

CJ279 - 10/00 TURF WICKET FACILITIES AT BEAUMARIS SPORTS COMPLEX - [02046]

WARD - North Coastal

CJ001003_BRF.DOC:ITEM 13

SUMMARY

The City has received a request from the Joondalup District Cricket Club, formerly North Perth Cricket Club, seeking support of a one off amount of \$15,000 from the City to help offset the maintenance costs for turf wicket facilities at the Beaumaris Sports Complex oval for the 2000/01 summer season.

Provision of the turf wicket facilities at the complex was authorised by Council and undertaken by the club on the understanding that all associated maintenance would be the responsibility of the club.

BACKGROUND

In October 1990, the former City of Wanneroo received Report No F10835 Turf Cricket Wicket Facilities. This report outlined to Council the current procedures and expenditure regarding turf wicket maintenance. The report also outlined the progress being made with the Chief Executive of the WACA regarding the dependence of senior cricket clubs on local authorities for turf wicket maintenance.

Officers from the City of Melville, City of Perth and the former City of Wanneroo met with WACA and club representatives to identify options for shared maintenance, or club/Council leasing agreements. The current agreements with the Whitfords & District Cricket Club and the Wanneroo Cricket Club (with the City of Wanneroo) resulted from these discussions.

Council resolved the following:-

1. To retain the turf wicket facilities at Kingsway Sporting Complex in Madeley and MacDonald Park in Padbury.
2. That clubs be responsible for all turf maintenance of these facilities via a five year maintenance agreement.

In August 1995, Report No TS248-08/95 recommended that the Whitfords & District Cricket Club and Council enter into a five year maintenance agreement, for a fixed sum of \$25,000 per annum, for the maintenance of the turf wicket facility at MacDonald Park Padbury. This agreement is currently being renegotiated and the club is currently considering a draft document.

Council's contribution to the maintenance has been structured to achieve an annual reduction from \$25,000 to \$20,000 over the period of the new agreement.

The club continues to have use of the wickets for match play and the storage shed at MacDonald Park.

In November 1995 the Whitfords & District Senior Cricket Club approached Council for approval to install turf wickets at Flinders Park in Hillarys (formerly Whitfords Park). This park was a new park and had minimal utilisation for general sports.

Report No TS356-11/95 recommended and Council adopted the following:-

That Council -

1. advises the Whitfords and Districts Senior Cricket Club that the proposal will be investigated;
2. requests the Recreation Department to identify the impact of installation of turf wickets on other park users; and
3. requests the Whitfords and Districts Senior Cricket Club to submit cash flow statements and budget assessment to substantiate its ability to undertake total funding of development and maintenance without Council contributions.

The Whitfords and District Senior Cricket Club installed the turf facilities and continue all maintenance without a subsidy from the City. The club has purchased additional plant and equipment to utilise at this site, in accordance with the initial agreement for maintenance.

The City of Joondalup Corporate Procedure Manual Section 7 Infrastructure Management & Operations, Clause 7.30 Turf Wicket Facilities, states:-

***Type 1** - Turf wicket training and match facilities will be provided at Kingsway Sports Complex, Landsdale and MacDonald Park, Padbury. Maintenance of turf facilities will be the user clubs' responsibility with assistance from Council to a maximum of \$20,000 per wicket area per annum.*

***Type 2** - Concrete base overlaid with a selected synthetic to Council specifications will be provided by Council to active areas of Public Open Space, as identified by Council.*

These facilities will be maintained by Infrastructure Management.

All concrete wickets will be overlaid with rubberised matting for the period of winter sports for sports user safety.

Installation and removal of safety surface will be the responsibility of Infrastructure Management.

Joondalup District Club are members of the Beaumaris Sports Association who are based at the Beaumaris Sporting Complex. The members clubs of the Association are:

Joondalup Lakers Hockey Club
Beaumaris Bowling Club
Joondalup District Cricket Club

The City has made a significant contribution to the development of the Clubrooms and park facilities at Beaumaris Sporting Complex. Funding arrangements for the project were as follows:

Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund	\$600,000
Former City of Wanneroo	\$600,000
Beaumaris Beach Estate	\$800,000
West Australian Cricket Association (Turf Wickets)	\$80,000
Participating Clubs (voluntary labour)	\$20,000

TOTAL **\$2,100,000**

As part of the half year budget review for the 1999/2000 financial year, Council provided funds to the Joondalup Districts Cricket Club totalling \$9,000 to assist with fencing of the Clubs practice wicket facilities.

DETAILS

The Joondalup District Cricket Club has submitted a written request for support from the City of Joondalup to offset the maintenance costs for turf wickets installed by the club at the Beaumaris Sports Complex.

The Joondalup District Cricket Club (formerly North Perth Cricket Club) relocated to Iluka during 1999 and installed dual turf wicket and practice facilities at the oval. Approval was given by the City for the club to install the wickets, subject to all installation costs and ongoing maintenance being the responsibility of the club.

