

**City of Kingston
Special Council Meeting**

Agenda

11 March 2008

Notice is given that a Special Meeting of the Kingston City Council has been scheduled for 5.45pm at 1230 Nepean Highway Cheltenham on Tuesday 11 March 2008.

Business will be as follows:

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declaration by Councillors or Officers of any interest or conflict of interest in any items on the Notice Paper, pursuant to Section 79 Local Government Act 1989.**
- 3. Reports by Officers**
K 22 Springvale and District Netball Complex: Resurfacing of Courts-Funding Report
- 4. Urgent Business**
- 5. Confidential Items in Camera**

K 22 Springvale and District Netball Complex: Resurfacing of Courts-Funding Report

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Approved by: Trevor McCullough, General Manager Community Sustainability

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to proposed funding arrangements for re-surfacing the netball courts at Rowans Road, Dingley.

2. Background

Netball has the highest level of female participation of any team sport in both Victoria and Australia, and the second highest level of participation amongst sports that attract participants from both genders.

A wide range of netball participation opportunities exist, from senior and junior competition through to junior skills development programs and inter school activities. Netball as a sport is physically active and as such it offers all the widely acknowledged benefits of physical activity such as improved mental and physical health, greater community engagement and enhanced social connectedness.

Retention of young people in the sport of netball is high on the agenda of both Netball Australia and Netball Victoria and as such they have developed programs and pathways to assist Clubs using local facilities to enhance their membership bases. Local Government can impact local netball participation rates amongst both seniors and juniors by supporting the development of high quality, safe facilities.

The Springvale and District Netball complex at Rowans Road Reserve in Dingley is an extremely popular complex with very high participation numbers. It has 16 full sized asphalt netball courts, of which only 9 are currently playable. The remaining 7 courts have been deemed unsafe and unplayable for general competition, due to some deterioration and substantial cracking in the asphalt surface. All 16 courts have training lights and could be available for night training and competition. By providing safe and playable conditions to all 16 courts, it will certainly alleviate the need to constantly re-schedule competition game times, particularly during finals.

The Association has suggested that in order for their competition to remain viable and provide more competition opportunities and provide a safer playing environment for their members, an upgrade to a synthetic surface coating and general asphalt improvements for the 16 courts is required.

The Association have expressed it is not in a financial position at this stage to contribute the normal 50% contribution to upgrade works.

The Dingley Branch of the Bendigo Bank has indicated they are prepared to sponsor and financially support 50% of the total cost of the Project on behalf of the Association.

3. Financial Summary

The financial arrangements between the Bendigo Bank and Council are a 50/50 split. Bendigo Bank is in a financial position to support the project this financial year and therefore would require Council to bring forward \$44,000 from the 2008/09 capital works budget.

Council has received a letter from the Bendigo Bank confirming the Bank's commitment to the project. Council has also received a letter from the Netball Association confirming that they will commit to a sinking fund for future court replacement. The Association has also undertaken to contribute to further upgrades of other infrastructure at the Reserve in future.

Three quotes were sought and the preferred contractor is Status Sports Surfaces with a total cost of \$88,000.

4. Timeline

With a funding commitment from the Bendigo Bank for this financial year, an opportunity exists for Council to bring this project forward and have works completed ready for the start of the new season in April 2008.

5. Options

The following options were considered:

1. Upgrade all 16 netball courts and increase the participation and competition rate to meet the demands for the complex. This will also provide a uniform playing surface for all 16 courts.
2. Upgrade the 7 unplayable courts to increase the available playable courts to 16. This would disadvantage players due to having to play on two different types of surfaces, the existing 9 asphalt courts and the 7 'synthetic rebound ace' upgraded courts.
-upgrade 7 courts only @ \$6,000 per court
3. Do nothing at this stage and reduce the number of playable courts to 9. The concern with this option, is the continual deterioration of the 7 unplayable courts, the increased cost to upgrade at a future date and higher player risk in the meantime.

6. Triple Bottom Line Checklist

Financial

Option 1 – Provides an opportunity for Council to enter into a financial arrangement with an external funding source and share the cost of the project.

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Environmental

User groups will be better served by a proposal that considers all aspects of the complex. The outcome will be to provide a better and uniform playing surface for all 16 courts.

Social

It would support local community and increase netball participation for the complex and provide better playing arrangements.

7. Summary and Conclusion

If the project is to be carried out this financial year, Council is required to commit to bringing forward 50% of the total cost from the 2008/09 capital works Budget.

This arrangement creates an excellent opportunity for Council to collaborate with an external financial source and deliver a worthy result for all stakeholders involved.

Recommendation

That Council commit to bringing forward \$44,000 from the 2008/09 capital works budget to allow the resurfacing of all 16 courts at the Rowans Road Reserve in Dingley to be undertaken this financial year.