

## 12. CROSBIE PARK - PROPOSED FULL BASKETBALL COURT

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the results of the recent consultation with the community and to recommend that the construction of the facility on the preferred site proceeds. (See **attached** plan)

### PROCEDURAL MATTERS

This project was one of a number of projects identified in the 1999/2000 'Avonhead Sport, Recreation and Art Study' completed in July 2000. This study was initiated by Sockburn and Fendalton staff of the Leisure and former Parks Units. It was funded by the Leisure and former Parks and Water Services Units.

A full report on this study was presented to the Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram Boards in July 2000, when Board representatives were appointed to the Steering Group.

A further report in August 2000 drew support from the Board's for a 3 year plan.

In October 2000, the key recommendations were reported to the Boards by the Steering Group. Based on these recommendations both Board's subsequently resolved to fund a full basketball court between them, as the study area encompassed both their areas.

### CURRENT POLICY

This project primarily achieves one of the objectives listed in the Avonhead Sport, Recreation and Arts Study.

One of the Parks and Open Spaces Goals from the Unit Mission Statement is:

- To provide for a diversity of recreational activities that are enjoyable and safe.

... and elsewhere: "to engage in open and consultative communication processes".

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board's vision is "to meet the needs of the Fendalton/Waimairi community by advocating fairly on behalf of all residents irrespective of age, gender, race, ethnic origin or religious belief."

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board's vision is "To support communities to plan, organise and carry out initiatives that reflect their needs and aspirations."

### PROPOSAL

This project is for a full court as distinct from the numerous half courts now available throughout the city.

This area is not well resourced with such facilities. The two local Community Boards – the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board and the Riccarton Wigram Community Board – have combined funds to provide such a facility for young people if a suitable site could be found.

Two Boards were involved as the study covered an area previously identified as having few recreation and arts facilities, the boundary lines bisecting the two communities.

Crosbie Park is one of the largest, multi-use parks in this area and the circulated plan showed a preferred site within the park. The site is near a bus stop, toilet, drinking fountain and has good visibility. It is far enough away from the children's playground to not annoy smaller children, parents or nursing mothers. The closest houses are 60 – 70 metres away and the area is overlooked by houses to the north and south, thus allowing some informal surveillance by surrounding neighbours.

A number of other sites within Crosbie Park and other parks in the area have been considered but none fulfil the abovementioned criteria as thoroughly as the site designated.

## ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The two Community Boards are fully funding this proposal.

There are no resource or building consents necessary as the proposal conforms with the Open Space 2 zone description, purpose and rules.

## CONSULTATION

Initial consultation within the community was as part of the Study whereby 19 focus group meetings were held and 1,000 questionnaires distributed with a 20.1% response rate. Subsequently, students from the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology Diploma in Applied Recreation, People and Recreation surveyed further residents in the area, the local mall, churches, youth groups and representatives of the Asian community.

The Parks and Waterways Unit sent out in December 2001, 500 questionnaires to all properties within an arbitrary boundary approximately 600m from the park. 152 (30.4%) replies were received.

137 were in favour. Eleven were against. Four more were in favour of the court but disagreed with the site.

Reasons included in the responses **opposing** the proposal are:

- Opposed to any more sealed areas in the park; should remain as grass.
- Too close to the children's playground.
- Already a half-court at Staveley Reserve.
- Court should be supervised and activities organised.
- This would encourage car parking on Withells Road.
- People would not use it.
- People use the area suggested for other activities.
- The park is for recreation and (for) people to enjoy and not just for sports people.
- Sites on Apsley Drive suggested near the BMX; and near the Tennis/Leagues clubs.
- Would attract undesirable youth, rubbish, vandalism and noise.
- Parks should be green fields and peace.
- Should be netball, not basketball.
- A court will totally spoil the peace and tranquillity the park provides.

Responses included by residents **in favour** of the proposal are:

- Excellent
- Great asset
- Sensible
- Well done
- Will help keep kids off the street.
- Will keep children active and give them an interest.
- This proposal is another way of making the recreational area available to another group of sport-minded people – this sort of development is good for the local community.
- Ideal as a multi-use sealed area too.
- Something for the youth in the area.
- Congratulations on your proposal to spend rates money on outdoor recreational facilities.
- Good idea – will give the young ones something to do when they get together.
- Such a court must surely encourage physical exercise in a very positive way.
- Young people do need more facilities to keep them occupied.
- We consider this to be a sound proposal.

A number of other requests, which have been replied to separately, were also submitted, including:

- Skateboarding facility
- Continue sealed path north of walk bridge
- Clean up litter better
- Wanted two courts
- Signs directing people to the toilets

Some respondents were concerned about matters such as car parking, proximity to the league field, density of the nearby shrubs and other matters not in Crosbie Park. These have been replied to individually. The Leagues Club has recently indicated that it would prefer a 4m gap between their field and the court. This further metre could mean that the smaller poplar (cottonwood) of the two at the proposed site would have to be removed and replaced with other, more appropriate trees further towards the creek.

All respondents have been advised of these results and given appropriate information on how to make a submission to the Community Board.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The study area, bounded by Yaldhurst Road, Russley Road, Memorial Avenue, Waimairi Road and Peer Street, has three large parks – Burnside, Avonhead and Crosbie. Ferrier and Upper Riccarton Domain are smaller. There are numerous small local parks in the area.

Crosbie Park is near the centre of this study area.

There are other sites for such a facility on Crosbie Park, but none that better fulfil the criteria nor resulted in strong opposition from neighbours.

**Recommendation:** That a full basketball court be constructed at Crosbie Park on the site indicated in this report.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.