



Dear Community Member

This week's Bob Campbell Update

1. Council is playing it tough. Not only is it hard enough contemplating this project during Covid - 19 - when we all have enough challenges, but Council has scheduled two weeks of the consultation process over school holidays when many community members are away, seeking a well earned break. Not dissimilar to the 2017 - 2018 St Leonards South "Christmas" consultation!

2. The first "drop in" consultation session is at the Terrace Room Little St, Lane Cove and is scheduled for next **Tuesday 6th October from 3.00 pm**. Those who are able to attend need to register on Council's website. [Click Here](#) Councillors originally supported drop in sessions at the Oval but Council is now using Covid limits of 20 at out door gatherings to justify the move to the Terrace Room

3. Council (and Councillors) have been requested to defer the drop in sessions until at least a week after school resumes - no reply at the time of writing

4. Council has been asked for design parameters of the synthetic soccer pitch. Council officers have advised that the pitch - and all associated drainage will be **ON TOP OF** the existing oval. How high does this mean the step up to it from ground level be? No answer to this question yet.

5. Council officers have advised that there will also be a 200mm lip or kerb around the entire pitch to retain the synthetic or natural rubber, or organic infill that supports the green plastic grass tufts. (Infill type not resolved yet) - in addition to the whole pitch being above the existing ground level as noted at 4. above.

In the GCA's view Points 4. and 5. above and 10 below will significantly, if not totally compromise The Greenwich Village Games. If the picket Fence - on top of the kerb is demountable - as stated - then there remains a 200mm kerb to navigate around as well as the drop off down to the existing ground level. Hard to see the Games functioning in any semblance of their current form. Let alone where all the tents, admin, first aid and food vendors will be located.

6. Council has been asked to "tag trees" that are destined for the chop with coloured tape. No response. For starters, the 8 mature trees in the carpark, facing the oval will go. Possibly others. But whilst Council maintains silence on this matter we are unable to inform the community on this aspect..

7. Petition collecting is on in earnest - look out for volunteers at the shops. If you can help please let John Southwood know - M: 0412 137 080

8. Legal advice is being sought on a number of fronts. Council says that a Development Application process is not required. We see it differently.

10. Environmental issues are being actively researched. Particularly the HEAT SINK effect of synthetic turf. Whereas natural grass cools the playing surface synthetic grass heats it up. More evidence on this to follow. If the GVG were to be held on a hot weekend on a synthetic surface we believe cancellation of many of the events would need to be considered. This aspect requires detailed reporting by Council supported by empirical evidence.

FINALLY

More than anything else BCO is Greenwich's only significant natural green open space that has for decades satisfied all users' needs. Dogs, walkers, families, soccer and cricket players have co-existed harmoniously. This current plan is out of keeping with what makes our suburb special.

We are urging the Council to use the funding it will receive from the Dept of Planning to do a proper upgrade of the drainage, soil and turf. Whilst this may require "over sized drainage" configuration, it is the GCA's view that this is better than surrendering this unique natural place forever.

Kind regards

Merri Southwood

President

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