



Growing community sports

Wellington's Indoor Community
Sports Centre newsletter

November 2007

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter about the design, planning and construction of the Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Park, Kilbirnie.

We'll be sending out updates on the project around every two months, with the next issue out at the end of January 2008.

This issue covers what's happened so far, public feedback on design and traffic aspects of the Centre, and what happens next.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

In June this year, Wellington City Council approved the construction of the 12 court Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Park, Kilbirnie. This decision followed around seven years of investigation and planning.

The public were consulted on the need for this facility as part of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) deliberations in 2006, and again during the Council's 2007/08 Annual Plan process. Feedback from the public shows they want and need an indoor complex.

You may have heard about alternative sites that were proposed for the Centre. While some of these other options presented many benefits, the decision to go with the Cobham Park site was based on factors such as cost, availability, proximity to schools (especially lower decile schools) and how the site fitted with other recreation facilities. Cobham Park was the most suitable site.

Once the final decision was made, Sinclair Knight Merz were appointed to develop the preliminary design of the Centre. They have also been working on a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment.

The Wellington City Council steering group for this project is made up of Garry Poole (Chief Executive), Karen Wallace (Chief Operating Officer) and Derek Fry (Director of City Services and Events).

For more information and a copy of the original Council reports go to the Projects section, or do a search, of www.Wellington.govt.nz

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

In October, we held a series of public meetings to present the preliminary design of the Indoor Community Sports Centre and the findings of the Traffic Impact Assessment conducted by Sinclair Knight Merz.

The presentation highlighted a range of potential issues, and how we intend to address them. These include the building's anticipated effects

MAILING LIST

You've received this newsletter either because you live near Cobham Park, or you gave us your contact details for follow-up at a public meeting or when you provided feedback. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Tim Harrod – his details are in the Contacts section.

If you've been passed a copy of this newsletter and you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Tim Harrod.

on shade, wind-flow and noise for local residents, and the effect of increased vehicle movements on the local road network.

We then asked for feedback on these aspects and received 26 written submissions. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond, and to those who attended the meetings or who have contacted us.

Common themes

Some consistent themes emerged from the feedback.

1. Traffic

Many people are concerned about the extra traffic that will be generated by Centre users and what impact this will have on travel times. Areas of interest included the right-hand turn from Troy Street into Kemp Street and traffic queuing at the Cobham Drive roundabout.

People who know this area well have made a number of specific suggestions. These will help us develop more detailed traffic plans.

2. Parking

Most of the feedback received about parking focused on whether the Centre's users will use the designated parking area to the west of the building. Some residents are concerned that cars will park on the street.

There will be 325 car parking spaces at the Indoor Community Sports Centre, to cover the needs of an anticipated 400,000 visitors and participants per year. In comparison, there are 250 car parking spaces around the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre, which also caters for users of the Kilbirnie Recreation Centre, Ruth Gotlieb Library, Park Bowling Club and Kilbirnie and Evans Bay Parks. The Aquatic Centre alone attracts some 600,000 visitors and participants a year. We're therefore confident that the Indoor Community Sports Centre car park can accommodate the parking needs of Centre users.

3. Sustainability

Several submissions made reference to sustainability, specifically the Centre's carbon footprint, transport options and how our information materials are produced.

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WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Wellington



Illustration by www.stantialstudio.co.nz ©

We're working across a wide range of areas to make this project as sustainable as possible. The preliminary design for the Indoor Community Sports Centre has been underpinned by sustainable practices wherever possible. We're currently working with Go Wellington to examine issues such as bus routes, schools transport and bus scheduling. Pedestrian access to the site is an important consideration for us.

Several respondents were concerned about what they perceived as a loss of green space. The Cobham Park site was zoned Suburban Centre under the District Plan and has therefore been available for development for some time. We believe that retaining the land for recreation and sports purposes is the most appropriate use. The landscaping will retain plantings where possible and enhance the design of the building.

We've also taken on board the comments about our information materials. We will email this newsletter where possible and will print it in black and white unless we need to show complex images.

4. Scheduling at the Centre when it opens

While there's still a lot to be worked out with regard to scheduling, we are conscious of the need to look at approaches such as staggered game start-times so users don't all travel to the Centre at the same time. School groups will be travelling to the Centre outside of peak traffic hours. The Centre won't run late at night. And we will consider scheduling in light of other facilities and events.

5. Noise

While Sinclair Knight Merz have included noise reduction approaches and materials in the preliminary designs for the Centre, several residents still have concerns.

The noise mitigation measures from the preliminary design, together with the feedback, will be worked through during detailed design. We will also be in touch with the Centre's neighbours before construction starts so we can address any potential construction issues such as noise and dust.

Other feedback

Some responses related to aspects of the Centre that can't be changed, such as its location. Other feedback that wasn't related to the preliminary design or the local traffic impacts but that could be relevant to future work will be dealt with at the appropriate time.

How we'll address concerns

There were a lot of practical and workable suggestions from the community and we'll incorporate as many of these as we can into the next phases of work.

We are working on a detailed summary of the feedback and our responses to it and will distribute this in about two weeks. This is later than originally planned because we received a large volume of responses and we want to give them proper consideration.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

A resource consent application will be lodged following consideration of the feedback received to date. If the consent is notified, as is likely, residents will have a chance to make a formal submission in the new year.

Depending on the consent process, the anticipated project timeline is as follows:

May 2008	Detailed design completed
August 2008	Construction start date
April 2010	Construction complete

More details will be added as the project progresses.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Wellington City Council is committed to engaging with the community. The public has already had a say about whether or not to build the Indoor Community Sports Centre during the LTCCP and Draft Annual Plan consultations, and about traffic and design effects during the public engagement in October.

There will be other opportunities to have a say about associated issues. We'll be keeping local residents informed about construction effects and giving you a chance to suggest ways to address any potential issues.

CONTACTS

For general project information, check out the Projects section of the Council's website www.Wellington.govt.nz, which is updated regularly.

If you have a more detailed query, or would like to provide feedback on this newsletter, please contact Tim Harrod, Senior Project Manager, on 803 8117 or tim.harrod@wcc.govt.nz