
Report of the General Manager - 22 November 2016

ITEM 6.9 Exhibition of Master Plan options for Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park

AUTHOR City Future

ISSUE

A concept master plan has been created for Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park in Earlwood, for the purpose of gaining community feedback on the plans through a public exhibition process. The final master plan will then guide the formation of a Plan of Management for the parks which is required due to the number of competing uses and proposals the parks are facing.

RECOMMENDATION That

1. Council endorses and places on public exhibition the Master Plan options as outlined in the report for Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park.
2. A further report be submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period to consider any submissions.

BACKGROUND

The former Canterbury City Council resolved to complete a Plan of Management (POM) for Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park in Earlwood. Both archery and a bike safety recreation facility had to be considered as part of this POM.

The newly formed Canterbury Bankstown Council has reviewed the previous resolutions and has determined that the POM be postponed and alternatively, master plan options will be publicly exhibited to determine the future uses of the sites. After a final master plan is developed and adopted, a POM will be written and exhibited for the site based on the adopted master plan for the parks.

REPORT

Gough Whitlam and Waterworth Parks make up an open space precinct at the eastern end of the local government area at Earlwood, located along the Cooks River and Wolli Creek. The parks are well-used areas of open space which contain passive areas of open space, natural areas, sporting fields, playgrounds, a café and the Canterbury velodrome.

The parks have been subject to a number of Canterbury City Council Resolutions in relation to the use of the parks which concern existing and proposed sporting uses, archery and children's bike safety facilities since July 2013.

Three resolutions particularly formed the recommendations and requirements of the POM for both parks:

1. At the Council meeting of 23 July 2015 it was resolved that a report to be prepared which endorses an archery facility at Waterworth Park on the western side next to Tempe Street, which was to include information on the works involved and be reported back to Council.
2. On the 27 August 2015 it was resolved that Gough Whitlam Park be the preferred location for the bike safety recreation facility within the vicinity of Undercliffe Road. It was also resolved to prepare a POM for Gough Whitlam and Waterworth Parks which examines the recreation needs of interested groups, community sentiment and the proposed bike safety facility and archery range. Permission to complete the POM was required to be sought from the Minister for Lands as the parks are on Crown Land.
3. On the 12 November 2015 it was resolved that the Cooks River Titans Football Club proposal for additional sporting facilities at Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park, be considered in conjunction with the preparation of the POM. The club was established in 2015 and had over 290 players register in the first year.

Permission was received from the Minister for Lands and Water in November 2015 to complete a POM for the parks. Due to the previous Council Resolutions the inclusion of an archery range, bike safety recreation facility and additional soccer fields and associated facilities had to be considered as part of the process.

External consultants were appointed to complete the POM for the parks in December 2015. As part of this process the community and interested stakeholders, including environment, recreation and sporting groups were consulted in March and April 2016. Consultation included meetings at the park, at Council's Campsie Administration Building and at Earlwood Senior Citizens Centre. An online survey was also available to complete, with all consultation meetings and the survey being advertised on Council's website, Facebook, Twitter, posters in the parks, local newspapers and via letters to residents living next to the parks.

Following the formation of Canterbury Bankstown Council, previous resolutions have been reviewed with the POM for Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park being postponed. Alternatively master plan options have been created to be publicly exhibited to determine community sentiment and their preferred future uses of the sites.

The master plan options allow for a choice of no archery or bike safety facility based on previous feedback from the community and stakeholders. An additional option for archery within the velodrome and a bike path around the playground has also been included. It should be noted that based on park restraints, functioning and previous feedback, the design and scale of these facilities has been changed to be more sensitive to the current park uses. This includes a reduction in size and change of proposed location within the parks. This is to ensure there is little impact on the existing park amenity if an archery facility or bike path is included in the final master plan.

This report seeks the approval to publicly exhibit Master Plan options for Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park. The various Master Plan options will show the existing park layout and uses, confirmed works to upgrade the park to appropriate standard (non-discretionary) and additional extra works such as archery, bike paths etc. Interested parties will be able to comment on what additional extra works they would or would not like to see incorporated in the final master plan.

Based on this consultation a final master plan will be developed and presented to a future Council meeting seeking adoption. A Plan of Management will then be prepared by Council and exhibited for the site based on the adopted master plan for the parks.

POLICY IMPACT

This recommendation will result in a master plan which will be the basis of a new Council Policy, being the Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park Plan of Management

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Relevant funding to carry out the Master Plan will be reflected in a future quarterly budget review process.

RECOMMENDATION That

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2. A further report be submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period to consider any submissions.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Confirmed Works Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park
- B. Potential Works Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park