

CITY OF ARMADALE

AGENDA

OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 7 ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON TUESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2005 AT 7.00 PM

A meal will be served at 6:15 p.m.

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

OBSERVERS:

IN ATTENDANCE:

DISCLAIMER

The Disclaimer for protecting Councillors and staff from liability of information and advice given at Committee meetings to be read by the Chairman.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

DEPUTATION

Nil

QUESTION TIME

ITEMS REFERRED FROM INFORMATION BULLETIN – ISSUE NO. 2/2005

The following matters were included for information in the Community Services section:

- **Outstanding Matters**
Report on Outstanding Matters –Community Services Committee
- **Monthly/Quarterly Departmental Reports**
Library & Heritage Services General Report – December 2004
Manager Ranger & Emergency Services Report – December 2004
- **Minutes from Occasional Advisory Committees**
Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting of 1 July 2004
Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting of 6 August 2004
Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting of 9 September 2004
Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting of 7 October 2004
Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting of 4 November 2004
Disability Advisory Committee Meeting of 2 August 2004
Disability Advisory Committee Meeting of 11 October 2004
History House Museum Management Committee Meeting of 7 October 2004
Armadale Police & Citizens' Youth Club Management Cttee Mtg of 17 Nov 2004

If any of the items listed above require clarification or a report for a decision of Council, this item to be raised for discussion at this juncture.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 14 December 2004, are confirmed.

Moved

MOTION CARRIED ()

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

25 January 2005

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Community Development

***LGCSA LINKING COMMUNITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
2005***

WARD All
FILE REF: CRS/4
DATE 17 January 2005
REF TB
RESPONSIBLE Manager Community
MANAGER Development

In Brief:

- The Local Government Community Services Association of WA (LGCSA) is holding its Linking Communities Community Development Conference in Perth on 16-18 March 2005.
- Recommend that Councillor/s be nominated to attend.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

To encourage community participation and responsibility.

To foster ownership, pride and a supporting and caring community.

To foster an effective professional environment and administration of the City's services and encourage innovation and creativity in meeting the needs of the community.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Council Policy ADM3 – Conferences, Seminars and Training.

Budget/Financial Implications

Conference registrations are:

- \$330 LGCSA Member paid by 31 January
- \$420 LGCSA Member paid from 1st February

Consultation

Nil

BACKGROUND

The LGCSA Linking Communities Community Development Conference is to be held on 16-18 March 2005 at the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel, The Esplanade, Scarborough Beach. A copy of the Registration Brochure is attached to this Agenda. **(Refer to Attachment "A-1" – Summary of Attachments – buff page.)**

Community Development

This Linking Communities conference is a professional networking opportunity to enable information sharing, relating specifically to enhancing the community. It offers the opportunity to obtain information on the development and enhancement strategies used in other communities around the world, and how these strategies have been implemented.

In accordance with the Council Policy ADM3 it is recommended that Council support the attendance by interested members at the Conference.

(As the Local Government Elections are due to be held in May 2005, Councillors should note Clause 2(d) of the Policy that states: *Where a member of Council at the date of the conference, seminar or training course has an electoral term of less than six (6) months to complete, such member shall be ineligible to attend unless such is specifically authorised by Council*)

COMMENT

Topics to be covered at the Conference are significant to current developments in the City of Armadale. They include:

- Building Strong Foundations
- Engaging Community and Encouraging Participation for a Safer Community
- Successful Capacity Building in urban Indigenous communities through cultural community development
- Analysing our practices and processes
- Capacity Building and Local Government – linking ideas, people, place and story.

The opportunity to attend will be given to the City's Community Development Officers, in either full or half day sessions, with the cost being allocated to the Community Development Training and Development budget.

The item is raised for the information of any Councillors who may wish to nominate to attend the conference.

