

## 16. SYDENHAM RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB – CHANGING FACILITIES

<b>Officer responsible</b> Leisure Manager	<b>Author</b> Kevin Collier, Sports Adviser, 371-1977
Corporate Plan Output: Sports Liaison and Development	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress to date in the development of changing facilities on Sydenham Park and the usage of a grant from the Community Board to the Sydenham Rugby Football Club for the project.

### USAGE OF TENNIS CLUB PAVILION

In September 2001, the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board made a grant of \$5,000 to the Sydenham Rugby Football Club from its 2001/02 Discretionary Funding for the development of rugby changing sheds within the Tennis Club pavilion in accordance with the Sydenham Rugby Football Club's application at the time.

At the time the two clubs (Sydenham Rugby Club and South Christchurch Tennis Club) were in negotiation over the details of a partnership for the building of changing facilities within the existing Tennis Pavilion.

These negotiations took longer than anticipated and involved a lot of Club and Council staff time after-hours to work through. Meanwhile, under pressure from its club members to provide facilities in time for the 2002 season, the rugby club, in good faith, took the initiative and began some initial drawings and other investigations into the possible layout and costs of building such a facility within the existing tennis building.

The negotiations progressed to the point where the majority of details had been agreed upon and it was time for the tennis club to get the final vote from the members to go ahead with the partnership with the rugby club. At this point the project stalled. The tennis club members did not give the final go-ahead to the project. Various meetings with the parties involved could not resurrect the situation in time for the rugby club to begin the actual project work to construct the facilities and as a result the rugby club is yet again without changing facilities on the park for the 2002 season.

However, the tennis club has not totally closed the door to the possibility of the project happening but it feels it would need to be in a better position financially in order to be able to realise the objective of being able to resurface its courts via the agreement.

As mentioned previously, the rugby club had used some of the funding provided by the Board to progress the project on the assumption that an agreement would be reached. To date those costs are as follows:

Building Consent application	\$ 418.78
Weston Ward and Lascelles – legal services in drawing up a draft lease and heads of agreement document	\$ 800.00
L R Smith – services for building design and drawings for building consent application	\$2,400.00
GST	\$ 452.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,070.00</b>

This leaves a balance of \$930, which the club still has set aside for the project and could be used for other work on the goal of building changing sheds on the park.

The decision by the tennis club not to proceed with the project at such a late stage was not anticipated by any of the people involved in the negotiations. Although the money spent on the tennis club project would now seem wasted, if the rugby club had not proceeded with the drawings and resource consent application process when they did they would not have been able to complete the work in time for the 2002 season should the project have proceeded.

## **OTHER OPTIONS FOR CHANGING FACILITIES**

Once it became apparent that the tennis club were not going to go through with the project the rugby club representatives and officers took measures to look at alternative provision for changing facilities for 2002. Discussions were held with Councillor Condon, Community Board member Oscar Alpers, Council Parks and Leisure staff and members of the rugby club to find a solution.

It was obvious that no changing facilities were going to be available for the rugby club on Sydenham Park for 2002 so other arrangements have been made for the coming season. These include:

- Making Addington Park available for senior rugby for the 2002 season (previously a rugby league park but now temporarily allocated to rugby union)
- Making a ground at Centennial Park available for rugby union for the 2002 season (currently two rugby league grounds but one now available temporarily to the Sydenham Rugby Club)
- Making changes to the Hansens Park changing facility to accommodate senior games.

Some other options which were suggested and have been discussed and investigated include:

- Temporary usage of the City Care staffing facilities on Milton Street – this was not supported by City Care due to security and access issues.
- Usage of land within the City Care yard for building a new changing facility. This was also not supported by City Care due to parking, access and security concerns.
- Use of land adjacent to the current tennis club building. Further investigation to be undertaken.

The rugby club is also undertaking negotiations with the cricket club and hockey club into the possibility of renovations to their existing pavilion to accommodate changing facilities. These discussions are only at an early stage but all groups are interested in the proposal.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The Sydenham Rugby Football Club received a grant of \$5,000 from the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board in September 2001 for support towards the development of changing sheds within the tennis club facility at Sydenham Park. The club incurred some costs towards the planning of the project before the discussions between the two clubs ceased due to the tennis club's decision not to continue with the project. A summary of the costs is included in the report above. These costs are all associated with the building process and were necessary to undertake to ensure the project moved ahead in order to be able to begin building the facilities in time for the 2002 season.

With the withdrawing of the tennis club from the proposal, the rugby club is now looking at alternative options for the provision of changing facilities on the park. The club is working with Council staff and elected members to find a solution to its need for changing facilities on the park and is now in negotiations with the cricket and hockey clubs regarding usage of their pavilion in the north west corner of the park. It is hoped that this will provide a suitable solution to the problem although possibly a more costly one than with the tennis club.

The rugby club still has \$930 left from the grant the Board made in 2001 which it would like to be able to retain for use in finding a solution to its changing shed needs within the park.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the report be received.
  2. That the Sydenham Rugby Football Club be permitted to use the remaining balance of the 2001 grant from the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board for costs related directly to the provision of changing facilities for the club at Sydenham Park.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** Not seen by Chairman.