

# Survey of Winning Candidates' Views on Frank Kitts Park Redevelopment

Wellington Mayoralty and Council

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Waterfront Watch Inc.

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Candidates for Wellington's Mayor and for Council were asked whether they supported the council's planned \$5.5m redevelopment of Frank Kitts Park that would remove the amphitheatre and introduce a Chinese Garden.

They were invited to add a comment.

Mayor	In general, do you support the efforts of Waterfront Watch and other groups that work to retain public open space on the Waterfront?	Do you support the council's planned \$5.5m redevelopment of Frank Kitts Park that would remove the amphitheatre and introduce a Chinese Garden?	
<b>Justin Lester</b>	On some issues	-	The \$5.5m upgrade is not necessary. My preference is to retain the amphitheatre and place the Chinese Garden on the area on top of the car park. I am firmly in favour of the proposed upgrade of the children's playground at the northern end of Frank Kitts Park. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, President of China and Mayors of Xiamen and Wellington have agreed to build a Chinese Garden on the waterfront. I think it would be deeply embarrassing for Wellington to fully renege on this undertaking.

Lambton			
<b>Brian Dawson</b>	Yes	-	I am keen to explore what the alternatives might be but understand that certain commitments have been made that will make an alternative location tricky.
<b>Iona Pannett</b>	Yes. Absolutely (and worked as a committee member for Waterfront Watch some years ago). These groups have been very successful in working for the public interest.	No	I do support the idea of a Chinese Garden (ideally in the Botanic Gardens but I understand that the Chinese Garden Society wants it on the waterfront) and think that the Park will need an upgrade at some point but it is not a priority at the moment. \$5.5m is a lot of money and could be spent elsewhere.
<b>Nicola Young</b>	Waterfront Watch has done some really good work as a public watchdog and advocate; I don't always agree, but they've certainly opened my eyes on some issues - particularly for me, as a new councillor.	No	This is a total waste of money. Wrong location for a Chinese Garden; it would be better to locate it in the new embassy (Rugby & Tasman streets).

Northern			
<b>Jill Day</b>	The waterfront is a wonderful space and is much loved by Wellingtonians. I appreciate the work of the Waterfront Watch to protect this valuable open space.	Don't know	I support the creation of a Chinese garden, however I have not seen the plans for the area so I really can't comment on the proposed location. In principal I agree with keeping Frank Kitts Park as it is. It's a lovely open space and is well utilised as it is.

<b>Peter Gilbert</b>	I consider it important to keep the waterfront as accessible public space and I support the efforts of Waterfront Watch.	Yes	I support the concept Chinese Garden on the waterfront, as it is appropriate recognition of the contribution of the Chinese people and it is a commitment that has been signed up to. The amphitheatre will be redeveloped to open the area up to the sea.
<b>Malcolm Sparrow</b>	Yes	-	

<b>Eastern</b>			
<b>Calvi-Freeman</b>	Yes	No	
<b>Sarah Free</b>	Yes	No	I'd love the Chinese garden, but would prefer another site for it.
<b>Simon Marsh</b>	No Response		

<b>Onslow</b>			
<b>Diane Calvert</b>	Yes	No	I could never understand why we are spending money on redeveloping Frank Kitts park and then wanting to sell off Jack Ilott for roughly the same cost. The redevelopment of Frank Kitts park seems to have been brought about by the need to accommodate the Chinese Walled garden (funded in part by the Chinese community). I think there are other more appropriate places for this garden eg Jack Ilott Green, Botanic gardens or even the original Chinese quarter around Haining & Frederick Sts I support saving Frank Kitts Park.
<b>Andy Foster</b>	I support the right of anyone to take an interest in planning for our Waterfront which is a most precious part of our city. I agree with WW on some points, and not on others.	-	I strongly support the upgrade of the playground which should be our premier playground. We are not particularly well set up for children in the central city at the moment and creating a better playground (about \$1.5 million of that sum) is I think most important. I have also - along with the Youth Council promoted the idea of an adult exercise equipment area. At Waitangi Park I have asked, and Council has agreed, that we investigate a Marine Parade (Napier) style Junior Bike Track - lots of fun seeing little children navigating their own roadway complete with traffic lights and roundabouts. The Chinese Garden would occupy about 1/7th of FKP. Council has consulted twice on the proposal which has been in gestation on one site or another for 20 years. As you know a MOU has been signed with our sister city Xiamen - in presence of our Government and the Chinese President - that the Chinese Garden will be delivered if consent is granted and the Chinese community raise the funds necessary for the garden. I would really encourage Waterfront Watch to get together with the Chinese Garden Society to talk about the Garden - its journey, the design and the philosophy.

<p><b>Simon Woolf</b></p>	<p>I think Waterfront Watch do a great job in highlighting issues and concerns, and promoting concepts and improvements on our waterfront. I value the way Waterfront Watch keeps Council accountable, and tries to encourage transparency.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>I was not at all happy with the councils plan to redevelop Frank Kitts Park. We should refurbish the children's play area, park and amphitheatre without the big financial outlay. The Chinese Garden is an interesting situation. Various Mayors and Councils have promised a waterfront location, over a 20 year period. The latest decision was made some years ago, and isn't something recent, or even decided upon in this term, irrespective of recent consultation! Honouring pledges is hugely important, and especially for the cities credibility. I believe as a community we would now be better served to build The Chinese Garden on the waterfront, however on the southern most, and most under used portion of Frank Kitts Park, overlooking the lagoon. If we were to renege on a longstanding agreement with The Chinese Community, we would very likely create a disastrous multicultural divide, and one that would not just involve our Chinese Community. Whether we agree, or not as to the location of The Chinese Garden, we should be able to accommodate a refurbishment of the existing Frank Kitts Park, and also a Chinese Garden, which should be designed to fit into an area where it will be both attractive, and will be appreciated.</p>
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<p><b>Southern</b></p>			
<p><b>Paul Eagle</b></p>	<p>No Response</p>		
<p><b>David Lee</b></p>	<p>No Response</p>		