

Appendix J

Consultation Feedback

Summary and Analysis of Feedback Received

As part of community consultation on the Draft Kirwee Reserve Master Plan

August/September 2019

Background:

The Kirwee Reserve Development Working Group has been meeting over the past two years, working towards the development of a master plan for Kirwee Reserve, including proposals for the development of the additional land purposed for an extension to the Reserve.

The Working Group called for written feedback on the Draft Kirwee Reserve Master Plan over August 2019. Various platforms were used to advertise the master plan, including; adverts in local newspapers, plans displayed at the Reserve, Council website, social media, and fliers. Feedback was invited via an online survey, printed feedback form, and attendance at a community drop-in held on the morning of Saturday 24th August.

The community drop-in session was well attended by approximately 30 people, including members of the Kirwee Community and Reserve Committees. The purpose of the drop-in was to give people an opportunity to discuss details of the proposed Plan with members of the Working Group.

A report from Council's online engagement platform showed that a total of 146 people visited the website, this includes 57 people who downloaded a copy of the master plan. Along with the attendance at the drop-in, this is considered a reasonable level of engagement for a localised project.

A total of nine (9) written responses were returned. Five (5) of the submissions were submitted on the feedback form that was provided. Note, the other four (4) submissions have still been incorporated into this analysis report under each question where considered relevant.

The analysis of all feedback (written and verbal) is presented below and represents in summary what was received. It is not intended as a complete transcript of all feedback received. A 'suggested response' is given to each topic, which will form the basis of a written reply back to all those that submitted written feedback.

Written Feedback - Summary Statement:

There were several main themes that emerged from the written feedback received. These include:

- The need to retain existing, or improve, shelter planting within the reserve.
- Feedback on suggested tree species.
- Priorities for development.
- The provision of an off-leash dog exercise area.

A summary on responses received to each question (via the provided feedback form) is given as follows:

Q.1) Do you have any comments on the overall design proposal – to develop additional sports field capacity, new open space areas and walkways for recreation and dog exercise?

The majority of responses endorsed the plan and the work to date that had gone into developing it. It was commented that the reserve needed to cater to a range of community recreational needs and it was believed that the proposed development will do this once implemented.

By far the most common thread raised through responses was in relation to proposed tree planting, species mix, and the need to retain/establish adequate shelter.

It was indicated that the Reserve is very exposed to both northerly and southerly winds and the desire to retain the existing pine (western) shelter was raised several times through feedback (for as long as possible, or at least until new shelter has been established). There is concern that the climate in Kirwee makes it difficult to get new trees to establish.

There was consensus that the establishment of new trees needs to happen as soon as possible to maximise growth before any existing shelter is removed.

The following is a summary of the key points raised through feedback relating to tree plantings and shelter:

- Caution as to removal of the existing pine shelter on the western side until one is satisfied that there is sufficient replacement shelter.
- Consider the use of evergreen trees (as well as deciduous) to give more shelter to cold winds during winter, and reduce issues of leaf fall.
- The types of trees indicated on the plan are lovely for providing shade, but not shelter. Specimen trees with lower branches removed allow wind and draughts to go through them.
- Include a mix of faster growing species to quickly replace lost shelter.
- New trees to be planted in a larger grade with irrigation to aid quick establishment.
- Improve shelter along the northern reserve boundary (existing reserve) where there are currently draughts beneath the larger (evergreen) trees.
- Oaks need to be away from play areas as the acorns may be an issue.

Several submissions also highlighted a preference for either retaining the shelter belt, or for providing other passive recreational facilities, and play areas for youth etc. ahead of developing further playing fields, or for it to be considered as a higher priority.

There was support and appreciation shown for the provision of an off-leash dog area. But it was commented that increased enforcement of the dog control bylaws are needed if dogs are to be encouraged into the reserve.

Suggested Response:

The matter of removing the pine shelter belt and the need for additional sports field development has been discussed at length by the Project Steering Group. It is acknowledged that the climate and soil conditions experienced in Kirwee make it difficult for tree establishment. The Working Group propose that re-planting will happen as soon as possible (next autumn) and considerations such as larger grade trees, larger tree pits backfilled with quality soil/compost mix, fertilizer, and ample irrigation will be investigated to maximise new tree growth.

The Working Group agree with the submission point made on the benefits of an evergreen/deciduous tree mix to maximise shelter and will look to integrate evergreen coniferous type trees within the overall tree planting plan.