RECOMMEND

1. **That Cr..... be nominated to attend the LGSCA Linking Communities Conference to be held on 16 – 18 March 2005 at the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel, The Esplanade, Scarborough Beach, with costs incurred to be charged to GL Account 7040111.7504.702, Members Training and Development.**
2. **That the matter also be referred to full Council in the event that any member wishes to nominate.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Community Development

****COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE**

WARD ALL
FILE REF: ORG70
DATE 18 January 2005
REF MW
RESPONSIBLE Manager
MANAGER Community
Development

In Brief:

- This item proposes an amendment to the Terms of Reference for Council's Community Safety Advisory Committee to provide for deputy appointments; and
- It recommends the appointment of nominated organizational representatives to the Committee.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Legislation Implications

Local Government Act, 1995 – Section 5.10
Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

City of Armadale Standing Orders Section 17.2
City of Armadale Code of Conduct
CSAC Terms of Reference

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC)
Relevant Organisations

BACKGROUND

The Community Safety Advisory Committee at its meeting of 4 November 2004 discussed the need for deputy representatives to attend meetings in the absence of appointed members. The existing Terms of Reference for the Committee does not make provision for deputies and the Committee is agreed that this addition would greatly enable it to reach quorums. The Committee is primarily comprised of organisational representation that are employed staff members and in the event of leave or change of positions there is an impact on quorums.

Community Development

Whilst the Local Government Act does not allow for the provision of proxies there is a provision for deputies under Section 5.12(2). In addition, the City of Armadale Standing Orders Section 17.2 states:

- (1) *‘The council may appoint one or more persons to be deputy or deputies, as the case may be, to act on behalf of a member of a committee whenever that member is unable to be present at a meeting thereof and where two or more deputies are so appointed they are to have seniority in the order determined by The Council’*
- (2) *‘Where a member of a committee does not attend a meeting thereof a deputy of that member, selected according to seniority, is entitled to attend that meeting in place of the member and act for the member, and while so acting has all the powers of that member’*

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Community Safety Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be amended to include the following clause:

Membership

4.3 Council may appoint a deputy to act on behalf of the City of Armadale CSAC members of committee, whenever that member is unable to be present at a meeting, and while doing so has all the powers of that member.

In anticipation of Council endorsing a change to the Terms of Reference for the Community Safety Advisory Committee to provide for deputy representation, the Committee at its November meeting also nominated some of those deputies. The table below indicates the current membership of the Committee and those deputy nominations. Additional deputy nominations will be presented to Council for approval as they occur.

Member	Deputy Member	Affiliations
Cr J A Stewart	**	City of Armadale
Position Vacant		Armadale Police
Snr Const Luke Van Dijk	Const Brendon Cassey	Armadale Community Policing
Mrs Maureen McKay	Ms Bev Wright	Neighbourhood Watch / Community Policing
Mr Peter Johnston		Dept for Community Development
Maura O’Connell		Canning Education District Office
Mr Chris Rewha	Mr John Pavlinovich	Dept of Justice
Position Vacant		Armadale Health Service Representative
Ms Christine Barrett		Armadale Gosnells Districts Youth Resources
Ms Karen Branch	Ms Kelly South	Dept of Housing & Works
Ms June MacDonald		Community representative
Lesley Murray		Aboriginal Community Representative
Position Vacant		Armadale Chamber of Commerce
Position Vacant		Senior’s Interest Representative
**As part of this process Committee may wish to also consider a deputy for Cr J Stewart.		

In addition to the nominations for deputies, applications have also been received for two vacant positions on the Committee. These are as follows:

Community Development

Senior Sergeant Russell Gardiner for Armadale Police who replaces Senior Sergeant Kim Fergusson.

Ms Una Bridson – Clinical Manager Adult Mental Health for Armadale Health Service.

COMMENT

Analysis

The Committee has had difficulty in reaching quorums and it is anticipated that appointment of deputies will help to address this issue. As deputies are afforded full voting rights, the arrangement will assist in progressing recommendations and actions.

The nominations received for the Member and Deputy Member positions meet the criteria for the Community Safety Advisory Committee and are considered suitable for appointment.

Options

1. Amend the Community Safety Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to provide for deputies to act on behalf of City of Armadale CSAC members of committee, whenever that member is unable to be present at a meeting and while doing so has all the power of that member and;

Appoint the nominated deputies and member organisational representatives.

