

Mr. Mark Stockton
Sport & Recreation Team Leader
City of Kingston



Dear Mark

Firstly, on behalf of Aspendale Gardens Residents Association we would like to take the time to thank you and Tracey Cheeseman for your time and engagement with our community through the first phase of engagement for the proposed development of the sporting facility in Aspendale Gardens at Kerr Reserve.

We would like to acknowledge that your immediate response to our request to broaden the communication to local residents for the first bulletin was welcomed. We'd also like to thank you for attending our community consultation session and for responding to the community's request to extend the timeline for feedback and the wider distribution of the second bulletin.

While this was good progress, many residents have said that they had not heard anything at all other than via the communication delivered by AGRA. This facility will also impact residents on the other side of Wells Road and ***we request that a full mail-out to all resident be done in any future engagement.***

Please find attached the verbatim feedback notes from our session and following our summation of the feedback we have received via:

- Community consultation session
- Facebook
- In person

While our community agrees that there is a need to provide more sporting facilities in local communities we have a collective view on a number of key concerns:

1. Usage of the site

While we understand that the current plan is to implement soccer and cricket fields, there is a view from residents that there needs to be wider engagement with local sporting clubs to understand their requirements.

We request that the site be assessed and designed for multiple outdoor sporting disciplines.

Residents also have concerns about how often the site will be used. There is conflicting information being provided by Council, the local MP and by the sporting club about the time and number of days that the site will be used. This will lead to ongoing loss of passive usage of the site by local residents.

We request an assessment be carried out about how local resident are already using the current facilities.

There are concerns that the site will be used by senior clubs with local MP Tim Richardson indicating that there is significant interest by A Grade clubs to play at the site. This will lead to an increase in traffic and parking required. We understand also that if a senior club plays at the site, they will apply for liquor licensing.

The community will strongly oppose any liquor license application. ***We request that the site be mandated as a dry site.***

2. Size, design, location and use of the pavilion

The pavilion should be minimal in footprint and be used for change-rooms, storage and a small unlicensed kiosk only.

It is expected that it will be located away from homes and not have windows or an aspect facing residential properties.

It should be built with limited environmental impact and incorporate the highest 'green' standards of lighting, heating and water.

Local residents will object to any facility which could be used as a social club or function space.

As previously stated, residents will strongly object to any liquor licensing at the site.

Lighting evoked ongoing concerns for residents and we request that Council investigate options for low impact lighting.

We request that any future designs will re-presented to the community and that Council will work with AGRA to seek feedback from the community.

3. Security and anti-social behaviour

We understand that there has been a common theme received through Council's engagement that there are concerns about security at the site and anti-social behaviour. In order for AGRA and the community to support the process moving forward into any future planning phases ***we would require a full assessment and management plan to be developed and the community to participate in its finalisation.***

4. Increased traffic on residential streets

This was a significant concern as safety risk. ***We request that VicRoads be engaged to do a detailed risk assessment and provide a report on the best way to manage traffic in the area.***

5. Loss of open space and Environmental impact on flora and fauna

These were high recurrent themes throughout the process.

We request a full assessment be carried out about the impact to locals about the loss of the incidental use of the space.

We also request that a full environmental impact assessment be carried out which would need to be revisited once the final design has been developed.

6. Excessive and impactful parking areas

We would like Council to consider how there can be the least impact on the green space from formal asphalt carparks.

We would also like to have a formal assessment of requirements for parking and the use of overflow parking.

Council should also consider providing Permit Only parking zones so that local residents will not be impacted by cars parking in the street.

Many thanks Mark, we would be happy to meet with you and Tracey, as well as any other Council officers to discuss this feedback with you further.

We also request that AGRA be provided with key dates that this will be discussed at Council so that we may be in attendance.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcome for our community.

Kind regards

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