

PUBLIC HEARING
4th July at Merrylands Administration Centre

MEETING NOTES

Attendance Community

Dianna Finch
 Ken Finch

Council / Project Team

Adam Ford Cumberland Council
 Adam Hunter Consultant

No	Item	Action / Response
	NOTE These meeting notes address the Public Hearing held on 4 th July 2019 at Council’s Merrylands Administration Centre, and any issues noted by the community. In addition they integrate issues raised through the Draft Plan of Management (PoM) public exhibition providing an overall summary of responses to the plan of management. Submitted responses to the PoM exhibition are noted as such: “DPoM Exhibition response”	
1.0	WELCOME	
1.1	Adam Hunter (consultant- Environmental Partnership) welcomed all to the Forum	
1.2	AH outlined the purpose of the Public Hearing and processes to adopt the Plan of Management (POM). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to discuss any queries with proposed categorisations as defined by local govt act • to outline the draft POM on public exhibition • to discuss any questions or queries on the draft plan 	
1.3	The Public Exhibition of the draft plan commenced on Tuesday 20th June and will extend until Wednesday 31st July. Submissions will be received until Wednesday 31st July	
2.0	PLAN OF MANAGEMENT RECAP	
2.1	Adam Hunter summarised the previous consultation forum undertaken for the POM including 1. Aboriginal Stakeholder Forum - 22nd November 2018	
	Values of the park identified by the community and study investigations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - heritage - passive recreation - events - community - walking - environment - day care 	
2.2	Access and paths - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	Issue	Proposed Action
	striking a balance between good access versus too many built elements in the landscape	provide path to key pedestrian circulation routes to reduce erosion and provide dda access
	various asphalt paths are in poor condition	generally, main routes of path way network are progressively being upgraded from asphalt or gravel surfaces with timber edging to asphalt with brick edging or charcoal coloured concrete path connections to site facilities
	gravel is an aesthetically pleasing surface but is erodible and muddy in wet	provide charcoal coloured concrete surfaced path to key facility entries - retain gravel as secondary surface adjoining main paths
	path access required from Sheffield Street	provide path access to loop path
	link between Sheffield Street and Dressler Court	provide pedestrian and cycle link via proposed streets
	desirability of night walking route	improve night lighting for pedestrians to street

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		frontage as park closed at sunset
	Vehicular access & parking - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	new Sheffield St. entry not completed	provide pedestrian entry and controlled vehicular entry for maintenance and events continue perimeter palisade fencing plan and implement tree planting
	photography and other un-authorised entry at brickworks	provide effective vehicular control along road edge to prevent car access provide lockable vehicle access at south end of brickworks implement application and potential fee for photography use of brickworks support with signage and publicity
	pressure for parking during events	investigate event parking at Holroyd Sportsground
	Edges fencing and park closing - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	fully fenced boundary can limit accessibility at boundaries	maintain secure park edge to all existing boundaries for security
	night closing limits community use	park is too large to have open at night and prevent vandalism / anti social behaviour
	link between Sheffield Street and Dressler Court	provide pedestrian and cycle link via proposed streets
	vandalism at brickworks	improve surveillance at night
	enforcement of regulations	increase number and effectiveness of regulation signs support with community awareness campaign on line and in press
	Park buildings - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	use of Merrylands Place covered area by large groups	investigate booking system for weekend use of covered area
	potential use of Merrylands Place covered area for temporary events	explore small scale pop up events such as café cart, food vans, mobile library
	no public access to rotunda	rotunda serves important district function for booked events - to remain in existing usage
	toilets inadequate on busy days and separate disabled toilet	investigate upgrade to toilets including external seating area
	lack of heritage interps to brickworks	investigate improved interpretation to brickworks area conservation works to brickworks structures
	brickworks building 2 falling into disrepair	investigate potential uses of building compatible with park
	Picnic area - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	lack of equal access	provide accessible path through picnic precinct linking to a number of shelters
	erosion of grass	extend gravel surface to select areas
	large groups at weekends	investigate booking system for weekend use of picnic shelters
	inadequate tables / shelters	provide additional shelters to east end of picnic zone
	Playground / fitness - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	junior accessible play space	investigate upgrade as district destination accessible play space provide additional bin enclosures
	main play space	replace some gravel access with brick provide additional bin enclosures
	heat is excessive in summer	investigate potential water play element south of accessible play space
	lack of fitness equipment	investigate fitness facilities to replace hard

