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Corporate Plan Output: Playgrounds – New Installations 98/99 Pg 9.4.92	

The purpose of this report is to advise and seek guidance from the Community Board on a neighbour's objection to the current location of play equipment in Clarevale Reserve.

BACKGROUND

In September 1994 the Parks Unit distributed a Concept Plan for the recently acquired Clarevale Reserve to obtain community comment. It showed proposed locations for trees, shrub plantings, paths a playground and other site features. This plan was the basis for the reserve development and works proceeded to be implemented in the 1995/96 financial year. In September 1998 an extension was added to the reserve to the east of the entrance off Travis Country Drive which almost doubled the size of the reserve. It was proposed to use this area as a possible site for a junior sports field should demand in the area require it and a design for this was added to the existing plan. As a result of this extension it was considered the playground site should be more centrally located. This would allow good visibility, plenty of parking and more accessible to the majority of the residents in the subdivision. There are to be approximately 100 more sections to the East of the reserve. This frontage is to be one of the main access points for Travis Wetland.

PLAY EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION

The 1998/99 Parks Capital Works programme contained funding for the provision of play equipment in Clarevale Reserve. In July 1998 the Parks Unit delivered a leaflet to obtain the community's views on the two options of available play equipment styles. The leaflet contained a plan showing the proposed location, some boxes for the choices and on the front page a note regarding the change of the site from previous concept plans for the reserve. A contact for further information and assistance was also on the front (*see attached leaflet, page 1*). Thirty-one replies were received some with comments but no reply from the neighbour who is now objecting. Replies were sent to all the respondents with the outcome and an approximate installation date. The equipment was installed in September 1998.

OBJECTION TO SITING

In approximately December 1998 the Parks Unit was approached by Councillors Carole Evans and Gail Sheriff with a complaint from the immediate neighbour with regard to the position of the play equipment and that some youths were using the equipment and causing them some concern with foul language, a feeling of insecurity and invasion of their privacy. The Parks Unit has some sympathy to the objection in that the objector had purchased and built with the outlook from their property based on the original concept plan distributed at an earlier date. Neither party were aware of the extension and the affects this would have at that time. An onsite meeting between Councillors Evans, Sheriff, the Objector and a Council Officer was held and it was agreed by all to review the situation again in February 1999 to see if things had improved. Another meeting was held in February 1999 with the decision to look at a possible relocation of the equipment. The proposal was to offer the option of relocation to the original concept plan site adjacent to Clarevale Place. A "Letter to the Residents" was distributed to inform the local community of the proposal. A section for comments was included (*see attached letter, page 32*).

Thirty replies were received 25 against moving the equipment 4 in favour and 1 not concerned either way.

The neighbour was informed of the results, and is quite adamant the play equipment should be shifted. He wishes to pursue the matter to this end.

SUMMARY

In view of the above site change from the original plan and the effect it has had on the neighbour a relocation of the play equipment to another position on the reserve that is acceptable to all may be the most preferable outcome. The use of voluntary labour where suitable to implement this would help minimise the cost.

- Recommendations:**
1. That further consultation be carried out with local residents and park users to identify another position on the reserve for the play equipment.
 2. That subject to an acceptable alternate site being agreed to, the play equipment be relocated using voluntary labour where suitable to minimise the costs.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.