Similarly, the Working Group agree with the submission point made on the need for a mix of faster growing species to quickly replace lost shelter. This will be considered as part of developing the planting plan further.

The idea of including fruit trees was raised and the Working Group believe this is worth considering where it is practical to do so.

The Working Group have again considered the matter of retaining the existing shelter and mound, but have concluded that it causes too great a disruption to the implementation of the master plan. Aspects of the master plan such as the relocation of the earth mound, the upgrade and provision of sports field lighting, the provision of field irrigation, and the proposed central avenue tree planting linking to Anzac Lane are all dependent on the removal of the existing pine hedge.

Q.2) Do you have any comments on the proposals for a central community hub with play, recreation, picnic and seating areas?

Generally responses supported the proposal to develop a 'community activity hub' area within the reserve.

Those submissions that endorsed some but not all of the stated purposes identified the following as needing to be included/changed:

- Identified as a major priority for development (along with parking).
- Would hopefully encourage use of this space for events such as a Christmas Market.
- Questioned as to whether the facilities, if provided, will be well utilised.

- Suggested that an information board at the entrance of the reserve may help to advertise and encourage people to use the amenities.
- Suggestions to include a coin operated BBQ with overhead shelter, basic seating/picnicking facilities.
- Duplicates in part the facilities already in place by the sports pavilion (which in turn also provides shelter from wet weather). Complete the development of this space (trees/seating) prior to creating a second 'community area', although there may be a need for both in future.
- Play equipment that triggers children's imagination.
- To provide for a skate park locally. It is thought that this would be utilised more than a pump track

Suggested Response:

The Working Group believe that by providing for and grouping facilities together it may create a destination within the reserve for a range of different activities. Considerable thought was given to the most appropriate location for the community hub, including available space and ensuring there are good connections created between existing facilities, particularly between the community hub and the pavilion.

The development of facilities within the 'Community Hub' and perimeter walking trails are seen as a priority to help enhance passive recreational use of the Reserve. Although available budget will dictate timeframes around when individual facilities are to be developed.

Because facilities are not visible from the road, improved signage is needed to guide people to facilities and available parking. To avoid the duplication of facilities, it is envisaged that facilities created would be more focused towards passive recreation and play, as opposed to facilities provided to support organised recreation/sports (as is the case nearer to the pavilion).

It is proposed to relocate the existing junior playground area over to the new area alongside play equipment for older aged children.

The provision of some skate/scooter facilities are included within the current design, with potential for expansion over time. These are to be integrated within the footpath layout. The provision of purpose built skate park is a high cost item and the Working Group believe that, at this stage, it is better to focus on providing alternative youth activities, as skate facilities are currently catered for nearby in Darfield and another is planned in West Melton.

The concept of providing BBQ and picnicking facilities is supported by the Working Group.

Q.3) Do you have any ideas or suggestions for the children's play areas and community hub?

The following ideas or suggestions were given:

- Include activities for older children/young adults like rope swings (that are not accessible by younger children).
- Drinking fountains.
- Coin operated/electric BBQ's
- Inclusion of a 'mini road' with stop/give way signs etc. for education children in road code instructions (examples in Rolleston Reserve and in Coalgate, Kurow)

Suggested Response:

The idea of a 'mini road' with stop/give way signs etc. could be integrated within the footpath layout around play areas and the Working Group support exploring this as an additional play feature. A similar proposal for a 'mini road bike park' has recently been raised for inclusion within West Melton.

The Working Group supports the concept that play equipment needs to provide for children of all ages.

The provision of BBQ's, drinking fountains, bins, seating and picnic tables are supported.

Q.4) Do you have any other suggestions on items or facilities that could be included in the redevelopment?

The following recommendations were made:

- Suggestion to incorporate an ANZAC memorial (archway, gates, and honours board) where community could meet on ANZAC day, as no such facility exists currently in Kirwee. Such public gatherings could be run in conjunction with the pavilion.
- Provision for FENZ Fire Brigade training and competitions, consisting of vehicle access to fields, hydrants and drainage, south of the junior fields near bowling club and car parking area. Would be of use in the event of an actual fire as well.
- Consider replicating the post and rail fencing installed at the Hoskyns Rd end of ANZAC Lane for the new Tramway Rd Reserve frontage.
- Service area e.g. for disposal of garden/lawn waste.
- The Darfield Scout Group would like to be considered for the donation of any timber/logs or part of, which may be felled and removed during the development of the reserve.
- The Darfield Scout Group may be available to assist with the development of the Reserve via the likes of tree planting and other community minded activities.

