
HARBOUR SPORT SUBMISSION

Submission to:

Kaipatiki Local Board Draft Plan

From:

Harbour Sport (North Harbour Regional Sports Trust representing 305,000 residents)
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INTRODUCTION

Research has shown that increasing community participation in organised sport and recreation contributes to social capital which acts as the social fabric that binds New Zealand communities. Sports clubs, community organisations, and recreational parks and facilities are important conduits for developing social capital and are good indicator of community strength.

The key benefits of increased social capital through community sport and recreation include:

- Building community sense of pride and belonging
- Increased social inclusion
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- Educational programmes
- Improved health and well-being
- Economic growth
- Urban and regional regeneration

With almost 80% of Kaipatiki residents actively participating in sport and recreation once a week, 98% of residents participating once a year and volunteering ingrained in the local community, the Kaipatiki Local Board have a unique opportunity to make a considerable difference to their people.

Kaipatiki has 53 sport and recreation clubs, 12 regional sport organisations and 86 sport and recreation facilities which cater for approximately 80,000 of your community residents and potentially 305,000 North Shore City and Rodney residents.

The North Harbour Region has one of the fastest growing populations in New Zealand, with clear indications suggesting that growth will occur around existing town centres in areas such as Kaipatiki. These factors need to be taken into consideration when developing effective community strategies around sport, recreation, parks and facilities in the region.

Harbour Sport supports the key projects/initiatives outlined in the Kaipatiki Local Board Plan and encourages the Local Board Members to consider the following when making the final decisions:

- Development of partnerships with community organisations for the delivery of sport and recreation, including the continued provision of community funding
- Advocating to Auckland Council for the development of a 'Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy' as a key priority

- Leading the development of multi-agency partnerships (i.e. with local schools and clubs) that improve the delivery of sport and recreation
- Partnering with Local Boards in the development of sub-regional sport and recreation programmes and facilities
- Development of 'Community Sport and Recreation Hubs' where a number of sport and recreation opportunities can be offered
- Having a sport and recreation portfolio holder on the board who is the key contact for all related activities
- Continue provision for the upgrade of sport and recreation facilities to meet current and future growth demand
- Including sport and recreation specific KPI's within your local board agreement that will drive improved levels of service within the Auckland Council
- Advocating for equity across codes in terms of provision and maintenance of surfaces/facilities. Currently fields are maintained for football, rugby and rugby league by Council. Sports codes utilising hard courts or turfs (e.g. netball, hockey) are required to fund and maintain their facilities/surfaces themselves.

Harbour Sport is a Charitable Trust that leads and supports the development of the North Harbour sport and recreation sector to provide quality sport, recreation and social experiences. We achieve this by partnering with key sector enablers and deliverers to ensure that there are enjoyable and equitable opportunities to participate.

Harbour Sport endorses the Kaipatiki Local Board priority areas, particularly '***Building on our sense of pride and belonging***', '***Making the best use of what we have got***', and '***Enhance and protect our water quality, leafy suburbs and parks***'. We believe that sport and recreation can play a significant role in achieving successful outcomes within your communities.

BUILDING ON OUR SENSE OF PRIDE AND BELONGING

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Kaipatiki Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Development of partnerships and relationships with other organisations for the delivery of community benefits**

Sport and recreation organisations provide numerous community benefits to local residents and are continuously looking at developing partnerships with other local organisations to grow participation and membership. Harbour Sport has dedicated sport capability and community sport and recreation teams who provide an overarching development focus in support of local sport and recreation groups. Harbour Sport would like to work with the Kaipatiki Local Board to help develop a strategy that will strengthen partnerships and relationships for community benefit.

- **Local Board community awards recognition for contribution to community**

Sport and recreation as we know it would struggle to survive without the considerable time and effort given by volunteers (coaches, referees, managers, committee members, administrators and others). Harbour Sport would like to support the Local Board to develop a community award scheme that included sport and recreation volunteers for their contribution to the Kaipatiki communities.

