



Growing community sports

Wellington's Indoor Community
Sports Centre newsletter

Issue 4 November 2008

This issue will update you on the ongoing resource consent process for the Centre and also covers our engagement with Wellington schools about their sporting needs.

SPORTS CENTRE PROGRESS UPDATE

In our last newsletter in April, we updated you on progress on our resource consent application for the proposed Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Park. We had originally intended to apply for the resource consent in March. This timeline was extended due to changes to some aspects of the Centre's design as a result of feedback from the local community.

Following public feedback, Council designers removed the two-storey parking building beside the Centre and replaced it with undercroft parking beneath the building. Almost half the parking will now be out of view, reducing the noise and light spillage into the neighbourhood.

Our designers also refined their traffic management plans in response to public consultation. The final design meets the needs of the different indoor sports while ensuring the estimated cost of the project offers good value to ratepayers.

The resource consent application was lodged in July and the submission period ended on 8 October. A total of 77 submissions were received with 58 in support, 17 in opposition and two neutral. This indicates an encouraging level of support for the new Centre.

We are now preparing for the resource consent hearing starting on 19 November. The independent resource consent commissioners are expected to come back with their decision by January next year.

The Council's Project Manager, Jim Coard, says preparations are well underway to begin construction of the new Centre, once the resource consent has been approved.

"The detailed design work is almost complete and, if all goes well, we'll have finished the tendering process and have contractors in place by February next year".

"Our project team will also shortly lodge our building consent application for the Centre. While the resource consent application assesses the proposed design of the Centre against its surrounding environment, the building consent ensures the Centre complies with the Building Code."

Construction is on schedule to start in March 2009 and will take about 18 months. The Centre is planned to open in September 2010.

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've been passed a copy of this newsletter and you'd like to be added to our mailing list or, alternatively, if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Tim Harrod.

ENGAGING WITH SCHOOLS

Schools will be one of the main beneficiaries of the new Indoor Community Sports Centre and Council representatives have been talking to schools to find out more about their expectations and how the Centre can best meet their needs.

Initially we focussed on neighbouring schools to learn more about how they might use the Centre. Our research was subsequently expanded city-wide with an online survey of all Wellington schools.

The feedback from schools has been very helpful and identified a number of issues:

Affordability and access – The most significant potential barriers to schools participating in activities at the Centre are costs (including the cost of transport) and the time and distance it takes to travel. The average fee schools wish to pay is \$1 or \$2 per child per hour or \$35 per class.

Booking systems – Schools want to have easy-to-use systems for checking availability, making and confirming bookings and for ongoing liaison between the Centre and schools. Schools also said they would like the ability to make bookings online or by email.

Design and equipment – Schools were excited about the prospect of having access to such a large useable indoor space with the potential to accommodate part or all of their school roll. They want the Centre to provide activities and equipment that is not usually available to schools – such as climbing walls and specialist sports and athletic equipment.

Please turn over

Absolutely

POSITIVELY

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Wellington



Illustration by www.stanislavstudio.co.nz

Instruction – Quality teaching personnel were identified as critical to the success of programmes at the new Centre. A number of schools expressed interest in having outreach sports programmes from the Centre into their schools.

Use – Most schools are currently using Council facilities to some extent, most commonly swimming pools, sports fields and recreation centres. They anticipate using the Sports Centre mostly for structured sports tournaments or activities, visiting one to three times a term for a half or full-day, rather than shorter, more frequent visits.

Over the coming months, Council staff will continue to develop programme ideas, based on the themes and concerns raised by schools around the city. We will also continue to engage with schools over the next year to ensure that the Centre meets their needs once it is built.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

November 2008 – Resource consent hearing

December 2008 – Building consent application

January 2009 – Resource consent decision

March/April 2009 – Construction start date

Late 2010 – Construction complete

CONTACTS

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

For general project enquiries, or if you'd like to provide feedback on this newsletter, contact Tim Harrod, Senior Project Manager, on 803 8117 or tim.harrod@wcc.govt.nz