Suggested Response:

ANZAC Memorial - the Working Group has considered this and has ensured that there are options available within the design (key locations) within the reserve development,

should the Township Committee or others wish to progress this as a project in future. A part of the proposed Reserve development includes a possible extension of the 'Anzac Walkway' centrally through the Reserve.

FENZ training and competitions - The Working Group agree that this can be incorporated into the overall reserve layout and provided for within the irrigation design.

Boundary fencing - The Working Group agree. Although only a proportion of the reserve frontage is to be fenced, for protection of off-leash dog exercise. Balance of reserve frontage along Tramway Rd should remain open (e.g. bollards) to allow easy foot access into reserve, but restrict vehicle access.

Service area e.g. for disposal of garden/lawn waste - To be forwarded onto Reserve Committee for consideration.

The Darfield Scout Group – This is to be worked through with the contractor as to the feasibility of donating wood to the Scout Group, but will be subject to factors like; viability/cost/H&S implications. The Scout Group will be acknowledged for their offer of help.

Q.5) Please provide any other comments on the master plan for the reserve extension.

The following additional recommendations were made:

- Signage within the dog park must stress that dogs should be under 'proper control' when off-lead.
- Provision of litter bins so that people can pick up after their dog.
- Car park could become a boy-racer dragstrip so speed bumps may be needed.

Suggested Response:

It is considered that these are able to be effectively managed via Council compliance procedures and routine management of the reserve. Reserve Committee to monitor and manage in future. The provision of speed bumps is to be considered as part of the car park construction to manage potential issues.

APPENDIX 1.

Community Drop-in Record of Feedback/Discussions

Summary Statement:

The below is a written record of main discussion points during the community drop-in session held on the 24 August 2019, 9.30 – 11.00am. The main topics of discussion included:

- Trees (inc. tree species) and shelter
- Dog exercise area
- Traffic and parking
- Lighting
- Kirwee Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Phasing and priorities for development
- Proposed facilities

Specific feedback on Master Plan:

- Removal of the existing pine tree hedge. Still is still a desire to retain at least until new plantings have established sufficiently. Concern is shelter from wind. Conversely there were comments about not causing delay on the project by trying to work around the pine hedge.
- Discussion over whether or not there is a need to fence the dog park from the cricket oval. It is likely the road will be fenced in some form to avoid safety issue of dogs and proximity to road edge. Ensure rubbish bins are provided for dog litter.
- Considerations around the development of the Tramway Rd berm in line with the wider reserve development (is a wide berm area) and footpath access down road.
- A need to extend the 60km zone and roadside threshold planting as will be a safety issue with proposed reserve entrance/exit.
- Concern around parking on the Tramway rd berm during events – how will this be controlled?
- Bus parking allowed for? Thought that an area of car parking could be coned off to provide this as, as opposed to designated parking as would be infrequent only.
- Consider control measures in car park to deter freedom campers and anti-social behaviour, Speed bumps a good idea to consider and ability to close car park when not in use (could be considered future if issue arises).

- Requested to consider opportunity to host facility for volunteer fire brigade for training competitions, would require hydrants to be included within irrigation design, 2 x drainage pads (away from playing fields) and vehicle access onto grounds. Also new hydrant on eastern boundary to assist firefighting in event of fire to community ctr.
- Discussion was also had around the playground spaces. Residents were supportive of the two playgrounds, pump track and the community hub area. A question was asked regarding whether the playground surface would be bark or rubber matting like that installed recently in Darfield. That is a detail that is yet to be decided.

General feedback:

- Idea to include fruiting trees within tree plantings, e.g. plum, apple pear – largely disease resistant and easy care. Feijoa an option within shrub borders.
- Other general discussions around tree species selection.
- Like the existing planting down Anzac walkway, and would like to see the extension of daffodil plantings.
- Important to include activates for youth in Kirwee, including more natural areas where children can create their own fun.

Other comments / discussion points:

- No. 2 rugby field lights currently shine down Tramway Rd and are a safety issue. Lights planned to be upgraded to new LED lighting. It is noted that lighting technology has improved significantly since the existing rugby floodlights were installed.
- Possibility of a walkway linking Kirwee with Darfield via the reserve and Tramway Rd.