



Dear Community Member

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **BOB CAMPBELL OVAL MASTER PLAN**

### **RESCISSION MOTION LISTED FOR COUNCIL MEETING NEXT MONDAY 15 MARCH**

The community was incensed on 16 November 2020 when Councillors voted 4-3 to proceed with the plan to instal a synthetic surface on the sports ground at Bob Campbell Oval (BCO).

This decision was reached despite a petition against the synthetic surface signed by over 1600 local community members, at least 180 individual written submissions against synthetic and 181 similar comments at the end of Council's online survey.

The vote last November took place in the absence of one of our East Ward Councillors, Councillor David Brooks-Horn, who had just been married.

At the time of the Council vote, community members had been advised by some Councillors that it was not possible to select a non- synthetic surface for BCO because the grant was tied to Council providing a synthetic surface and that if Council did not proceed with its synthetic proposal, Council would be forced to return \$4 million to the Government.

Following representations to the Minister for Planning by our local member, the Hon Anthony Roberts, just before Christmas, the Minister advised that:-

***The Department does not have a role in determining the preferred use of these recreational facilities..... Should Council wish to change the project scope to remove the synthetic turf or submit an alternative project, they can apply within the established process under the Program.***

And Minister Stokes was very clear in Budget Estimates just this week, when asked a question about the BCO grant, that ***project selection is ultimately a matter for local councils. If people have concerns, obviously, in relation to the selection of projects it is a matter for councils.***

**On this Monday 15 March two motions authored by Councillors Brooks-Horn, Vissel and Morris offer Councillors the chance to acknowledge the community voice, reverse the decision of last November and start the process to upgrade the grass surface the community cherishes.**

The motions below are hot off the press – we wanted to get them out to you as a matter of urgency.

**There will be further updates in the next few days, so please watch out for them.**

[Agenda of Ordinary Council - Monday, 15 March 2021 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

#### **Motion # 1**

**Subject:** Notice of Rescission - Bob Campbell Oval Masterplan - Post Consultation

**Record No:** SU5606 - 12983/21

**Division:** Lane Cove Council

**Author(s):** Councillor David Brooks-Horn; Councillor Frances Vissel; Councillor Katherine Morris

#### **Background**

On 16 November 2020, Council considered the Post-Consultation Report for the Bob Campbell Oval Masterplan. The Report presented to Council is attached (**AT-1**).

#### **Discussion**

The resolution was moved and carried as follows:-

“That:-

1. Council receive and endorse the revised Bob Campbell Oval Master Plan, AT- 9;
2. Upgrades be undertaken to the bush tracks leading to the oval (from River Rd and from Ford St) including better pedestrian access through the culvert below River Rd - funded either through the NSW Precinct Support Scheme Grant or the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program Grant;
3. Council write to DPIE seeking agreement to the change to the conditions of the Precinct Support Scheme Grant to delay commencement of the project due to:
  - (a) continuing major works being undertaken by Sydney Water at the site;
  - (b) timing constraints in preparing for and staging the Greenwich Village Games; and;
4. The head petitioners be notified.”

*sporting and public use.*

*The petition received by Council of 1,614 signatures did not support the upgrade of the sports field from turf to synthetic.*

*180 submissions did not support the proposal's upgrade of the oval from turf to synthetic for a variety of reasons.*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council Rescind Item 1 of Resolution 183 of the Ordinary Council meeting 16 November 2020, Bob Campbell Oval Concept Plan – Post Consultation - “Council receive and endorse the revised Bob Campbell Oval Master Plan, **AT- 9**’*

### **Motion # 2**

*Executive Summary*

*Note this Motion will lapse if the Motion to rescind Item 1 of the Bob Campbell Oval Masterplan is lost.*

*The purpose of this Motion is to require Council to provide a report based on expert advice regarding the installation of a level turf playing surface at Bob Campbell Oval.*

### **Discussion**

*The playing surface at Bob Campbell Oval is in poor condition. A multiple number of community uses is catered for by Bob Campbell Oval. The c residents have given considerable and continued support for a turf surface playing oval for resident, sporting and public use. A petition of 1,614 signatures has been received by Council objecting to the upgrade of the sports field from turf to synthetic.*

*Some 180 submissions were received by Council objecting to the proposal to upgrade of the oval from turf to synthetic for various reasons.*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council direct the General Manager to prepare a report and recommendation/s, to be presented to the Council for its determination at the Council meeting in July 2021 after undertaking further investigation and obtaining expert advice in relation to the inclusion in the*

Kind regards

Merri Southwood

**President**

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