- **Providing space for youth | Provision of youth driven events**

The provision of space and youth driven events for the younger generation to participate in socially acceptable sport and recreation activities is critical to reducing anti-social behaviors such as, drinking, drug taking and violence. The phrase *'a kid in sport stays out of court'* was coined by Judge Andrew Becroft and highlights the important role sport and recreation plays in engaging young people. Harbour Sport would welcome the opportunity to work with the Kaipatiki Local Board and other community partners to investigate the feasibility of developing Youth and Recreation Centres in the Sheppard's Park and Beachhaven areas.

- **Development of community safety and enhancement programmes**

It is common knowledge that sport and recreation has been used in many neighborhoods throughout the world to develop community safety and enhancement programmes. Harbour Sport would encourage the Kaipatiki Local Board to develop key partnerships with local sport and recreation clubs to create community engagement programmes.

MAKING THE BEST USE OF WHAT WE HAVE GOT

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Kaipatiki Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Upgrade of the North Shore Events Centre**

Harbour Sport understands that the North Shore Events Centre principal users (Basketball and GymSports) have reached capacity with regards to active members and currently have waiting lists of potential participants. We support the Kaipatiki Local Board's role in advocating to the Auckland Council for upgrade developments that result in increased participation capacity.

Harbour Sport supports the submission made by the NSEC Trust for upgrade developments.

- **Upgrade of community facilities and parks**

Harbour Sport encourages the Kaipatiki Local Board to conduct comprehensive service level agreements to evaluate current and future usage demand on community sport and recreation facilities and parks.

- **Develop partnerships with sporting groups and clubs**

The development of partnerships with sporting groups and clubs is a key outcome for Sport Harbour and would encourage the Kaipatiki Local Board to consult with Harbour Sport to develop effective consultation processes. Sports groups and clubs are currently duplicating a number of governance roles and facility management, with greater collaboration and partnerships they will become less resource dependent and more effective.

- **Develop partnerships with other organisations to share facilities**

Harbour Sport would like to be considered as a key partner and facilitator of shared facility development where a number of sport and recreation organisations can work together. The 'Sportsville' model is becoming increasingly effective across New Zealand and Harbour Sports major investor, Sport and Recreation New Zealand, are acknowledging it as best practice.

- **Development of a regional policy for synthetic fields**

Sports are reporting that there is currently an inequitable allocation of resources from council towards grass facilities in comparison to synthetic fields. Harbour Sport would like to contribute to the development of a regional policy for synthetic fields.

- **Northcote Road sports precinct plan and implementation**

Harbour Sport commends the Kaipatiki Local Board for the continued support and provision to the development of the Northcote Road sports precinct. Harbour Sport would like to be contributing to this development and investigate the potential of other sport and recreation groups' usage.

ENHANCE AND PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY, LEAFY SUBURBS AND PARKS

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Kaipatiki Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Tuff Crater walking and cycling network feasibility study**

Harbour Sport believes that all walking and cycling network developments are critical to the ongoing health and well-being of the Kaipatiki local community members. The development of safer cycle routes that encourage active transport is a key outcome. Harbour Sport encourage the Kaipatiki Local Board to consider developing partnerships with walking and cycling groups to develop programmes and initiatives designed to maximise usage.

CONCLUSION

Harbour Sport thanks the Kaipatiki Local Board for the opportunity to comment on the draft local board plan. We hope that the comments and feedback will help support the decision making and provision allocation process.

We believe that the final Kaipatiki Local Board Plan will be well placed to become a blueprint for future Sport and Recreation development in the Auckland Plan.

This submission supports the position that Harbour Sport currently holds within the North Harbour region and their involvement as a key a stakeholder in any future development of sport and recreation in the Kaipatiki community.

If you would like further clarification of any of the areas raised in this submission, please contact Toni-Maree Carnie, CEO, Harbour Sport.

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