

Friends of Caulfield Park
PO Box 2511
Caulfield Junction
3161
www.focp.com.au



29/10/07

Richard Willis
Secretary, Legislation & Select Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Parliament House

FAX 9651 6799

Dear Sir,

I realise this is the last day of submissions but I would earnestly request a small extension.

The reason is the alienation of 1.3 acres of green space in Caulfield Park, which is crown land, for the crection of a sports pavilion/community centre.

This has been the subject of bitter community resentment over the year but it appears that in spite of substantial resident representations the Council remains intransigent.


They have been wholly unable or unwilling to demonstrate any support for this building except for one sports club. The vast majority of sports club realise that it is completely overspecified but the council have resisted all attempts to go to mediation or to compromise.

This building will completely destroy the expansive vistas for which Caulfield Park is famous.

The Council processes which have led to this position are simply shameful and easily demonstrated.

I attach a summary of objections

Yours truly

Dr W. David Wilde 
President
Friends of Caulfield Park

0417 032 437

The Caulfield Park Pavilion

Development Issues

1. The replacement sports pavilion proposal is the natural development from a 1999 plan for Caulfield Park which recommended that 2 modest replacement sports pavilions replace the current outmoded sports pavilions. No-one opposed this.
2. But the current proposal was development in secret (even from the council) and nothing was known until notices were erected around the park in Dec 2006 showing a development area, no details were given, residents had to go to the town hall to find them
3. Residents were then given until Dec 23rd to object in this busy Christmas period. This provided limited opportunity to do so.

Pavilion Issues

1. The Pavilion is 66 metres long, 30 metres wide and 10 metres high (double story) roughly 2/3 the size of a football pitch
2. It sits across the middle of the park destroying the expansive vista which is such a delight in a intensively built-up area as Caulfield
3. It is situated on virgin green space within the parkland, and with associated car parking will destroy 1.3 acres of green space. The loss of this green space is in direct contravention to the Glen Eira council's own policy.
4. It incorporates a community facility comprising a 100 seat function room, a 14 seat meeting room, a kitchen, a storage room and a observation area. There has never been any community consultation to agree to a community facility in Caulfield Park. It is this facility which triggers a significant loss of green space for car parking. This is a gross departure from the 1999 plan.
5. On Crown Land this rates as a development which requires the minister's signature.
6. The pavilion is massively over-specified, for example, it contains huge storage areas, huge number of showers (that will never be used since the greater portion of sport is junior sport) and 3 disabled toilets where only one is required.

Consultation Issues

1. The issue has triggered substantial community opposition. Residents have had some 6 meetings all attracting numbers of approximately 100.
2. The Council's own meeting was attended by 200 people, 39 out of 40 speakers spoke strongly against it.
3. 2 residents' surveys have been held, one with 500 responses and the other with 350. Both demonstrated overwhelming opposition. In matters of local government this constitutes massive resident concern, yet the council has ignored it.

4. The Council resolution in response to this was to refer the brief unchanged back to the architect with a proviso that the community objections of 'too large', 'too high' and 'inappropriately situated' be considered.
5. The resolution gave the architect no room to move and so none of the community concerns were met. Instead the architect returned the previous option which had already been rejected by the community and 2 others which served to increase the footprint with even greater loss of green space
6. A resident's alternative proposal which was drawn up by a qualified architect was ignored, and although the Mayor had stated the council would accept it, the council claimed not to have received it. A receipt exists to prove the contrary.
7. All approaches to mediate and discuss compromises have been rejected or ignored
8. The council has openly subjected our organisation to intimidation by letter and to false statements in both letters and public statements. Both can be proved
9. In September the Council voted to proceed with the very concept that has been rejected by the community. Only one sports club has spoken in favour, the others were quite happy to compromise

In summary the council has shown an unbelievable intransigence in pursuing an option which the vast majority of concerned residents have rejected. In doing, so its tactics have been transparently cynical and self serving.

Dr David Wilde
President
Friends of Caulfield Park