In April 1999 the club submitted a written request for financial assistance to maintain the turf facilities and was advised that the initial agreement regarding its relocation to the Iluka complex remains. The City will continue to maintain the oval area and the surrounds and the cricket club is responsible for any turf wickets or practice wickets installed.

Preparation of the dual match wicket areas and practice wickets has been undertaken by the club and it is anticipated that they will be utilised for match play during the 2000/2001 summer sports season.

At its annual general meeting on 27 June 2000, the club resolved to change its name to the Joondalup Districts Cricket Club to identify with its new location within the City.

The club seeks support from the City of Joondalup to help offset the cost of maintaining the turf wickets, which they estimate to be \$30,000 per season. The club is aware of the support given by the City to the Whitfords & District Cricket Club and requests consideration of similar support.

Justification

1. The club is the only WACA District Club located within the City of Joondalup.
2. The club has the largest number of junior players of any WACA District Club.
3. Current capital expenditure by the club to develop the turf wickets.
4. Provision of top level cricket facilities for all clubs within the City.

COMMENT/FUNDING

The costs associated with turf wicket maintenance were of concern and this factor alone was the reason that Councils approached the WACA to achieve a consistent approach within the metropolitan local authorities.

Clubs playing within the WACA competition had various funding options and local governments were being asked for additional funds and a higher standard of facilities.

The former City of Wanneroo adopted a similar approach to the City of Stirling, City of Melville and City of Perth regarding maintenance funding and at the time, it was envisaged that the Whitfords & District Cricket Club would be elevated from the existing suburban turf competition into the WACA competition. This failed to occur and the relocation of the North Perth Cricket Club to Iluka was identified and supported by Council.

This has led to a situation where the City provides funding support for a Suburban Turf grade club for maintenance of its wickets but does not provide support to the WACA District Club through which all young people playing cricket will need to play if they aspire to play State or National cricket.

This is inconsistent with a rational approach to supporting young people to accessing the opportunities to develop and excel in cricket. In terms of sports development and the standard of provision of facilities, it would be more appropriate for funding support to be provided to Joondalup Districts Cricket Club for turf wickets because of the opportunities that exist through playing cricket with a first grade club rather than a suburban turf club.

It is considered however that the Club has had significant support from the City to establish itself in the region and form a strong financial base from which to develop. Despite this inconsistency funding from the City for turf wicket maintenance for Joondalup District Cricket Club is not supported.

Cricket was viewed as an ideal, high profile sport to utilise the high quality sports facility being constructed at Iluka, in conjunction with the developer, Beaumaris Land Sales. The bowling club, hockey club and cricket club all require similar turf conditions.

The estimate of \$30,000 submitted by the club appears low when compared to known costs for MacDonald Park, Kingsway and the City of Swan Lilac Hill complex. The estimates range from \$25,000 to \$38,000 per area of match wickets, eg. Kingsway has dual match wickets with maintenance costs of \$50,000; Lilac Hill estimates \$38,000 per wicket area.

Council allocated \$12,000 for the provision of dual concrete practice wickets in the 1998/99 capital works program and these are available for club and general public use.

Council continues to maintain the oval and surrounds for the POS. The bowling club is totally maintained by the club. Previous requests for maintenance subsidies from bowling and cricket clubs have been rejected by Council.

Costs**Existing Maintenance Agreements -**MacDonald Park - Whitfords & District Cricket Club & City of Joondalup

Turf wicket area to be maintained by the club;
Practice wicket area to be maintained by the club;
Plant, equipment & storage shed to be maintained by Council and utilised by the club;

Council Component

1999/2000 - \$25,000 towards the above maintenance areas;
2000/2001 - to be determined
new agreement under discussion
\$24,000 reducing to \$20,000 by 2005.

The current Operations' maintenance budget for Iluka Sports Complex 2000/2001 of \$36,198 is for oval, surrounds, all reticulation. Funds for turf wicket maintenance are not included within the 2000/2001 maintenance budget.

As the request for support is a one off request, it has been assessed against the Community Funding criteria to determine whether the application could be referred for consideration through the Sport and Recreation category of the Community Funding Programme. It is considered that it is ineligible for funding under this programme as it is for funding for what is recurrent operational funding, despite being a one off request.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1 ACKNOWLEDGES receipt of the request for funding;
- 2 ADVISES the Joondalup District Cricket Club that the agreement negotiated between the former City of Wanneroo and the North Perth Cricket Club remains in place and that the turf wicket maintenance is the responsibility of the club.

MOVED Cr Wight, SECONDED Cr Ewen-Chappell that the matter pertaining to the request for funding from the Joondalup District Cricket Club be DEFERRED to the ordinary meeting of Council scheduled to be held on 14 November 2000, pending a further report to be presented in relation to various matters.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED