

12 December 2016

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We refer to the meeting held on Wednesday November 23rd at the Chadstone Bowls Club.

As President's of the Chadstone Recreation & Civic Club (CR&CC) and the Chadstone Bowls Club (CBC) we were told by Council officers that this meeting was scheduled to discuss the status of the bowls club lease.

At the meeting we were told that Council officers were not here to talk about leases but rather where they could relocate the Chadstone Bowls Club and/or its members to make way for the Prahran Netball Association.

We were then advised of council's decision to relocate the Prahran Netball Association (PNA) to the exact location occupied by the CBC. The CR&CC and the CBC are absolutely gutted and shocked by this decision and have since attended the December 5 Council meeting to protest same.

In accordance with your advice at our meeting, which you are yet to formally confirm in writing, and other information we've subsequently discovered, we understand that Council has been considering the PNA relocation for some years. Apparently Council has examined over 50 potential relocation sites and for some reason determined CBC as the preferred location – all of this done in utter secrecy, without a skerrick of community consultation. Council has more recently resolved to spend \$100,000 of rate payer's money on a feasibility study to confirm (or otherwise?) CBC as the relocation site.

We believe that Councillors have been given insufficient information, wrong information and a lack of opportunity to consider critical information. There are more than sufficient grounds for this decision to be reconsidered, based on the following:

- The decision is in conflict with Council's own current Older Persons Strategy – see page 6 where one of the six key actions is "... **increasing** participation in lawn bowls."
- The Council's Recreation Strategy mentions on numerous occasions, the importance of increased facilities for women's sport in the municipality's **WEST** a relocation and a repurposing of the PNA's current stadium to open space, will result in a **FURTHER** decrease in such facilities and exacerbate the lack of sporting opportunities for females in Prahran.
- There are multiple netball and basketball facilities located within a maximum 4.5 kilometres of the CBC, some within 2 kilometres! This includes 3 indoor stadiums and 32 netball courts!
- The report states that the Prahran Netball Club have 795 Stonnington based players. At an estimated cost of \$25 million to develop this stadium at CBC would translate to \$31,500 spend per registered player
- Our preliminary examination of the PNA site suggest 2 additional netball courts can be added – without a net loss to open space! This would tick all council's boxes and not displace the CBC or the PNA

We suggest the \$100,000 would be better spent on a feasibility study to best identify how this can be achieved.

On behalf of the CR&CC and the CBC, we formally request that council reverse its decision to conduct a feasibility study on the Chadstone Bowls Club site. Instead we ask that the feasibility study be conducted on redeveloping the PNA's current site.

This will enable Council to achieve its aim, as stated in its Recreation Strategy "...to best meet the community's needs .." by allowing both Prahran Netball Association and Chadstone Bowls Club to remain in their current homes.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Jolly President CR&CC

Nigel Maxwell President CBC