

Karen Watson
General Manager, Community and Culture

Dear Ms. Watson

Many thanks for your reply to my proposal that was tabled by Cr Chandler on December 16 2016.

You reply states that “ ...the existing site was considered but deemed unsuitable for a number of reasons including loss of open space”.

My proposal did not include a loss of open space and could you let me know what were the “number of reasons” that deemed the proposal unsuitable?

Council Officers have now conceded that “compromises have had to be made to find any site for further consideration” and it would seem the parameters for assessing a site has been diluted to just three of the original six.

These being: is the site large enough to accommodate a four-court stadium, no loss of open space and is it easily accessible.

It would seem prudent to reassess all previous sites against these less stringent criteria as several of them in the western end of the city now become viable.

Many Malvern East ratepayers believe the recommendation of Percy Treyvaud as the preferred site is farcical and the “feasibility study” a sham.

If all sites are not reassessed under the revised criteria this perception is further strengthened.

One site that now becomes perfect is the tennis courts at Orrong Romanis.

This site allows PNA to stay in their catchment area and to keep playing without disruption whilst the new courts/stadium is being built (which apparently is a concern).

Not only will Council achieve the goal of constructing a multi-court indoor stadium, this scenario allows it to tick off numerous other goals as set out in its Recreation Study.

Most importantly it delivers facilities where there is a demonstrated need -the western end of the city and allows the only Council bowls club in Stonnington to continue to exist.

By constructing an underground car park this proposal has the added benefit of providing car parking for users of the stadium, Toorak Park and Orrong Towers.

The following table evidences the many advantages of this site compared with Percy Treyvaud Park.

Site	Orrong Romanis Tennis Courts	Chadstone Bowls Club
Proximity to PNA	Same Site	8.8kms
Space for Stadium	Yes	Yes
Space for car park	Yes	Yes
Shape/Layout	Regular	Regular
Current Use	Tennis courts/Pavilion	Sportsground

		Tennis Courts & Bowling Club
Site	Orrong Romanis Tennis Courts	Chadstone Bowls Club
Closest relocation	Armadale Tennis -1.8km 240 courts in Stonnington	Unable to be relocated as there are no other Council owned bowling greens in Stonnington
Run By	VTA – Private Company	Community run
Council definition of site	Outdoor recreation facility	Outdoor recreation facility
Loss of open space	No	No
Does it deliver facilities to the western end of city	Yes	No
Easily Accessible by Public Transport	Yes Bus 220 Melb Link to door. Tram #6 High St & Tram # 72 Malvern Rd	No No direct bus route from Prahran to Chadstone. Nearest Tram stop 2.5 km.
Other Users of Facility	No	Yes 2 Mens Groups Social barefoot bowlers School & Community Groups Use of Bowls Pavilion for parties and events

Whilst this option seems the best fit, there are other possibilities.

Site 52 could be purchased with Open Space money and the present stadium could then revert to open space, as could site 53, or Council could enter into an agreement to "lease" land from the Office of Housing.

The "Masters Homewares" site would be ideal and is proof that suitable sites do become available.

I reiterate, unless Council Officers reassess all sites the transparency of Council decision-making will be questioned by the community.

Once again, this is written in an effort to provide a win/win solution.

Ms. Watson, if the proposal goes ahead as recommended and the Indoor Stadium becomes home to Stonnington Netball Association (nee Prahran), what will be the response of Council when, in a few years a group of Prahran netball players come to you requesting courts in their local area?

The current recommendation does not address the initial problem – lack of courts in the Prahran area.

Yours sincerely,
Denise Wallish