

Presentation to Ku-ring-gai Council on draft Queen Elisabeth Reserve Masterplan – 6.12.22

Good evening, Mayor, Councillors and Staff. Julian Ledger, 53 Albert Drive, Killara and President of the 416 Group. In the past year the Group has been able to overcome the loss of past President, Cec Morgan, has recruited new Committee members, made a number of submissions and developed a new website.

The Group aims to represent the 750 homes in Killara/Lindfield west of Lady Game Drive and centred around the Moore Avenue shops. At times we have felt like a forgotten corner of Ku-ring-gai but feel more love at present. A section of Bradfield Rd has a new footpath, childrens' play equipment has been replaced in St Crispens Green, the masterplan has been prepared for Queen Elisabeth Reserve and renewal is forecast for the Moore Avenue precinct.

The timing of the call for community feedback on the Reserve coincided with a flier which we produced and distributed. We were able to remind residents of the opportunity to have input. I hope we contributed to the total of 226 submissions. We are of course in favour of investment in the reserve which has had particular problems with its playing surface; and where, as we have previously submitted, the children's play area is not fully fenced.

We do not support replacement of one of the four tennis courts with a basketball court. That's consistent with our previous position some years ago of opposing development on the site which would unreasonably impact residents. We were disappointed that our points on the basketball court were not included in the landscape architect's summary report, and I have rung her with that disappointment. Our points made were considered, we are a long-established group. It erodes community trust in the consultation process if points made are not provided to Councillors as the decision makers. When asked the Landscape Architect was unsure about acoustic standards.

Basketball is noisy because of the weight of the ball impacting the ground and the backboard behind the hoop. Often very hard. Acoustically it is an order of magnitude more intrusive than tennis which is what the residents around the park signed up for. Compared with tennis a basketball team has upto 12 players of which five are on the court at a time.

According to a Dr David Welch, University of Auckland Head of Audiology, basketball courts have been identified in the international health literature as a significant source of community noise. The article went on to say that these courts should not be near residential properties.

I had a quick look at media reports:

SMH 2.11.22 – basketball court has hoops removed by Victoria Park Council due to noise complaints

Daily Telegraph – 16.6.17 - proposed Balmoral court moved by Mosman Council after residents' concern about offensive bouncing noise

ABC 30.9.21 – Capel Shire Council relocates court by 200 metres due to continued noise complaints. Court unreasonably interfered with the comfort and amenity of nearby homes

Basketball NZ say - when developing court design consideration should be given to the impacts on neighbours with particular regard to lighting and noise levels.

In WA the recommended distance from a basketball court to residential property is a minimum of 100 metres.

Basketball is popular and Basketball NSW has a growth strategy. Their annual reports and strategic plan detail progress in achieving more courts and the ones at St Ives High School are referenced. They also refer to focus on indoor courts and building more courts in the right locations. We are writing to Basketball NSW asking for a copy of their design standards for basketball courts referencing Basketball NZ and community concern about the impact on local residents.

In summary basketball and people's homes need to be separated. We would propose Council amend this masterplan, review the standards, engage professional advice if necessary and adopt a design standard. Then look for alternative locations not adjacent to residential. Each of these may come with their own challenges but in an LGA the size of Ku-ring-gai they certainly exist.

Thank you

Basketball court locations

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/basketball-court-has-hoops-removed-due-to-noise-complaints-20221102-p5bv53.html>

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/mosman-daily/proposed-balmoral-basketball-court-moved-to-new-location-after-residents-concern-about-offensive-bouncing-noise/news-story/6cfc1f0cb298a5dad8da21556e377aff?amp&nk=e2a13716e72278954958d367715baf3d-1670236650>

Capel Shire Council

ABC 30.9.21 relocate 200 metres

Continued noise complaints from residents

Cost \$18,000

<https://amp.abc.net.au/article/101099116>

Unreasonably interfere with the comfort and amenity of nearby homes Dalyellup

Basketball courts have been identified in the international health literature as a significant source of community noise. Dr David Welch university of Auckland head of audiology.

These parks should not be near residential properties.

Basketball NZ say - when developing court design consideration should be given to local plan requirements and the impacts on neighbours with particular regard to lighting and noise levels.

Basketball Australia - national integrity network Ethical behaviour Community

BNSW infrastructure projects - facility area guide for indoor courts. Includes st Ives high school 2 additional courts to ones built in 2020.

Simon Haire BNSW - building for our future - facilities and infrastructure.

BNSW sp 2022-25. Focused to build more courts in the right locations to unlock growth.

Sense of community

Be continuously learning.

141 new courts in the pipeline.

Sp courts

2022. 23

2023 45

2024 20

Very focused on growth.

Focus on additional indoor facilities.

Active x change sports eye platform.

Multi sport indoor facilities.

Compulsory acquisition
CEO Maria Nordstrom, Chair Jennifer Dean