

Submission to: Wellington City Council
From: Save Jack Ilott Green Campaign
Subject: Wellington Play Space Policy
Date: November 2016

1. Save Jack Ilott Green Group (SJIG) was established to raise public awareness and oppose the Council's proposal to allow a building on Jack Ilott Green which, according to our calculations, comprises 7% of our inner city green space (*See submission to Transport and Urban Development Committee Meeting - March 2016*).
2. Jack Ilott Green is the ONLY large open easily accessible green space in the city side of the CBD and is ideally placed beside the civic centre and all the facilities available there. (Toilets, Library, Day Care Centre, etc). It has not been well maintained over the past 20 or so years, which led to its run down state, and provided the Council with the excuse the green was not attractive or used enough? However a survey carried out by our group over 6 weeks of summer 2015/16 proved that many group activities took place and, even in its run down state, the park was well used by locals, tourists and city workers. (*submission to Transport and Urban Development Committee Meeting - March 2016*).
3. Much has been made of the children's playground at Frank Kitts Park and Skate Boarding area at Waitangi Park, which are very popular in the weekends when many people come down to the waterfront from all around Wellington. However, for many apartment dwellers in the inner city these areas do not provide a "handy place for a quick play that services the local community (within about 600m walking distance)" (*Play Space Policy 2016*)
4. Back in 2013 Wellington City Council reported that
 - "36% of the total growth for the City will demand high density apartment style housing and most new growth will occur in the central city";
 - "Our open spaces and natural areas are seen as a key part of the city's liveability and attractiveness" ;
 - "Wellington City is very compact and its green space has been hard won", and;
 - **the council should undertake "to utilize the existing spaces by increasing their functionality and connectivity".**

SJIG believes that Jack Ilott Green fits under these criteria.

5. In June 2016 the council moved a motion to investigate the gazetting of Jack Ilott Green as a reserve which we assume is under action? As a result, we believe that there is an opportunity for Jack Ilott Green to be considered as an area that could be utilised "to promote informal play through the idea of 'the city as a play space'" and "to promote play (and the value of play) more generally" which meets the Wellington Play Space Policy 2016 criteria.

6. In the Play Space Policy 2016 document it states that *wherever possible there will be provision for kick-about space and nature play*. The document also stresses that 92% of people responding to the Residents' monitoring Survey indicated that a connection with nature improved the quality of their lives.

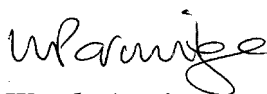
To this end, we suggest that, given its close location to the CBD workers and resident apartment buildings in the area, Jack Ilott Green is large and very appropriate location for nature play and a kick about area. We make the following recommendation:

- The large green space is already used for kicking a ball and team sports (see Appendix A). This should be maintained with natural play space surrounding it;
- The current slope down from the Civic Square could be utilised to provide natural climbing play areas, a slide and paths for young children, along with comfortable tree shaded seating;
- The pentaque court at one end of the park could be enhanced with comfortable seating around it. This would also allow it to be used as a pleasant meeting space for youth and families.
- Other ideas include more native trees to attract birds and a Monarch butterfly garden.
- wifi access would be an added benefit;
- The addition of attractive fencing and planting roadside would greatly enhance the area;
- Children and others could be drawn into the park from the Civic Square by clever paving and planting from the square;

We believe this redesigned space would be extremely attractive to city office workers lunching and playing, teenagers meeting and playing, and young children playing.

7. It is also important to acknowledge that, love it or hate it, the Rugby World Cup Statue made by Weta Studios is an extremely popular tourist attraction in Jack Ilott Green. Every day over the summer, many groups of tourists are seen posing and taking photographs in front of the statue. This adds another significant dimension to the park.
8. As Jack Ilott Green is next to the Civic centre library and civic centre CCTV this would help ensure that the area was safe. Also, the City to Sea Bridge overlooking the park, not only provides a stunning panoramic view of the harbour, it is a vantage point where people can watch and enjoy activities going on the green.
9. **In conclusion, we support the intent of the Play Space Policy 2016 and fully agree with the statement that “part of the drawcard for living in the central city is the proximity to large areas of open space for engaging in recreation activities and play”.**

We believe the “centrally located” and “easy to get to” Jack Ilott Green would become a “premium playground that attracts residents, visitors and tourists” alike if it was well designed and thought out. (Play Space Policy 2016)



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APPENDIX A: PHOTOS OF ACTIVITIES ON JACK ILOTT GREEN 2015/16