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		surfaced area west of learn to ride
	learn to ride facility is aged	upgrade all facilities within learn to ride
	Events - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	lack of event power	provide event power from rotunda to western green provide event power at southern green provide event power at Merrylands Place covered area
	Environment - Key issues identified in the community forum included:	
	subsidence of landfill areas	carry out localised filling and fine grading to restore undulating landform
	ineffectiveness of swale drainage in many areas & swales provide access hazard	replace swale drainage with pits and pipes adjoining paths and provide level grass surface over
	Sheffield Street boundary	plan and implement shade and screen tree planting
	bird feeding creates problems	provide additional warning signage - dont feed the birds publicity programme online requesting dont feed the birds
	creek swale is bare and weed infested	carry out revegetation
	timber deck structures	review maintenance of timber deck structures
2.3	AH outlined that The Local Government Act requires all community land to be covered by a Plan of Management which must identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the category of land; - objectives and outcomes for the land; - the means by which Council proposes to achieve objectives and outcomes; and - the way by which council proposes to assess its performance. - The nature and use of community land may not change without an adopted Plan of Management 	
2.4	AH outlined that to POM identifies 3 categorisations across the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Area Watercourse - Park - General Community Use (Merrylands Place & Rotunda) - Area of Cultural Significance (Brickworks Precinct) 	
3	DISCUSSION / AND EXHIBITION RESPONSES	
3.1	Wetland water body	
3.1.1	Concern raised about height and thickness of reeds restricting passive surveillance and views in basin area	It was noted that general maintenance outline for riparian corridor identifies thinning of reeds – will be added to PoM action plan as a specific action
3.2	Condition of Workplace Memorial	
3.2.1	It was commented that the Workplace Memorial area was somewhat run down.	To be added to PoM action plan as a specific action: Review maintenance to Workplace Memorial area and ensure area and plaques are maintained in good condition
3.3	Water play (exhibition response)	
3.3.1	It was commented that water play would be desirable in the park	The plan includes a recommendation to investigate water play or a water related landscape features that has a play aspect to the area south of the accessible play space

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3.4	Condition of junior play (exhibition response)	
3.4.1	It was commented that the junior play area requires upgrading to address some issues in relation to use / access of certain equipment and that there is potential to introduce more natural play elements	The plan includes a recommendation to upgrade the junior play space as a major project in the park
3.5	Bird feeding	
3.5.1	It was commented that bird feeding remains an ongoing problem in the wetland / water basin area	The plan includes a recommendation to increase signage regarding not feeding the birds and to support this with an increased ranger presence
3.6	Bird / fauna abuse (exhibition response)	
3.6.1	It was commented that public including children are cruel to birds in the vicinity of the wetland water body	The plan includes a recommendation for increased ranger presence at high use times in particular in the area of the wetland A recommendation to be added that signage be upgraded and provided in highly visible positions that cruelty to fauna is an offence and is subject to fines
3.7	Pressure on parking (exhibition response)	
3.7.1	It was commented that parking pressure in particular from wedding photography is problematic	The plan includes a recommendation to make wedding photography use subject to approval and potentially payment of a fee and bond. Use would be subject to strict regulations and would also control numbers to a practical level
3.8	Birds nesting in shelters in Brickworks (exhibition response)	
3.8.1	It was commented birds nest in some shelter structures and are a hazard for users of picnic tables	To be added to PoM action plan as a specific action: Council to review bird activity under shelters and address impacts on shelter use
3.9	Use of Eastern Glad as off leash dog area (exhibition response)	
3.9.1	It was commented that the glade is a quiet area and would be desirable to retain as quiet area rather than dedicating to off leash dog use	Council will review the potential for use of Kurung Reserve as an alternative to Holroyd Gardens as a designated off leash area
4	WHERE TO FROM HERE	
4.1	Adam Hunter outlined the POM process from here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - study team to review with Council the findings from the - Public Exhibition and the public hearing sessions - finalise Plan of Management - report to Council - Council ratify POM 	