

Newsletter #6, December 2016

# Jim Cooke Park Stopbank Reconstruction



greater WELLINGTON  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiao

## Work set to begin to protect community

Work on this important stopbank will get underway early next year with all the consents finalised and local firm Goodman Contractors appointed to do the work. Goodman's staff will be on site in the next few weeks getting ready for construction.

## Why build a new stopbank?

The existing stopbank was built in 1957 and doesn't meet modern strength requirements or provide the 1-in-100 year level of flood protection agreed with the community. During the 2005 flood event, water almost reached the top of the stopbank and began eroding the stopbank in some areas. About 200 residential properties would be affected if the stopbank failed in a flood.

## Thanks for all your feedback

We began talking with the community about this project in 2014 and have met with many residents, stakeholders and people who use of the area. Based on that feedback we have agreed on a strengthened grass covered earth stopbank with an amenity strip adjacent to residential properties that will be planted with native trees for privacy, where required. We will keep a belt of mostly mature native trees along the river corridor boundary, where possible.

## Construction

Building the stopbank begins in early 2017 and we are now removing some trees to prepare the site for construction. The construction phase is covered by strict resource consent conditions to mitigate the effects of dust, noise and vibrations on surrounding residents. As well as re-constructing the stopbank we are widening the river channel and extracting gravel along the Jim Cooke Park river reach to give the river more room during a flood. Excavated material will be carted from both sides of the river to be used in the stopbank construction.

Notice boards will be placed at entrances to the site to provide information and contact details for inquiries. The hours of operation for the construction and delivering material is proposed to be from 7.30am through to 6pm during Monday to Saturday, with no work on Sundays or public holidays. Channel widening and gravel extraction activities will occur from Monday to Friday at the same hours but not on Saturdays or Sundays.

## Public access to the river corridor

While construction is taking place some existing paths and access points to the river will be closed. We will advise any closures on noticeboards and alternative paths will be available in most cases.

## Huge planting programme

As part of the project we will be planting 10,000 eco-sourced native trees to restore privacy for residents and further enhance and beautify the river corridor. We understand that some residents will be upset at losing mature trees adjacent to their property. We are currently preparing a re-planting plan for the residential boundary and will share this with residents for their feedback. We will be phoning or visiting residents before trees adjacent to their properties are removed.

## Completing the native corridor

Once the Jim Cooke Park planting is complete that will have finished this phase of the project to provide a corridor of native plants between SH1 and the sea. The corridor has been planted by Friends of the Waikanae River and the regional council over the last 15 years to provide a friendly flight path for native birds travelling between Kapiti Island and the hills behind Waikanae.

## Sports fields and equestrian centre

The three football fields are being repositioned and will remain the same size. The practice field and floodlights will be moved closer the river, re-grassed and will be in play for the 2017 winter season. Work on the stopbank means the other two fields will not be ready for play until 2018. These areas will be used as alternative grazing for the equestrian centre during construction and will be renovated before they return to use as football fields. The two artificial cricket pitches will be replaced by one high quality clay pitch, which will be relocated at Waikanae Park in mid-late 2017.

Kāpiti Coast District Council has discussed these changes with the Waikanae Football Club and Horowhenua-Kāpiti Cricket Association. The regional council has purchased the land from the equestrian centre to build the stopbank, with a lease back for up to 20 years.

## TIMELINE

We'll keep you informed throughout the construction period.  
Look out for further newsletters

Start football field repositioning and stopbank construction site set up

Stopbank construction and river channel improvements

Re-establish grass and begin three year native planting programme



December 2016

January-June 2017

July 2017 – June 2018

For more information about this project:

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# JIM COOKE PARK STOPBANK RECONSTRUCTION

