

## **Decisions made on preferred scheme, location and cost apportionment**

The way is clear for consultation to get underway with ratepayers at Riversdale Beach on the community sewerage scheme following two milestone decisions by Council at its final meeting for the year.

They are:

- agreement in principle from Council on cost apportionment
- agreement in principle on a preferred scheme type and location, this being to build a pond-based system on land owned by the Tatham family trust.

Riversdale Beach Sewerage Steering Group Chairman Roddy McKenzie has welcomed the decisions, saying Heads of Agreements were in place with potential landowners which meant certainty for whatever option was chosen.

“At the end of the day, we have got the go-ahead to begin the long-awaited public consultation phase. The delay in getting to this point was more a case of the Council wanting to ensure there was clarity around key matters like cost apportionment and land availability,” Mr McKenzie said.

Details of the cost apportionment model the Council has agreed on will be available in the consultation package currently being prepared.

Mr McKenzie said the steering group had worked on the cost allocation methodology with councillors, residents and Council staff, and considered the comparative data supplied by consultants. However, meetings between the steering group, Council and residents had not resulted in clear-cut agreement and Council last week opted, at the steering group’s request, to make a decision in principle on cost apportionment.

This decision was unanimous, as was the decision to select a pond-based scheme on Tatham land, as Council and the steering group’s ‘preferred choice’.

“Consultation will allow all Riversdale Beach ratepayers to consider the pros and cons of the various scheme and location options. It is up to them to tell Council what they think.”

He said the length of time it had taken to get to this point was frustrating for all involved but ‘we can now safely engage in genuine consultation. The process will deliver the preferred scheme type and location to take forward for resource consents, and let people will know the size of the cheque they will have to write for their preferred option.’”

The consultation package will be finalised by Council at its February 2008 meeting, after which it will be mailed to all ratepayers and made available to the public. Those wishing to make a submission will then have six weeks to consider which option they prefer. This period will be followed by the evaluation of submissions received. Submitters will be able to talk to their submissions at a Hearings Committee meeting in May 2008 or have them considered in writing.

“No one anticipated the process being quite so drawn out, but it looks as though the pace will pick up from here on in and the steering group is looking forward to its role in the consultation process.” Mr McKenzie said.

The finalised location and scheme type options for the new Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme are:

- A pond-based scheme located in the reserve at the southern end of the Riversdale Beach community (the benchmark scheme),
- A pond-based scheme on Tatham land to the south-west of the Riversdale Beach community(Council’s and the steering group’s preferred option),
- A package type system on Eastleigh land to the west of the Riversdale Beach community, and
- A pond-based scheme on Eastleigh land, also west of the community.

### Revised Project Timeline

Date	Action
March 2008	Public consultation material distributed
April 2008	Consultation period closes and submissions received
April 2008	Submissions evaluated and report prepared for Council’s Hearings Committee
May 2008	Council adopts recommendation and agrees to scheme proceeding
September 2009	Physical works contract accepted by Council
August 2010	Physical works contract completed
September 2010	Plant commissioning commences
December 2010	Plant commissioning completed and plant operational

For more information please email [riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz](mailto:riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz) or visit [www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz) where you will find Riversdale information under the ‘quick links’ section on the homepage.