

10. BROMLEY PARK BASKETBALL HALF COURT

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the plan for the construction of a basketball half court in Bromley Park following consultation with the local community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A proposal for a basketball half court was presented to the Board at the meeting of 27 June 2007 prior to the Transport and Greenspace Unit carrying out consultation with the local community.
3. The provision of a hard court in the Bromley area is scheduled in the Capital Works Programme for 2007/08.
4. The public information leaflet was distributed to approximately 285 households in the vicinity of the reserve, along with a number of identified key stakeholder groups. There was a good response from the local community with a total of 34 residents returning the comment form.
5. Overall we received a very positive response from the community with 26 residents (76%) clearly indicating their support for the plan, and many offering additional feedback on a variety of issues (refer to **attached** summary).

Support for proposal	Yes	No	Not indicated	Total
Number of responses	26	7	1	34
%	76%	21%	3%	100%

6. In recognition of this feedback, the Transport and Greenspace Unit proposes that this proposal be approved and implemented (refer to **attached** plan).
7. Nineteen of the 26 respondents who indicated their support, also provided additional comments about the proposal. Most indicated that this was a good project, or beneficial for youth and sport in the area. Some also expressed concerns about the project which have been discussed below.
8. The need for an additional recreational facility of this type has previously been demonstrated in order for funding to have been approved on the Capital Works Programme. In selecting a suitable location for this facility, Council staff considered the spatial distribution of half and full courts in local parks, in conjunction with demographic information for this area. Bromley Park was chosen as the most suitable location as it is centrally located in relation to other facilities in the surrounding neighbourhoods, on a bus route, and a court would supplement informal recreational opportunities available there.
9. Demographic information was obtained from the latest Census 2006 statistics for 20 census mesh blocks around the park with a total population of 4284 people. The area has a higher proportion of children in the Under 5's and 5-14 year old age groups compared with the city-wide average. These age groups would be expected to utilise the facility over its projected lifespan of 20 years.

	Under 5's	5-14 yr olds	15-24 yr olds
Number	333	630	609
% of population	7.8	14.7	14.2
% difference from City average	25.4%	15.8%	- 7.1%

Source: Census 2006 data plotted onto CCC MapInfo

10. The main issues identified by those expressing opposition to the proposal, and also by four of those in favour, was the potential of the facility to attract young people likely to engage in anti-social behaviour. Of particular concern was a possible increase in graffiti and vandalism to not only the court itself, but also to the changing rooms and toilet block, and the neighbouring cemetery.
11. Council officers acknowledge that vandalism and graffiti to parks and recreational facilities, and the ongoing costs associated with maintenance and repair are a major issue, and are continually working to address this by a variety of means. This may be through developing collaborative community partnerships such as the "Strengthening Communities" graffiti project which has been initiated successfully in Phillipstown. It also involves improving layouts for parks, and the design and location of park buildings and equipment, particularly in accordance with *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design* (CPTED) principles, to both improve safety for users and reduce the opportunities for vandalism and other crime. These principles include locating high use elements where they are visible from adjoining streets, houses and from within the park, providing facilities for activities that attract people into parks and encourage them to stay longer, and providing a range of recreational opportunities and spaces in order to ensure activity throughout the day and a range of users eg passive open areas as well as sports fields.
12. Accordingly, the position of the court on the park was chosen primarily because it is in the open and clearly visible from within the park, the playing fields, and the adjoining houses and roads, including a busy arterial route. However, it is sited far enough away from these roads to avoid being a safety risk when in use to either traffic or players. And although it is clearly visible, it is situated a minimum distance of 120 metres from the nearest houses on Butterfield Avenue, Buckleys Road and McGregors Road, as it is acknowledged that basketball courts can be quite noisy when in use.
13. The court has also been located so as not to conflict with the use of the open space for sports and other events, that is, away from the sports training grounds, and main areas that are used for visiting circuses and fairs. It has been located close to the sealed path through the park for easy access but away from the car-park to reduce the risk of it becoming a 'hang-out' for people in vehicles. Transport and Greenspace Unit staff are currently investigating the option of securing the carpark at night as was raised by one respondent.
14. The court has been located approximately 10 metres from the edge of the playground so that balls and players are not likely to conflict with use of this equipment, but still close enough for parents and caregivers to be able to see and supervise children using both the playground and the court. The picnic tables provide for family-oriented activity, encourage adults to go there and to stay longer, and are also placed to encourage social interaction and casual surveillance. At present there are 43 parks throughout the City that have an outdoor basketball court and of these, 40 also have playground equipment.
15. In accordance with the principles of CPTED the use of parks at night is discouraged and in general lighting is only provided in parks where the use of a particular path as a designated route is essential at all times. Therefore lighting would not be provided for the use of the court at night. The path through the park is currently lit and staff are investigating the desirability of maintaining this.
16. Three respondents have suggested the better utilisation of the basketballs courts at Cowles Stadium or the siting of the court at Cuthbert's Green as an alternative to Bromley Park. Provision of an outdoor court offers opportunities for recreation for those who are not able to, or do not wish to, take part in organised formal sport that is offered by clubs, for example, because of cost or time constraints. Although the area around Cuthbert's Green may appear to have ample space for an outdoor court, it is the opinion of staff that the park does not offer a site that would meet CPTED standards in terms of being open and visible. The presence of many windowless buildings, trees and car-parking areas reduces visibility, obstructs sight lines and reduces casual surveillance.

17. Overall, it is the opinion of staff that the proposed basketball court will play a valuable role in addressing the need for additional youth recreational facilities in this area. It will also encourage participation in physical activity and sport, and provide opportunities for socialising with family and friends in an outdoor setting for many within the community, not just youth. It is not considered that the provision of a court will result in an increase in anti-social behaviour. The Linwood Community Constable has also indicated that the police would not be opposed to this facility. There is a balance to be achieved by Council in ensuring that the large majority of our community have access to parks and recreational facilities and opportunities, and are not denied this because of the activities of a small anti-social minority.
18. The existing traffic issues will also be referred to another Unit within the Council as appropriate.
19. All respondents have been sent a final letter of reply thanking them for their input. The letter has also informed respondents that the final plan would be presented to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for approval. Details of the meeting were provided so that any interested people could attend.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. The current Greenspace Capital Works Programme has funding to undertake the construction of the basketball half court with in Bromley Park with \$33,000 available in the current 2007/08 financial year.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

21. As above.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

22. No resource or building consent issues have been identified.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

23. No legal implications have been identified.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

24. The proposed development aligns with the LTCCP as follows:

Parks, open spaces and waterways - p.123

Safety – by ensuring our Parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places.

Recreation – By offering a range of active and passive recreation and leisure opportunities

Health – By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities.

Community – By providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact.

Governance – By involving people in decision-making about parks, open spaces and waterways.

City Development - By providing inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environments.

Provision of recreational facilities – p.125

Measures and targets - >1 Youth recreation facility per 1,000 youth

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

25. This project supports a level of service in the LTCCP as follows:
 - (a) Provision of recreational facilities – Measures and targets – >1 Youth recreation facility per 1,000 youth
 - (b) Customer satisfaction with appearance of parks and with range of recreational opportunities available within parks.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

26. This project has primary alignment with the following Council strategies and policies:

- Safer Christchurch Strategy
- Parks and Waterways Access Policy
- Environmental Policy Statement
- Children's Policy
- Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy
- Social Wellbeing Policy

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

27. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

28. Consultation was undertaken with the local community on the proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the concept plan for a basketball half court in Bromley Park, amended as a result of public consultation, and the City Environment and Capital Programme Groups commence the construction programme.

CHAIRPERSONS' RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.