

2. TALBOT RESERVE AND HALSWELL DOMAIN DEVELOPMENT PLANS

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

1. The purpose of this report is to request the Board's approval for development plans for the Halswell Domain Playground and the Talbot Reserve Playground following community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Country Palms is a two year old subdivision within the Halswell area. Within Country Palms there are two green spaces; Sovereign Gardens Reserve and Talbot Reserve, which is a one hectare local park. Talbot Reserve is adjacent to a waterway as indicated in the district plan.
3. Representatives from the local residents of the Country Palms subdivision addressed the Board at its meeting of 11 July 2006, when a request for a playground was tabled. Residents also sent a letter outlining the request for a playground to the Mayor in May 2006.
4. On 31 August 2006 the Board and Mr Ken Hunter a resident of the Country Palms subdivision made a deputation to the Council seeking a children's playground to be provided at Talbot Reserve. It was resolved by the Council that "*staff be requested to pursue this issue urgently with the Community Board, with a view to a children's playground being provided in this area as soon as possible*".
5. As this request missed inclusion in the LTCCP it was originally thought that there was no funding available. Council officers investigated the option of reprioritising funding from the upcoming Halswell Domain playground development to cater for the more urgent Talbot Reserve request. This does not need to be done as another project on the 2006/07 financial programme has been completed under budget, and it has been confirmed that funding of \$68,000 is now available for the playground development at Talbot Reserve, allowing the \$80,000 of funding for the Halswell Domain Playground development to remain with that project.
6. Both proposed playground development plans for Halswell Domain and Talbot Reserve were presented to the Environment Committee meeting at a seminar on 27 November 2006. Approval was given at this meeting to proceed with community consultation.
7. Preliminary development plans for both projects were circulated to key stakeholders in February 2007 to obtain feedback on the designs. The final plans, which are attached to this report, aim to reflect the views of the community and have been refined in response to community feedback.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. There is \$80,000 available in the Transport and Greenspace Unit's budget for the 2006/07 financial year to implement the Halswell Domain playground proposal. Additionally there is now \$68,000 available in the Transport and Greenspace Unit's budget for the 2006/07 financial year to accommodate the construction of a playground in Talbot Reserve. Both projects are due for construction in June/July 2007.

BACKGROUND ON TALBOT RESERVE AND HALSWELL DOMAIN

Halswell Domain

9. A public information leaflet seeking responses on the preliminary plan was distributed to residents and key stakeholder groups in February 2007. Residents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan and were given the option to comment. In total, 286 response forms have been received.
 - 94.1% Accept the proposed plan (269)
 - 01.0% Do not accept the proposed plan (3)
 - 04.9% Did not indicate a preference (14).
10. Residents were given the option of choosing between some of the play equipment available. The results are as follows:
 - Double slide attracted 170 vote preference over the single slide with 70 votes
 - Natural play boulders attracted 156 vote preference over the board walk with 88 votes
 - Jungle escape receiving 182 votes was preferred over the Xtreme Fitness Station with 62 votes.
11. Many positive comments and further recommendations have been received for this project. One suggestion has been the inclusion of a reflexology walk. Information was provided on a Singapore reflexology walk set up by Rotary Club. Staff have discussed this option and feel it may be very appropriate and there are spaces available to place the walk. However, the budget is unable to stretch to incorporate this. It was considered that a reflexology walk may make a great project for the local Rotary Club and the information will be passed on.
12. A number of other valuable suggestions and comments were made that have been considered and discussed by staff. Where appropriate suggestions have been integrated into the design or passed on to the relevant Unit of Council.

Talbot Reserve

13. Public information leaflets, seeking responses, were distributed to residents and key stakeholder groups in February 2007. Residents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan and were given the option to comment. In total, 214 response forms have been received.
 - 93.5% Accept the proposed plan (200)
 - 02.8% Do not accept the proposed plan (6)
 - 03.7% Did not indicate a preference (8).
14. Residents were given the option of choosing between some of the play equipment available. The results are as follows:
 - Jungle cube receiving 131 votes was preferred over the Mizar with 48 votes
 - Fantail attracted 106 vote preference over the Spica with 64 votes.
15. Again many very positive comments were received regarding this project. All recommendations were discussed by staff to ascertain appropriateness of suggestions for incorporation into the plan. One change is to be implemented as a result of feedback received. The originally proposed junior slide will be raised to a height of 1.5m to accommodate community wishes.

OPTIONS

Halswell Domain

16. There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo. This option is not practical as the Transport and Greenspace Unit has identified the need for playground development in this area and it has been incorporated into the LTCCP.
- (b) Accept the Halswell Domain Playground Development Plan with its minor changes to the original plan in recognition of residents feedback.

Talbot Reserve

17. There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo. This option disregards the community feedback and input.
- (b) Accept the Talbot Reserve Playground Development Plan with its minor changes to the original plan in recognition of residents feedback.

PREFERRED OPTIONS

18. To adopt option 16 (b) and accept the Halswell Domain Playground Development Plan.

19. To adopt option 17 (b) and accept the Talbot Reserve Playground Development Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board approves the Halswell Domain Playground Development Plan and the Talbot Reserve Playground Development with the minor changes to the original plans in recognition of residents feedback.