



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

3rd February 2009

DSS2 MEETINGS WITH SPORTING FIELD USER GROUPS
FILE: 110 KLB (NRN) {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Report on meetings convened with sporting field user groups during August 2008.

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DESCRIPTION:

Councillors Sowter and McWilliam, Peter Johnston and Kim Buckingham from Shire Services met with representatives from sporting user groups at each of the Shire's sporting fields over a three-day period in August 2008. All groups that had used Council's booking system for sporting fields were extended invitations to attend these sessions during July 2008.

Matters common to all sporting fields were discussed at each venue. These were:

- Customer First Centre should be the first point of contact for booking or use of sporting fields.
- Some flexibility is required of User Groups during periods of required seasonal renovations to facilities.
- The need to address the natural deterioration to the condition of electrical wiring for floodlighting and metre boxes.
- The increased requirement of many sporting bodies for improved floodlighting of fields for competition games at night.
- The necessity for long term individual Plans of Management to be configured regarding usage of all sporting fields. Plans should take into account effect of the time span between capital works proposal and implementation, and the different priorities of clubs' committees.
- General User's unwillingness to contribute to maintenance or improvement of sporting fields.

It was pleasing that some common issues raised in previous meetings appear to be satisfactorily resolved. These were:

- Use of Council's booking system for use of sporting fields has increased.
- Provision / collection of waste bins by User Groups and use of these bins by residents for domestic rubbish disposal were no longer a common issue.

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Councillors Sowter and McWilliam requested a Memorandum of Understanding to be developed for every Club and field including arrangements for:

- irrigation usage
- garbage collection requirements
- canteen facilities / management / operation / sub-letting
- line-marking
- litter removal within fields vicinity
- defect reporting / repairing
- levy of fees for use
- procedures for efficient implementation of capital works proposals

A draft copy of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for use of Council Sporting Fields has been developed. This is attached as [Appendix B – Page H7](#). It is proposed that this draft document be circulated to all user groups for comment prior to adoption by Council.

Willawarrin Sporting Fields:

Represented Group: Little Athletics
Willawarrin Public School
Mr Tyne - property owner

Topics of Discussion:

- Proposed construction of a new amenity block - representatives requested that several alternative designs be investigated as they were not satisfied with the prefabricated kit building proposed by Council.
New designs and revised costings with reduced specifications were obtained and a request for quotation issued to six builders.
Only one quotation has been received. Prior to accepting this quotation, a meeting will be held with users to confirm their acceptance of the revised design.
A grant application has been submitted to Department of Sport and Recreation to assist with funding of this project.
- Absorption trench for the Sporting Fields and Rodeo Grounds - Mr Tyne whose property is adjacent to the sporting field wanted to formalise the arrangement whereby the trench is located on his property. Councillor Sowter agreed to progress this request.

Kemp Street Sporting Fields:

Represented Group: Hornets Soccer Club
Rangers Soccer Club
Saints Soccer club
Baseball Association
Softball Association
Mr Bruce Morris - Director Shire Services

Topics of Discussion:

- Training field – the Rangers offered to develop the new training field contingent on the Rangers having exclusive use of that field. Council representatives reiterated that the new field would be shared and that Council had already expended significant funds developing the field for shared use.

- Canteen – use of canteen.
- Lighting of Kemp 2 - Saints proposed all stakeholders partner to provide funds to install an additional metal pole off the Macleay Water Asset to light Kemp 2, look for funds to upgrade the transformer and floodlights and to price a new pole on Kemp 2. None of the Clubs were prepared to commit to the proposal.
- Re-scheduled Soccer games – softball / baseball representatives noted that soccer games had been moved to Sunday and were impacting on their activities but this had been resolved.
- Saints offer to look at an alternative venue - Saints proposed Eden Street fields as an alternative venue to reduce the pressure on Kemp Street fields and to provide them with a canteen. Following inspection of Eden / Athletics, Saints raised some issues and were encouraged to commence informal discussions about these with cricket and netball pending a more formal meeting to be facilitated by Council.
- Home Grounds - each soccer club indicated a desire to have an exclusive home ground and facilities in Kempsey. Council's budget is not adequate to provide this level of duplicated infrastructure.
- Plan of Management for Kemp Street Fields - quotations sought from consultants to develop a plan provided an indicative cost of \$35,000 to \$40,000.
A Grant has been applied for to fund the development of a Plan of Management. Department of Lands has verbally advised that further developments on Crown land is unlikely to be agreed to without a Plan of Management and a Memorandum of Understanding, in particular with the Rangers Football Club that has exclusive use of a portion of the Kemp Street Fields.

