

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Gary Harrow, Area Parks Officer
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The purpose of this Report is to update the Board on the recent public consultation undertaken concerning the possible installation of playground equipment and to resolve the issues.

In 1995 the Parks Unit put aside funds for a new playground in Nicholas Drive for installation in the 1996/97 year. Information pamphlets were distributed in the area late in 1996. The results of public submissions were inconclusive, resulting in an on-site meeting with the previous Area Parks Officer and Mr John Freeman, the Board’s representative.

A new public information leaflet was distributed in September 1998, hopefully addressing as many of the concerns of the residents as possible. This has not been the case as a number of residents have again objected to the provision of a playground in this Reserve. It must be noted that whereas many of the submitters have been in favour of the playground, submissions against the playground have come mainly from the immediate neighbours surrounding the park. This is an unusual park in that it is totally surrounded by a road and I am informed that a considerable number of people use it to walk to and from the Linwood Rugby Club rooms to the South and the Aranui Tavern to the North. The consensus of submissions against this proposal is that a playground will be unsafe because:

- (a) Of the proximity of cars.
- (b) Of hard ball games such as cricket regularly played in the park.
- (c) It will become an attraction for “undesirables” congregating and therefore inappropriate activities.
- (d) That children will pester neighbours to use their toilets.

The consultation covering approximately 125 households resulted in the following returns:

1995	23 in favour, 12 against	29% return
1998	3 in favour, 15 against	23% return

As this is the second time consultation has been entered into and the objections are many and vocal, I suggest that the Board recommend to the Parks Unit that the installation of a playground and/or half court not go ahead.

Another matter which should be taken into account is the recent upgrading of the Bromley Park playground to the tune of approximately \$20,000 involving the installation of a new set of swings, two play structures (one senior and one junior), and the extension of the undersurfacing area. This playground is less than 500 metres away from Nicholas Drive and is already well used by parents and children in the area concerned.

Board members will note that Nicholas Drive is right on the North West boundary of the Ferrymead Ward and should be aware that a recent request has been made by children in the area of Cuffs Road (just a few hundred metres north of Nicholas Drive) for a children's playground in that area. The children themselves have identified the road reserve in Cuffs Road which is very similar to Nicholas Drive in that it is also surrounded by a road but that road is only used by the local residents, not by other residents to drive through as Nicholas Drive is. The City Streets Unit have indicated that they would have no concerns regarding the installation of a playground there as long as it has a standard post and cable barrier installed so that children are checked from running on to the road. While consultation with Cuff's Road residents has not been completed at this stage, it has been suggested that the Community Board could recommend to the Parks Unit that the funding for Nicholas Drive be transferred to Cuffs Road.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the building of a children's playground and half court in Nicholas Reserve not proceed and that the residents be informed of this.
 2. That the neighbouring residents be canvassed for their opinions regarding the installation of various shrub beds and a post and cable fence and, if this receives a favourable response, that the funds be spent on the provision of those amenities.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** For discussion