

7. UPPER RICCARTON DOMAIN CONSULTATION UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to provide a preliminary update to the Board on feedback from the community regarding the recent questionnaire on future development options for Upper Riccarton Domain.

BACKGROUND

Board members will be aware of the information and questionnaire circulated by the Parks and Waterways Unit regarding the future development of Upper Riccarton Domain and the application by the Riccarton Domain Tennis Club to extend their existing leased area to construct 2 additional courts.

The total number of responses (currently 203) from local residents demonstrates a very high degree of community interest in the park. During the consultation period one group of local residents convened a public meeting at Villa Maria College on Thursday 9 August 2001 to discuss some of the issues and future development options for the park. This particular group of residents is also looking at establishing a formalised residents group for their area.

The Villa Maria meeting was attended by a number of local residents. Representatives from some of the sports clubs based on Upper Riccarton Domain, Villa Maria College Board of Trustees and some Community Board members were also in attendance. The same group of residents who organised the meeting also addressed the Riccarton Wigram Environment Committee meeting on 14 August 2001 expressing their views and their desire to have input and be involved in the decision making process in regard to future development options for the park.

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Local residents have provided a great deal of feedback on the park and we currently have in excess of 10 pages of additional written comments over and above the responses to individual questions. The written comments have been circulated to Board members separately to assist them with identifying what are some of the key issues for residents regarding this park.

The list of comments have simply been typed up as written, are unedited and are purely a collection of the raw data. They are not listed in any order of priority and staff have not carried out any detailed analysis of the comments at this stage to identify common themes or trends.

Please note that the information in the current format is protected by the Privacy Act. Because it may be possible to identify some individuals from the written comments, the information should be treated as **private and confidential** and should not be shared with individuals or organisations outside of the Council which is the reason the comments do not appear as an attachment to the agenda.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

There are now 203 returns with the odd late one still coming in. The responses to each question in the questionnaire are listed in the table below. It is important to note that the combined totals for each question don't necessarily add up to the total number of returns as some people did not respond to every question and for some questions you could tick more than one box.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you or members of your family use the park?

Yes 186

No 17

2. How regularly would you or members of your family use the park?

Daily 53

Weekly 79

Monthly	25
Infrequently	31
Never	14

3. What are the main activities you use the park for when you go there? (may tick more than one box)

Organised sports activities at one of the clubs eg soccer, cricket, tennis or bowls	51
Active recreation on a casual or informal basis with family or friends, eg running, kicking or hitting a ball, flying a kite etc	97
Visiting the children's playground	78
Passive recreation such as using the park as part of your regular walking routine, sitting and enjoying the surroundings, or watching others play sports etc	149
Other (Please specify)	14

4. What is your preferred location for the toilet block when it is replaced in 2004/05?

Present site	92
Other (Please specify)	64

5. What is your preferred location for the new playground when the existing one is replaced in 2003/04?

Present site (Yaldhurst Rd frontage)	60
Sayers Crescent end of the park	114
Other (Please specify)	8

6. Would you or members of your family use public tennis courts at Villa Maria College (Corner of Brodie Street and Yaldhurst Road) if they were available?

Yes	85
No	107

7. Do you support an extension to the Tennis Club's existing leased area on the park?

Yes	72
No	70
Don't feel strongly either way	54

VILLA MARIA COLLEGE

The Community Advocate and the Parks and Waterways Advocate recently met with Bernard Duncan (Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Villa Maria) and Tony Sewell (Chairman of the Property Committee, Villa Maria) where they outlined future development proposals for the college. They are keen to talk to Council about potential partnerships that could lead to facilities on their site being made available for wider community use.

They are particularly interested in the potential opportunities for the school to have better access and an increased use of the sports grounds on Upper Riccarton Domain in conjunction with providing the local community with greater access to their site for recreational opportunities and facility use.

The two sites are so close together that it makes little sense for each to be duplicating facilities in isolation to the other. The two sites essentially cater for the same catchment area and by duplicating facilities they are effectively competing with one another for the same users.

Bernard Duncan and Tony Sewell indicated that they are very keen to speak with the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board to outline the proposal they have for the future direction of the school. They believe there are opportunities for partnerships between the school, Council and the community that could see a more efficient use of Council, School and community resources that could be advantageous to all parties.

BOARD RESOLUTION 1 AUGUST 2001

The Board passed the following resolution in respect to the application by Riccarton Domain Tennis Club for 2 additional courts on Upper Riccarton Domain.

- 1 That a meeting be convened with elected members, staff, the tennis club and other (park) sports codes who use the Upper Riccarton Domain, after the results of the consultation are available.
- 2 That, further to the above decision, (if necessary) a meeting with all interested parties and local residents be called to discuss the issue.

CONCLUSION

The Parks and Waterways Unit is working through the process to carry out the Boards recommendations. The possibility of partnership agreements with Villa Maria College need to be more fully explored as their site potentially offers some solutions to some of the capacity problems on Upper Riccarton Domain. Exploring all options and talking to key stakeholders is a normal part of the process in applications such as this

Both the Tennis Club and Villa Maria College are suggesting some form of partnership with Council which also includes some form of financial support in both cases. The Council needs to consider the Villa proposal in conjunction with the Tennis Club application to identify the best location for investing in community courts although its fair to say that the Villa proposal goes further than additional recreational opportunities. Given the close proximity of the two sites it would be difficult to justify Council duplicating facilities and funding community courts at both locations .

The Parks and Waterways Unit will convene a meeting with all the sporting codes represented on Upper Riccarton Domain in the near future to discuss some of the options. In the interim it would be very beneficial if Villa Maria College had the opportunity to address the Board either formally or informally to outline the proposed plans they have for their site and the potential for community partnerships.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Riccarton Wigram Community Board invite representatives from Villa Maria college to outline their future development proposals in the near future prior to meeting with other sports codes on Upper Riccarton Domain.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the Officer's recommendations be adopted.