



# Growing community sports

Wellington's Indoor Community  
Sports Centre newsletter

Issue 5

May 2009

This is the fifth newsletter about the design, planning and construction of the Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Park, Kilbirnie.

This issue covers Sir John Anderson's recently released review of the centre and its location. The next issue will be sent out when we have a start date for construction.

## PROGRESS UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, in November 2008, resource consent for the Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Drive Park was granted by independent commissioners.

Two appeals against the resource consent were received by the Environment Court.

Mayor Kerry Prendergast offered the review to Councillor Andy Foster, to address the concerns raised in his appeal. The Council agreed to the review, by respected sporting and community leader Sir John Anderson, on 5 March. Sir John also offered to meet with the other appellant to see if his concerns could be addressed as part of the review.

## INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE CENTRE

Sir John Anderson's independent review confirmed Wellington desperately needs an Indoor Community Sports Centre and the only suitable site for it is Cobham Drive Park in Kilbirnie.

The review investigated the proposal to build the centre and compared the Cobham Drive Park site with an alternative site on the Westpac Stadium Concourse.

Sir John found Wellington is falling behind other cities in being able to offer high-quality indoor sport and recreation facilities.

"Wellingtonians have already waited 10 years for this desperately needed community facility to be available," Sir John said.

The report emphasised that building the centre is a significant opportunity to get more 'everyday people' involved in community court-based sports

## 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.

and recreation activities. In turn, this will help more Wellingtonians advance to the elite levels of their sports.

However this opportunity will only be realised if a dedicated single-purpose facility is built to meet the needs of key indoor community sport users.

The centre would need to have 12 courts built to meet national sports codes standards for netball, volleyball and basketball – as well as at least one court for each of these codes that meets international standards.

The courts would need a sprung timber sports floor system that is DIN rated. DIN is the performance measurement for ball rebound, shock absorption and deflection.

The review also found it was vital for the sports centre to provide safe and secure access to users 15 hours a day, 365 days a year, plenty of onsite free parking available at all times and a convenient drop-off/pick-up point close to the building's entrance. It is also vital the centre meets all the Council's requirements in regard to traffic, urban design and sustainability.

Sir John said the decision about which site best met these needs ended up being very obvious.

*Please turn over*

**Absolutely**

**POSITIVELY**

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

**Wellington**



*The latest computer-generated image of the Indoor Community Sports Centre, from the north-east.*

"Of the two options, only the Cobham facility can provide what is required by the sports, plus it will cost \$23.5 million less to build than the Concourse option over the life of the building, and cost almost \$1 million less per year to run."

Sir John found the Concourse site was "completely unsuitable".

"In addition to the significant cost difference, the Concourse option can never be available 365 days a year, 15 hours a day, because of the activities and requirements of the Westpac Stadium."

The independent review also found two as-yet-unresolved "very significant potential 'show-stopper' issues" in the Concourse proposal, relating to fire exit arrangements, and the entrance and lifts into the centre.

In addition, the Concourse option would not be ready for use for at least another four years – whereas the sports centre could be up and running at the Cobham site by the end of 2010 or the beginning of 2011.

Throughout the sports centre review, Sir John was supported by four experts in traffic, quantity surveying, architecture and engineering, together with other specialists in property and valuation, legal matters, building control, urban design and town planning.

The full report is available on the Council's website at [www.Wellington.govt.nz/projects/new/indoorsports.html](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz/projects/new/indoorsports.html)

## CONTACTS

For general project information, check out the Projects section of the Council's website [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz) which is updated regularly.

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](mailto:tim.harrod@wcc.govt.nz)

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Cr Foster has since withdrawn his appeal but as there is still another appellant, the Indoor Community Sports Centre is subject to an Environment Court appeal. This may mean a delay to the project of at least six months while this is resolved.

In the meantime, Council staff are working to ensure that construction can begin as soon as possible once the project gets the final go-ahead.

