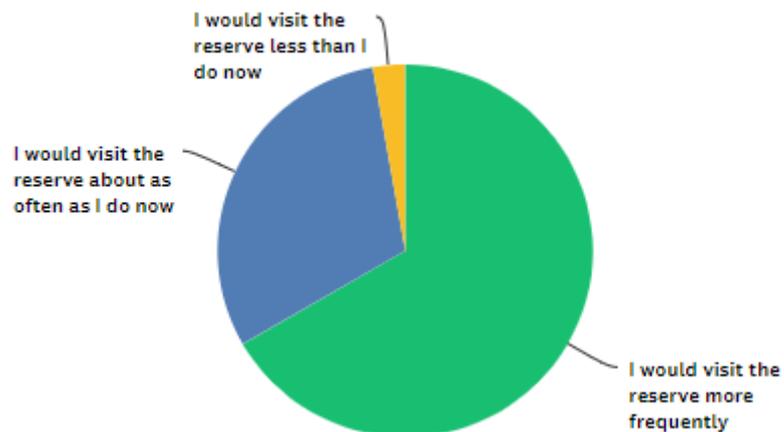
Engagement outcomes

- 303 households in streets surrounding the reserve were sent an information pack detailing the proposal. This included background information on the proposal, frequently asked questions and a map indicating the proposed location for the orchard. Information was also distributed through the Chigwell Child and Family Centre, and via Glenorchy City Council's website.
- Council received 37 survey responses. 1 household contacted Council directly to discuss the proposal.
- 94% of respondents were supportive of the orchard proposal.
- Of those who expressed concerns about the proposal, their reasons given were:

Concern	Council response
Potential impact on underground water supply pipe to a household bordering the reserve.	This concern was alleviated by directly contacting the household and providing asset diagrams that show their water supply pipe does not run under the

	proposed orchard area. With this information the resident subsequently supported the orchard proposal.
Existing park infrastructure has been subject to neglect & vandalism.	It is anticipated the orchard proposal will generate renewed community interest in Bethune Street Reserve and increase visitation, and therefore discourage vandalism and neglect. Along with the other reserve users, CORP volunteers will be frequent visitors to the reserve and would be able to report any maintenance issues to Council for rectification.
Money would be better spent on play/exercise equipment.	<p>It is anticipated the community orchard could be established with minimal council funds and largely delivered through volunteer efforts through CORP.</p> <p>Play and exercise equipment would provide very different uses to what is proposed with the community orchard. These assets have a significant upfront cost and ongoing asset renewal expenses. Equipment such as this is not being considered at this time for Bethune Street Reserve.</p>

- The survey indicated that a community orchard at Bethune Street Reserve would encourage visitation with 66% of respondents saying they would visit the reserve more frequently. Less than 3% said it would discourage their visitation.



- There appears to be interest from the community to get involved, with 37% of respondents indicating they would be interested in volunteering their time for activities related to the community orchard.

- Additional positive community comments about the proposal:

'It's a fantastic idea!'

'It's a great use of an unused space. It won't obstruct views of current properties. I look forward to enjoying the space and the associated benefits'

'It would be very good if the area becomes more maintained and the grass cut, and rubbish collected so that it is a nice space for dog walking too.'

'It's a marvellous idea to promote more healthy eating and an understanding of how growing your own food can benefit the individual and the community.'

'I think this proposal would be very beneficial for the local community and help to provide local food security.'

Conclusion

This engagement project has confirmed positive community support for the establishment of a community orchard at Bethune Street Reserve, Chigwell. It indicates that the majority respondents feel the benefits of establishing a community orchard outweigh any negatives. There also seems to be strong interest in residents wanting to volunteer their time with CORP to help deliver the project.

Next Steps

Commencement of planning for on ground work is expected to take place during February/March 2019. Council operational staff will work with CORP to undertake detailed planning for on ground works including confirming final location and numbers of trees, irrigation works, and site preparation.

Community members wanting to get involved in the establishment of the orchard should consider joining CORP as a volunteer.

It is expected that the orchard will be planted before spring 2019.