Services Club Park:

Represented Group: Little Athletics
Macleay Primary Schools Sports Association

Topics of Discussion:

- Extension and renovation of the existing long jump pit and run-up. Little Athletics provided a quote and advised they would be seeking grant funding and community donations to assist with the cost of approximately \$13,300. Council has included \$6,650 in the 2009 / 10 Ten Year budget for Council's consideration. The Club was successful in obtaining a \$5,000 Coastline Credit Union grant.
- Linemarking - concerns were raised about the use of Roundup herbicide to maintain lines. The Club was advised that after initial season's linemarking by Council it was the Club's responsibility to maintain the lines.
The Club does not have the resources to linemark so it was decided that herbicide would be used to keep lines visible as long as possible. Council linemarks the fields (at no cost to the Club) towards the end of the season as schools hold sporting carnivals there and the lines by then are unclear.
- Installation of underground power - capital works project identified by the attendees to run power underground to inside the running track so that an electronic timekeeping system could be installed there.
- Expansion of the amenity block - suggestion was made to expand the amenity block by putting a second storey on the existing building and removing the large tree next to the building.

- Fencing - representatives were reminded that the need to fence the field had been identified as an important capital works item and that had been included in the 2009 / 10 Draft Budget.
- Field upkeep – it was noted that the Macleay Primary Schools Association representative felt that, despite the Association being a frequent user of the fields, should not be expected to contribute in any way to the upkeep of the fields but did expect to have their requests for improvements actioned by Council.

Joey Donovan Oval Stuarts Point:

Represented Group: Stuarts Point School
Cricket
Little Athletics

Topics of discussion:

- Stuarts Point School – no longer uses the fields but uses the canteen facility on a weekly basis. They have started maintaining their own fields again.
- Macleay Valley Cricket competition - the Cricket Club has rejoined the competition this year.
- Netball - trains at Joey Donovan but competition is held at Macksville.
- Defects - attendees advised to report defects to Customer First as they are identified.
- Old flagpole – requested removal of identified hazard. Enquiries in response to Councillor McWilliam's concern that it might be significant or still in use indicated this was not the case and the flagpole has recently been removed.

South West Rocks Sporting Fields:

Represented Group: The Sporting Association
Golden Oldies Rugby
Netball

Topics of discussion:

- Floodlighting - remains an issue despite the electrician attending the week previously.
- Goal Posts - The Netball representative does not want the Netball / basketball reversible goal posts that were purchased for installation at the netball courts following a request last year. They only want netball hoops.
- It has been decided to install the larger posts at Crescent Head and purchase hoops for South West Rocks.
- Extra Bench Seating - request for extra bench seating on the embankment to the east of the field is being considered.

Smithtown Sporting Fields:

Represented Group: Smithtown Junior Rugby League Club

Topics of discussion:

- Fencing Materials Missing – the location of fencing materials purchased and delivered more than two years ago for a Colorbond

fence on the northern side of the field which has still not been erected is currently unknown.

- Amenity block beneath the grandstand – the Club has undertaken a project to extend and renovate the amenity block under the grandstand. Club representative Bernie Law was advised that the procedure that the Club was required to follow was to have invoices paid for expenses related to the project. Recently it became apparent that this information was not passed on to the project supervisor and alternative arrangements have been put in place.
- Clubs charging for the use of facilities owned by Council - another Club has raised the matter of the Smithtown Junior Rugby League Club charging for the use of the canteen, \$350 per day. The Club advised that they charge \$50.00 per hour for the use of the canteen facilities at Smithtown and a \$100 bond for return of keys and any damage or loss of appliances and that they pay for the electricity and gas use there.

