

Dear Community Member

Last night Lane Cove Council voted to take its plan for changes to Bob Campbell Oval to the community for consultation.

Since our campaign to stop BCO being synthesized Council has amended its plan **to only put plastic on the soccer field.**

The resulting grass "strips" on each side of the oval would be available 7 days a week for dog walking as an off leash area - as well as the previously identified off leash area at the far end of BCO

If you follow the link below to the Council's website you can see the Council report (first link) and revised plan (second link).

http://lccweb.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bps/Open/2020/CNL_20072020_AGN_WEB.HTM

http://ecouncil.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/TRIM/documents_TE/794737717/TRIM_AT%20%20-%20Bob%20Campbell%20Oval%20-%20Draft%20Masterplan%202020_1440736.PDF

This gesture to dog owners and others who want to use the oval space for passive recreation achieves little.

On weekend game days it is not difficult to see the sideline areas also hosting players awaiting games, reserves, equipment and spectators. But in any event, existing arrangements for weekend sporting use work just fine for the community.

Hard to see dogs and their owners having an enjoyable and relaxing time there on weekends! Not to mention their interaction with those using the close by circulating path proposed around the outside of the oval for walkers and cyclists.

In addition, these side strips are the first to lose grass cover in the winter as, on both sides, they are shaded. A quagmire will result after any rain.

In terms of our campaign, I suspect this will mean that those who have already submitted written objections will be required to submit a further note confirming their objection. More about that later.

The formal consultation process is slated to start in September, we believe, but planning and activism must continue unabated.

Since my last note we have received a further GIPA (freedom of information) reply from the DoPIE.

The document makes it very clear that Lane Cove Council has been in cahoots with the Department to identify BCO as open space for the St Leonards South development.

As noted before, the Independent Planning Commission and the subsequent design charrette forum, found the over whelming deficiency with Council's St Leonards South plan was the lack of open space relative to its density.

For years residents have been told by Council and Councillors to "not trust the Dept of Planning" - that is why Council has persisted with their plan for St Leonards South. We now find total complicity by Council in offering up BCO as open space up for future St Leonards South residents.

Council has not planned a sufficient contribution from developers to acquire the precinct's open space needs. The developers - and future residents - simply want to use the amenity of of the existing residents' space for free. And our Council is in on the game - as their desperation to push through the St Leonards South plan is clear to all.

(Just to remind readers, the SLS plan is for approx 4,000+ residents - a scale not much smaller than the size of Greenwich - 5,613 - Census 2016. SLS has new open space of 3,500 sqm - less than 1 sqm per new resident)!

Overriding Environmental Issues

Finally, ongoing research has found that environmental issues may determine the outcome of Council's synthesizing proposal.

Micro plastics are constantly shed from both the green plastic surface tufts and the rubber compound below - as well as rubber granules that are used to top up the playing surface. A visit to Gore Hill oval shows this.

These micro plastics - in the BCO setting - would find their way directly into the Gore Creek ecosystem and beyond to the main harbour. Council staff were asked about this last night and said they will build a retaining gutter around the soccer pitch to protect the environment.

Now that will be interesting to see! A concrete gutter capturing micro plastics for subsequent removal from the site! Further research and questions to be asked.

So that's it for a few days - I am away for a week.

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Please send all campaign ideas in and pass this email on to your contacts.

Kind regards

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