

New public toilet for Taneatua park

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Staff reporter

A NEW public toilet will be built at Taneatua's Jack Knowles reserve after Whakatane District Council committed \$130,000 to the project in this year's budget.

The report into the installation of a new public convenience was discussed at the Taneatua Community Board meeting on Monday night. It outlined that the installation of a new public convenience at Mitchell Park was included in the council's 2015-25 long-term plan.

"The facility is scheduled in the 2016-17 financial year within a \$130,000 budget. The council currently maintains a portaloo toilet at Mitchell Park for the sports and recreational users of Mitchell Park and general public use. The portaloo costs \$9000 to maintain," asset officer Paul Edhouse said.

However, board member and district councillor Andrew Iles had indicated the board might wish to consider alternative locations. As a result the costs, advantages and disadvantages of constructing public toilets at the northern and southern ends of Mitchell Park were included in the report, as well as the option of building one at the Jack Knowles Reserve.

The assessment of each site included costs of installing Exeloo toilets, which have a stainless steel exterior, and the Permaloo option, with a precast concrete external casing. Each preference then included the cost of a roof.

Out of the six possible options, the cheapest was to install a permaloo at the south end of Mitchell Park that would



Andrew Iles,
Taneatua
Community Board
member

include a disabled toilet and a single unit at a cost of \$93,000.

The most expensive option, at \$260,000, was building the Exeloo option at the north end of Mitchell Park with one disabled toilet, a single unit and a roof structure.

Mr Edhouse said building the permaloo toilet that included one disabled toilet, a single unit and a roof at the southern end of Mitchell Park would cost of \$112,585.

However, the community board favoured building at Jack Knowles Reserve at a cost of \$146,625. Mr Iles said the decision reflected high use of Jack Knowles reserve by the community after the upgrade of the playground and barbecue facilities, co-funded by Tuhoe governing board Te Uru Taumatua and the council.

"This is now a real community focal point and it makes sense to ensure that adequate public conveniences are available where the demand for them exists."

He said there were some details around the project plan and costs still to be finalised, which could reduce the budget set out in the report. Under the Jack Knowles option, the council would be required to continue paying \$9000 a year for the portaloo at Mitchell Park.