

Dear Community Member

This is an update on the campaign to keep BCO a naturally grassed open space for all users, by eliminating the synthetic soccer pitch proposed.

RECAP

- As previously advised, about 650 fliers have been distributed.
- Approx. 30 written objections have been copied to me - not everyone chooses to do so - that is fine.
- All but one object to Council's proposal. That person was president of a district (not Greenwich) soccer club.
- The Council has promised "consultation", but no date has been set yet for its release.

GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Greenwich Community Association committee has now formally resolved to oppose the proposal on the basis that is inequitable amongst users and threatens the Greenwich Village Games. In addition, it feels the plan is very poor in so far as it crams a playground between the carpark and the harbour - and leaves the family activity of walking dogs in an enclosed area 150m away at the far end. (The "side strips" beside the soccer pitch don't improve this situation greatly - Ed).

A GCA sub committee has formed and I have agreed to coordinate it.

THE GCA NEWSLETTER COMING OUT THIS WEEK WEEK STRONGLY RESISTS THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL

- Going forward - emails re BCO will be under the GCA banner - to its entire subscriber base.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Any body seeking direct involvement on the sub-committee please contact me. M: 0412 137 080.

AND WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAN PETITION COLLECTION POINTS etc - SO PLEASE STEP UP.

KEY ISSUES - APART FROM LOSS OF AMENITY TO RESIDENTS

SHARED USER PATH

of Planning as integral to the funding grant of \$3.6m.

A submission to Council, Councillors and the Dept of Planning has been made. The submission was supported by photos, measurements and road width standards. For any one interested in this detail please let me know and I'll email a copy.

MAYOR'S VIEW ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SYNTHETIC TURF

- As previously flagged, a key issue is what happens to infill on the oval that gets washed off. Infill is the material that is used between the plastic grass tufts to hold them upright and provide a softer surface.
 - Research indicates that most for most ovals (where players fall over), rubber is the preferred infill. (See Blackman Oval West Lane Cove, Gore Hill Oval). Other infill materials are sand,(abrasive and not favoured), or organic material - eg cork - but these infill materials literally float away when rain comes.
 - A key element of the project expressed by the Mayor was that all infill of the synthetic turf had to be retained within the oval.
- **When the General Manager was asked how this was to be achieved he said a kerb or similar would be constructed - say 200mm high around the pitch. If anyone wants to see correspondence with Council on this issue please let me know and I'll forward the email. Or watch the webcast on Council's website of the July 20 Council meeting.**

IMPACT ON GREENWICH VILLAGE GAMES

Most residents would acknowledge the integral role "The Games" play in creating camaraderie and cohesion amongst us. They are absolutely unique and must be preserved! "Which team are you in?" is a frequently asked question. And for many families the games create enduring, generational friendships and links within the community.

Council's proposal of a fenced synthetic turf soccer pitch - with a retention barrier for infill run off containment, as described above, would neuter the games as we know them - even if the fence were demountable. (And I'd like to see that!)

At Blackman Oval and Gore Hill oval the fence is securely cemented in to the concrete edging strip that holds the synthetic grass edge in. That creates a hazard in itself!

NEXT STEPS

Please volunteer for either the sub committee - we need a few committed non GCA executive members with relevant experience to help co-ordinate activities - or to take a clip board for petition gathering etc. We will need 1,000 plus signatures and as many written

It will be great to hear from you!

I'd expect action will ramp up after the GCA's newsletter is delivered in the next week, the GCA meeting of 19th August and the sub-committee's first "socially distanced" meeting to plan its objectives, targets and timing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards

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