



Dear Community Member

IF YOU LOVE BOB CAMPBELL OVAL, PLEASE SPEAK UP IN COUNCIL ON MONDAY NIGHT 2/8

You will need to register to speak by midnight tonight

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE BCO

This Monday night 2/8 at 7 pm, a week after Council's workshop to hear about both synthetic and natural turf options for BCO, our Council will vote on a motion to award a tender for the construction of a synthetic sportsground at Bob Campbell Oval.

[Agenda of Extraordinary Meeting of Council - Monday, 2 August 2021 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

The public forum at 7 pm Monday night 2/8 is your last chance to ask Councillors to support an improved natural grass sports ground, or, at the very least, to slow down until a full environmental assessment of the synthetic ground has been completed and project costs and funding have been clarified.

All speakers wishing to participate in the public forum must register by using the [online form](#) no later than midnight tonight. A Zoom meeting link will be emailed to the provided email address. Please note that the time limit of three minutes per address still applies so please make sure your submission meets this criteria.

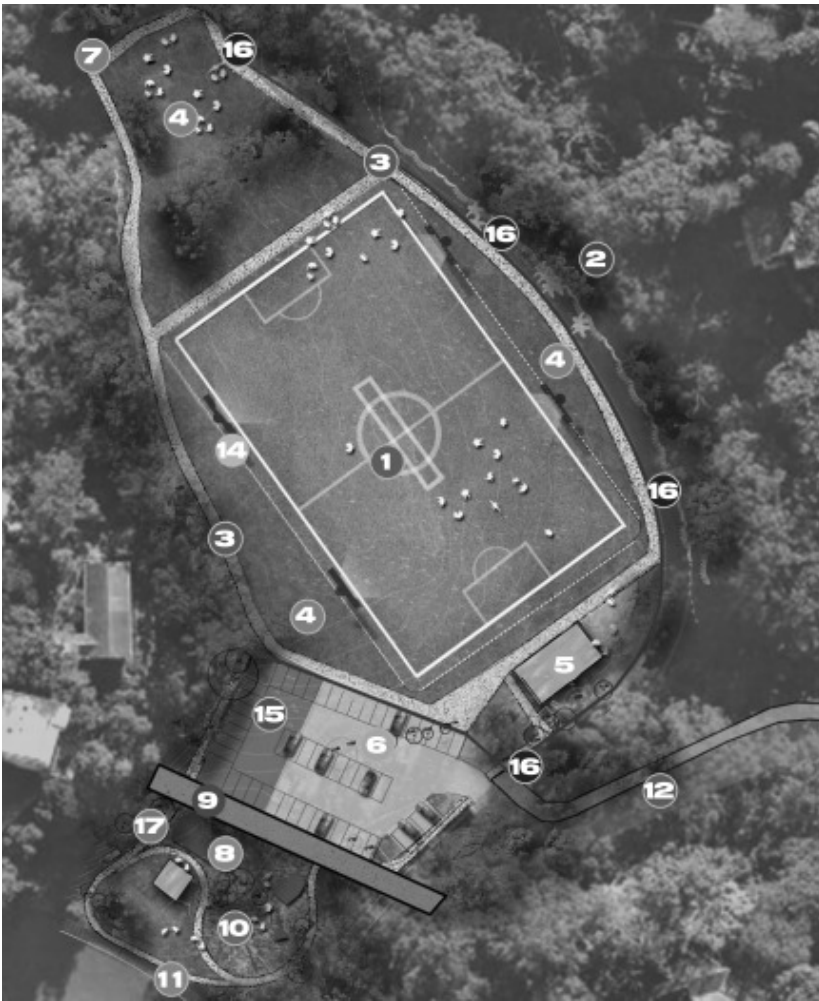
You can watch the meeting webcast on this link.

[Lane Cove Council - Council and LPP Meeting Webcast \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

And, please email Councillors on Councillors@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

Bob Campbell Oval, our cherished and shared natural grass open space, is set to become a synthetic sports ground so that soccer and other sporting teams can use it up to 60 hours a week and 50 weeks of the year.

flexible use of this reserve that the community has enjoyed for generations.



Note this plan was approved in November 2020

In Council meetings to date, 4 of 8 of our Councillors (3 of whom are not East Ward Councillors) have been clear that their priority is to meet the needs of a single stakeholder user of BCO – soccer players.

The Dr Mick Battam report to Natural Grass for Bob Campbell Inc outlines clearly that an improved and properly maintained natural grass ground can meet the needs of soccer players and all the other stakeholders who have enjoyed the use of BCO for generations.

There is no imperative for Council to vote now.

Council is choosing to force a vote as the community is struggling with the pressures of COVID.

Never has natural green open space been more valued, for both mental and physical health.

And the final product will be a synthetic sports ground that will be an ongoing reminder of how a massive \$3.6 million grant has divided a community and will continue do so after completion through its segmented and disconnected design.

The facts:-

1. The budget for the BCO project has blown out dramatically.

The cost of the synthetic turf ground has doubled Council's projections.

It will eat up the entire Departmental grant of \$3.62 million that was meant to fund the synthetic ground, amenities block, the Shared User Path to St Leonards South, preliminary costs and design and project costs to date.

At a time of economic uncertainty and some major expensive projects planned by Council, Lane Cove rate payers will need to fund a \$1.8 million project shortfall (confirmed by the General Manager) **plus** many additional uncosted items in the Master Plan (playground, running track, car park, BBQ area and landscaping).

We cannot see how this Council can justify a total spend of at least \$6 million of public money on a synthetic ground not accredited by FIFA, which 4/8 Councillors do not want, which at least 1600 community members do not want and which, on Council projections, will be inaccessible to the broader community up to 60 hours per week and 50 weeks of the year.

The \$3.62 million DPIE grant would **cover the costs of an improved natural turf ground and all the other elements** that will now need to come from Council funds.

But, for reasons we cannot fathom, Council officers have consistently dismissed this option.

2. In response to a letter of demand from the solicitors for Natural Grass at Bob Campbell Inc, Council has revoked its original mandatory Part 5 environmental approval for the BCO project.

Council is in such a rush to award its synthetic ground tender that it proposes to enter into a contract **before it has completed a new Review of Environmental Factors and has complied with its duty to issue a new Part 5 environmental approval.**

Councillors are being asked to sign off on a contract before they receive independent technical advice as to the environmental impacts of 4G synthetic turf and sand infill.

3. The Minister for Planning's announcement of his recommendations arising out of his review into synthetic turf is imminent.

In May 2021 Council agreed that it would amend the specifications for BCO (or even cancel the contract for BCO) if required by the Minister.

Why enter into a contract now that may need to be changed, or even cancelled, after the Minister releases his recommendations?

4. And do Councillors actually know what the ground to be funded with \$3.62 million of tax payers' money will actually look like?

Do they know what products are to be used?

We certainly don't.

There is no updated plan on Council's website to reflect the design that went to tender and that erodes the grassed open space originally depicted on the approved Master Plan.

PLEASE HELP US TO RETAIN OUR MAGNIFICENT GRASSED OPEN SPACE



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President

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