

The Following Report was read:-

CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH BOROUGH
COUNCIL AND THE PUKEKURA PARK COMMITTEE - April 12th., 1934.

Present:- His Worship the Mayor (Chairman), Crs. Amoores, Anderson, Brown, Darby, Grayling, Hill, Smith and Stainton (New Plymouth Borough Council) Messrs J. McLeod, C. E. Bellringer, E. King, W. F. Short, F. Parker and T. Horton (Pukekura Park Committee).

Apologies were received for the absence of Messrs E. J. Carr and V. C. Davies.

1. The Conference considered most carefully and exhaustively the question of utilising in some way for public purposes the Homestead at Brooklands either on its present site or by utilising the materials for the erection of a Teahouse or Pavilion, but reluctantly came to the conclusion that no such course was feasible.

Some of the reasons leading to this decision were as follows:-

- (1) The use of the building as a Mothercraft Home as desired by the Plunket Society is undesirable, in that:-
 - (a) the building is in the centre of a Park and it would be necessary, in order to enable the building to be used for the purpose mentioned, for an area of ground to be enclosed therewith for domestic purposes, and to ensure the privacy of the patients. To do so would seriously detract from the value and beauty of the existing gardens as a Park;
 - (b) the use of the building for the purpose mentioned would mean that the Park drives would require to be open for the use of tradesmen's vehicles;
 - (c) the building, which is of wood and was erected many years ago, would require a very heavy expenditure to re-condition it for the purpose mentioned, and, in addition, the annual maintenance charges would be very great;
 - (d) the use of the building for any purpose other than as a Tea Kiosk, Art Gallery, Botanical Museum or similar public purpose would destroy the parklike atmosphere of the Reserve.
- (2) The objections set out in paragraph (1) apply equally to the suggestion for the use of the building as an Eventide Home of Rest or Convalescent Home for Old Ladies.
- (3) The use of the building as an Art Gallery or Botanical Museum is not feasible, in that:-
 - (a) the building being of wood in a very dry condition, the risk of valuable paintings or other works of art being destroyed in a fire would be too great for a public body to accept. Possible donors of works of art would also be deterred by this risk from adding to any collection established.
 - (b) apart from the question of fire risk, the Council is not in a position to incur the great expense of reconditioning the building, purchasing paintings and other works of art and providing a Caretaker for

an Art Gallery.

- (4) The demolition of the building for the purpose of using the materials for the erection of a Tea Kiosk or Pavilion is not desirable, in that:-

(a) a building of this nature at Brooklands is not necessary at present, and, if erected some time in the future, should be of permanent material to give a long life with a minimum expense for annual upkeep.

- (5) The Conference also considered the question of whether for sentimental reasons the building should not be retained in its present position. In view of the age of the building, and the materials of which it is constructed, it was recognised that it was only a matter of time when the building would deteriorate to such an extent as to compel its demolition. No good purpose would, therefore, be served by leaving it for a period which, after all, would be a very limited one, but one in which the annual maintenance costs would be heavy.

- (6) It was also felt by the members of the Conference that the substantial extensions of the lawns in conjunction with the judicious planting of a limited number of specimen trees and shrubs thereon similar to the existing lawns, which would be possible after the removal of the Homestead and the vegetable garden area immediately behind the building, would materially enhance the whole of the outlook from the point of view of a public park.

2. That after the most careful consideration of the whole of the circumstances, and with the utmost regret that no other course is possible, this Conference is unanimously of the opinion that the Homestead at Brooklands should be removed.
3. The Conference adjourned in order to enable the members to inspect the proposed site of the Rhododendron Dell.

APRIL 14TH., 1934. CONFERENCE RESUMED AT PUKEKURA PARK

Present:- Crs. Amore, Anderson, Darby, Grayling, Hill, Smith and Stainton and Messrs C.E. Bellringer, W.F. Short, E. King and T. Horton.

4. That the site selected for the Rhododendron Dell, comprising the old "maze" and a small portion of Brooklands adjoining, including the swamp below the dam, be approved, no rhododendrons to be planted immediately under any of the Oak trees, a grass space to be left under each tree.
5. Members inspected the filling in Sections 1047 and 1048 part of Pukekura Park corner of Liardet and Gilbert Streets and decided to request the Borough Engineer to expedite the laying of the pipes which he had already instructed the Foreman to put in. It was also decided to instruct Mr Horton to take the necessary steps to ensure that the spoil was tipped in the position required.

That the Report of the Conference with Pukekura Park Committee be adopted by the Council and form part of the proceedings of and be entered in the Minutes of this Council Meeting.

Carried.