

ANALYSIS OF PENISTONE RESERVE PETITION

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an analysis of the petition received on 16 December 2008 regarding the proposed shared-use agreement at Penistone Reserve between the City of Joondalup and Greenwood Primary School.

DETAILS

The petition presented to Council on 16 December 2008 contained 473 signatures from individuals requesting that Council reject the proposal for a shared use agreement for the following reasons:

1. Duty of care to children: the oval is situated in a large public arena, which is difficult to supervise with the general public allowed to access at time of school hours.
2. Public users of the oval and workers who use the area and public toilet do not require a "police clearance" and can therefore become familiar to children ("stranger danger").
3. Loss of use of goals and mouth of goals for play which would be included on a dedicated school oval.
4. Adverse impact on use and maintenance for sporting clubs and the ability for the well used club and clubrooms and other amenities to grow and meet the demands of a growing population.
5. Puts at risk a public asset should the school require to fence the oval due to unforeseen problems, when the school site already has a current oval.
6. DET has delayed this project in not seeking approval for use in the early stages; a delay of 6 to 8 months is minimal comparative to the proposed life span of the school and gives the kids the best opportunity to exercise.
7. This is a replacement school; two schools, each with a dedicated oval, have already been lost in Greenwood. Stop the desecration of our open spaces, loss of flora and fauna and dedicated safe play areas for our children.

The petition was analysed in two ways. The first involved treating each signature as an individual person and the second analysed the petition by grouping signatures from the same address as a "household" and treating them as one.

The outcomes were as follows:

ANALYSIS	PARTICIPANTS	PETITION	
Individuals	Greenwood Residents Who Did <i>Not</i> Participate in the City's Consultation	234	49.5%
	Greenwood Residents Who <i>Did</i> Participate in the City's Consultation	68	14.4%
	Residents From Adjacent Suburbs – Kingsley, Warwick, Duncraig	43	9.1%
	Other COJ Residents	59	12.4%
	Residents Outside of COJ	69	14.6%
	TOTAL	473	
Households	Greenwood Residents Who Did <i>Not</i> Participate in the City's Consultation	187	51.7%
	Greenwood Residents Who <i>Did</i> Participate in the City's Consultation	24	6.6%
	Residents From Adjacent Suburbs – Kingsley, Warwick, Duncraig	37	10.2%
	Other COJ Residents	56	15.5%
	Residents Outside of COJ	58	16.0%
	TOTAL	362	

COMMENT

In regards to the reasons presented in support of the petition, the following comments are made:

REASON IN SUPPORT OF PETITION	CITY COMMENT
Duty of care to children	Duty of care is the responsibility of DET and applies whether a shared use agreement is in place or not. Other locations exist within the metropolitan area where shared use agreements are in place and a duty of care still applies. This responsibility is not negated purely because a shared arrangement is utilised.
"Stranger Danger"	"Stranger Danger" relates to duty of care. Please see comments above in relation to this issue.
Loss of goals and mouth of goals	Dedicated goals are erected during the football season of which students of the school will have access to.
Adverse impact on use, maintenance and capacity for clubs to grow	The utilisation rate for Penistone Reserve is currently 27%. Greenwood Primary School would have use of this area outside of the periods when sporting clubs use the oval.

	Maintenance requirements form part of the agreement to ensure that the quality of the Reserve is not compromised.
Fencing of the oval	Any agreement made with DET would not allow for fencing to be erected around the Reserve. This would be contrary to the concept of shared use.
Delaying of project will have minimal impact on children's capacity to exercise and in relation to the life-span of the school	This comment is a philosophical position for Elected Members to consider.
Two schools with a dedicated oval have already been lost in Greenwood. Stop the desecration of open spaces, loss of flora and fauna and dedicated safe play areas for children.	This comment is a philosophical position for Elected Members to consider.

CONCLUSION

It is for Elected Members to determine the weight they wish to give to the petition. The City maintains its recommendation on the subject as presented to the meeting on 16 December 2008, because the City's consultation identified majority support in favour of the shared use arrangement.