The matter of how much Clubs should charge for the use of facilities owned by Council is a complicated one that will be addressed as the Memorandum of Understanding is developed.

Gladstone Sporting Fields:

Represented Group: AFL

Note: Soccer was not represented

Topics of Discussion:

- Future development of AFL in the Macleay – AFL Club provided an outline of their vision. AFL Club suggestions tend to have the potential to detrimentally impact on current users or limit the flexibility of the fields in future.
- Plan of Management for Gladstone Sporting Fields - needed to ensure all sports continue to be catered for with funding provided by other sources and not just Council.
- Exclusive Use - made clear to the AFL Club that the Gladstone Fields are shared fields and exclusive use will not be granted.
- Partnering between AFL to partner with cricket in developing South Kempsey Oval as the two sports were a good fit – suggested partnering but not yet eventuated.
- AFL goal posts - Council has supplied a set of small behind posts and the Club will obtain the large posts.
- Extension and sharing of facilities - AFL Club intended to liaise with the Tennis Club however this has not eventuated.
- Canteen - AFL Club sees a need to build a new amenity block that includes a canteen. The flood liability of the site and the location of a new facility are being considered.
- Drainage - AFL Club requested that a drain be enlarged and lengthened through the centre of the fields to assist with drainage. The viability of such work is being investigated.
- Additional trees planted on the eastern boundary – had been approved but some very large growing and inappropriate trees have been included in the mix. The Club has been asked to remove those particular plants.

Frederickton Sporting Fields:

Represented Group: Frederickton Sporting Association

Topics of Discussion:

- Minor defects to be actioned – list provided by the representative.
- Capital works item of Floodlighting on the fields - agreed the amount would be better spent on installing practice cricket nets. Report to Council was written that adopted this proposal.
- Storage area – lack of space due to many unused items being stored. Inspections indicate that most items were discarded by user groups in the past rather than take them to the Waste Transfer station.
Council agreed to remove and dispose of the unwanted items as a one off exercise. Users are responsible for removing and disposing of broken or unwanted items in the future.
- Access road - a line item has been included in the 2009 / 10 capital works program to repair the road following a Council resolution to fund this.

Baker Drive Sporting Fields Crescent Head:

No representatives from sporting groups or the school attended the meeting.

Jenny Walton from Soccer arrived for another reason and advised that everything was satisfactory to her knowledge.

South Kempsey Oval:

No representative from the Macleay Valley Cricket Association attended.

The President was telephoned later and stated that the club did not have any issues that needed to be addressed.

The President was advised of the line item in the budget for half the cost to resize and resurface cricket wickets at Verge Street and arrangements were made to progress this work at a suitable time.

Verge Street Sporting Complex:

Represented Group: Mustangs
Junior Rugby League
Cannonballs
Macleay Primary Schools Sports Association

Topics of Discussion:

- Non Paying Spectators - parking on and watching games through the fence between Verge 1 and 2 fields.
- VB signs around Verge 1 - no Club in attendance was responsible for the sign erections. Enquiries were made with Country Rugby League who had no knowledge of the signs.
- Proposed canteen extension - Mustangs have received a \$14,000 grant from Department of Sport and Recreation. A letter was recently received from the Mustangs requesting Council cover all costs related to the proposed extension. Records checks reveal that no plans or Development Application has been received. The Mustangs have been asked to clarify their requirements in writing so that a report can be submitted to Council.

- Footpath from the kiosk down to the existing path – proposed concrete path as the slope gets slippery in wet weather.
- Lack of lighting for toilets near the kiosk Verge 1 - low priority as no night time games or training occurs on Verge One.
- Driveway into the Junior Rugby League Clubhouse - considered rough. Requested that it be concreted or filled.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

Nil

- *Economic (Financial)*

Requests from user groups are being addressed within available resources as appropriate. User groups will continue to have input into funded capital works projects.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

- *Director's Review*

The development of Plans and Management including long term strategies for development of infrastructure, with estimates to implement the plans are required. This will be a very lengthy and time consuming exercise.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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Bruce Morris
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES