

9. Proposal for the development of a sportsground at Evans Park, Kalaru

Council has recently been petitioned (800 signatures) requesting support for the development of a sportsground on a Council managed public reserve (Evans park) at Kalaru. This report seeks Council endorsement of the staff response provided to the sportsground “working committee”.

Acting Group Manager Infrastructure, Waste and Water

BACKGROUND

10 The community proposal is to construct a sports field at Evans Park, Kalaru. The reserve is approximately 6 hectares in size and has a local history as being a “football ground”. At present the reserve is essentially undeveloped and it is managed as public open space with no infrastructure.

A preliminary plan of the proposal will be on display in the council chambers. In essence the project seeks to develop:

- a new vehicular access junction at Tathra Road
- a sports field with fencing and services
- a community building providing meeting rooms, change rooms, toilets and a kiosk
- car parking
- children’s playground
- 20 • walking track connecting Strathmore crescent with Tathra road via the new sports field.

No detailed costings have been provided by the committee at this stage. However the documents supplied with the petition contain a considerable amount of supporting information. The information has been gathered by the community group and includes preliminary plans for the proposal prepared by a local design and drafting service and letters of support from the local Federal member for Eden Monaro, Dr Mike Kelly, members of the Evans family and other residents. The petition also includes advice from consultants on heritage, vegetation and vehicle entrance intersection assessment matters.

30 ISSUES

Environmental

Environmental aspects of the project will require assessment as part of development consideration.

Social / Cultural

The development of a community facility as proposed has significant potential to provide positive social benefits.

Strategic

40 The community believe that the development of this facility will address an existing lack of recreational infrastructure in this neighbourhood and that it will also reduce excessive demand for other sportsgrounds in the district, particularly Lawrence Park at Tathra.

Council has yet to consider the draft Recreation Strategy, which establishes the hierarchy and standard for facilities, uses and service levels.

Consultation

The 800 signatures on the petition suggest effective consultation by the community group. Staff have responded to the group (copy of response letter is attached) advising:

- Council commitment to ensure that current and future sport and recreation demand and opportunity for residents and visitors are provided for.
- That Council is exploring what funding opportunity exists to help deliver improved sporting facilities through a range of strategies including external grants and in recent times the consideration of a special rate variation to contribute to the provision of these assets.
- Apart from the approval and the funding to “build”, a significant challenge for Council and the community is to find adequate maintenance resources to service the “new” asset. It should also be noted that for this project to proceed, development consent will be required which has a cost element also.

Financial

60 The capital cost of the project is yet to be calculated however, should the project attract capital funding then the recurrent operational costs will need to be identified and budgeted. It should be noted that the capital cost is likely to be in the vicinity of \$500,000.

Resources (including staff)

At this stage the resources required from council relate to community response. Should Council endorse the action to assist the community group with a funding application then more staff time will be required.

Operational Plan

The project does not appear in the current operational plan.

CONCLUSION

70 Mindful of the community support for the project and Council's commitment to improving recreation opportunity, it is considered appropriate to explore funding opportunities to provide this facility. However, it is suggested the potential development of Evans Park be considered in the context of the draft Recreation Strategy when considered by Council.

Apart from capital funding, the biggest challenge for council and the community will be the financial resources to operate and maintain the proposed facility. Accordingly it is considered appropriate to invite the community group to work with Council on developing a strategy and action plan to subsequently maintain the facility at no additional cost to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

80 That Council confirm support in principle for the project, assist applications for funding, and seek further advice from the community group in relation to project capital cost estimates and a facility maintenance cost strategy.

26 May 2009



Ref: DW

01/04/09

Mr. John Stafford
Lot 4 Old Wallagoot Road
KALARU NSW 2550

Dear Mr Stafford,

Proposal for the development of a sportsground at Evans Park, Kalaru

Further to the presentation and tabling of a report on this proposal to council recently I wish to advise as follows.

Council is very keen to ensure that current and future sport and recreation demand and opportunity for residents and visitors is provided for. Accordingly all proposals that seek to increase the range and quality of our sporting facilities warrants consideration.

As you are aware from previous correspondence elements of your proposal will require planning and approval and significantly, the funding to build and maintain will need to be secured.

Council is exploring what funding opportunity exists to help deliver improved sporting facilities through a range of strategies including external grants and in recent times the consideration of a special rate variation to contribute to the provision of these assets.

Apart from the approval and the funding to "build" a significant challenge for Council and the community is to find adequate maintenance resource to service the "new" asset. It should also be noted that for this project to proceed, development consent will be required which has a cost element also.

Mindful of the community support for the project and our limited resource it is intended to add this project to our Community Infrastructure projects list that we seek funding assistance with from the Federal and State governments as part of programs such as the recent "stimulus package". It is appropriate we look for funds to prepare and lodge a development application that reflects the facility you and others have envisioned and had expressed in Mr Gordon's concept drawing as a starting point.

Your continued involvement in this project will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Canaider

ADDRESS ALL
CORRESPONDENCE TO:
PO Box 492
Bega NSW 2550
DX 4904
ABN 26 987 935 332

Council Chambers
Zingel Place, Bega

PHONE
(02) 6499 2222
FAX
(02) 6499 2200

INFORMATION
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au
EMAIL
council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au