



" Our Community Matters"

Issue No. 143

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www.greenwich.org.au

1st March 2024

Dear Community Member,

Items covered in this newsletter

1. Bob Campbell Oval

2. Change to Council Public Forum - where residents may address Council about issues of concern

Bob Campbell Oval

At last Thursday night's Council Meeting (22/2) a motion was proposed and passed, giving the General Manager the power to negotiate with tenderers, and to appoint a contractor to finally proceed with the reconstruction works proposed 2 years ago.

Within the details of this motion it was stated that dogs would be prevented from running/playing leash free on the oval and that as a 'cost saving', an additional small fenced dog area would be provided (in place of the playground at the northern end of the oval)

Nobody could understand how this additional fenced area could be a cost saving until it was revealed that the tendered plans included 2 children's play

areas (which were not proposed by the community appointed design review panel) at either end of the oval, and that one of these playgrounds (where the current playground is, at the northern end, adjacent to C2 bushland) was to be replaced with a small fenced dog area. The changed masterplan that went to tender can be found on the Lane Cove Council Website - Bob Campbell Oval, February March 2024, Review of Environmental Factors (REF) page 23. Use the link [here](#)

This was of great concern to the community, and as a result of the input of over a dozen speakers at the public forum before the council meeting as well as a number of written objections, the General Manager stated finally on record that 'it is not the intention to ban leash free dogs from the oval' (even though worryingly the original motion was passed unchanged).

Thanks to those who spoke, and those who wrote in registering their concerns. It is proof that community input can properly influence Council decisions.

2. Changes to the Public Forum - where residents may address Council about issues of concern

Since 2010 (14 years ago) residents have had the right to address Council, including senior staff, for a period of 3 minutes each, before the start of public Council meetings.

This has been a most effective way of allowing Councillors to quickly become aware of community concerns and allows the community to feel listened to and involved

Again at last Thursday night's Council meeting, without any community consultation, it was agreed that the Public Forum will not longer occur at public Council Meetings. Instead, the community can raise their concerns at a separate meeting on the Monday before regular Thursday Council Meetings.

However, there is no requirement for Councillors or Council staff to attend, and the Monday Public Forums may not be recorded.

So how will this work and who will residents address at this separate meeting? This is a very sad state of affairs and appears to be indicative of this Councils

isolationist approach to matters affecting the community on the basis that it will resolve 'the psychosocial hazards' affecting council staff.

If this is unacceptable to you then use your vote at the Council Elections later this year to elect Councillors (current or new) whom you feel will best support your interests and needs into the future

For your information the minutes of the 22nd Feb Council Meeting can be found through this link [here](#)

Kind regards,

Peter Deane

President Greenwich Community Association

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