

## 2. WYCOLA PARK, HARD SURFACE AREA

The Board was in receipt of a report by the Area Parks Officer on an application from the Hornby Hockey Club to lease the area previously leased to the Hornby Wycola Netball Club.

Wycola Park is a recreation reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977. The Hockey Club wishes to lay an artificial turf surface on the old tennis/netball courts, to be used as a hockey practice area.

Wycola Park is located off Wycola Avenue, in Hei Hei; it has a skateboard bowl and ramp, play equipment, plants, tennis back board, toilets and is the home to the Royal Softball Club. The tennis courts were established in the early 1970s, by the Hornby Tennis Club. The Hornby Wycola Netball Club was issued a lease over the tennis courts and pavilion in 1988.

A parks survey of the Hei Hei Community Area was carried out in August 2000 by the Sockburn Advocacy Team and Parks Unit staff. The survey covers usage of the Park and the Hei Hei Community Centre. At the time of the survey the application from the Hornby Hockey Club to use the court area for hockey training had not been received.

The current review of the use of Wycola Park, and the recent survey of the usage of the Hei Hei Community Centre, is part of an attempt to address some of these issues. The Sockburn Advocacy Team considered that this application needed to be considered in the full context of the community consultation process on Wycola Park. All the community feedback is to hand and the issues now needed to be given full consideration by staff and the Community Board. The survey showed strong support for hard surface activities and the desire to “reclaim” the park as a neighbourhood park rather than one which accommodates club sports and exclusive use areas (such as a fenced off hard surfaced area). The Advocacy Team also concluded that further consideration needed to be given to opportunities that local schools may offer sports clubs to co-share such facilities as are envisaged by the Hockey Club.

Mr John Turner made a presentation to the Board and answered questions from members.

There was full discussion on the club’s request, the consultation process and the recommendation from the Advocacy Team. Most members, whilst acknowledging the current state of the consultation process (in that the issues identified in the survey had yet to be given full consideration) considered that community benefit would ensue from this club and its members being involved in a positive and active recreation manner on the park.

The Board decided to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Committee that the Council lease the 1862 m<sup>2</sup> of Wycola Park to the Hornby Hockey Club subject to conditions laid down by the Area Parks Officer (Consents) and that a new condition be that supervised community access to the leased area be included.