2. Accept only the amendment to the Terms of Reference.
3. Appoint only the nominated organisational representatives from Armadale Health and Armadale Police at this time

Option 1 is recommended.

Conclusion

It is appropriate at this time to amend the Terms of Reference as recommended by the Community Safety Advisory Committee and appoint all nominated deputies and organisational representatives as mentioned above.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

- a. **Endorse the following inclusion in the Terms of Reference for the Community Safety Advisory Committee**

Membership

4.3 Council may appoint a deputy to act on behalf of the City of Armadale CSAC members of committee, whenever that member is

Community Development

unable to be present at a meeting, and while doing so has all the powers of that member.

- b. Appoint the following organisational representatives as members to the Community Safety Advisory Committee:**
 - i. Ms Una Bridson, Clinical Manager Adult Mental Health as the Armadale Health representative**
 - ii. Senior Sergeant Russell Gardiner, Officer in Charge as the Armadale Police representative.**

- c. Appoint the following deputies to the Community Safety Advisory Committee:**
 - i. Constable Brendon Cassey as Deputy Member for Armadale Community Policing;**
 - ii Ms Bev Wright as Deputy Member for Neighbourhood Watch;**
 - iii. Ms Kelly South as Deputy Member for Dept. of Housing and Works.**

****ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Community Development

LEASE OF BEDFORDALE HALL – SUNSHINE WELFARE ACTION MISSION WA (SWAMI)

WARD Armadale
FILE REF: A177897
DATE 12 January 2005
REF YC
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER Manager Community Development

In Brief:

This item presents information in relation to the Sunshine Welfare Action Mission WA (SWAMI) application to lease the Bedforddale Hall and informs Council that the group has since withdrawn its application.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

- To foster a supportive and caring community.
- To have in place a range of services to meet community needs.
- To improve the overall well being and safety of the community.

Legislation Implications

Section 3.58 Local Government Act 1995 – Disposing of Property. This section prescribes how a property shall be disposed of and defines leasing in its definition of ‘disposal’.

Regulation 30(2)(b) Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1966 – Dispositions of property to which section 3.58 of the Act does not apply.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Council policy ADM2 –Property Lease Rentals

The City has a preference to lease, where possible, land and/or facilities under City ownership or control to non-commercial groups/organisation, by charging rentals at a rate less than market valuation and subsidising legal costs incurred in the establishment of the lease.

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Bedforddale Residents

Ward Councillors

SWAMI

Community Development

BACKGROUND

Council at its 5 October 2004 Meeting resolved the following after considering a report regarding the application from Sunshine Welfare Sunshine Welfare Action Mission WA (SWAMI) to lease the Bedforddale Hall.

- C138/9/04
1. *That Council, as part of its further deliberations on the request to lease the Bedforddale Hall to the Sunshine Welfare Action Mission WA Inc., on an exclusive basis for a period of five years, survey the Bedforddale community for its views on the proposal, such survey to include a public meeting involving the Bedforddale Residents Association.*
 2. *That Council (following the survey referred to in part (1) of this recommendation) be provided with a further report on the proposal, such report to include but not be limited to, the feedback from the community survey and details of matters previously resolved for further investigation and report – prior resolution C110/7/04 part (d) refers.*

Resolution C11/7/04 part (d) - Investigate the safety of car-parking, the adequacy of the drinking water supply and the disabled access specifications required for the proposed SWAMI WA client base.

The public meeting was held on Monday 22 November 2004 and approximately 35 residents attended. The aim of the meeting was to provide information on the proposal and to allow residents the opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues. Representatives from SWAMI also attended in addition to Councillor Bob Tizard, Councillor Frank Green, Bedforddale Residents Association representatives and the City's Manager Community Development.

A number of issues were raised including:

- Bedforddale Hall as a community facility and icon of the area.
- Particular issues with SWAMI's activities and service provision, intended upgrades to the Hall and their future plans for possible expansion.
- Other alternative venues for use if the Bedforddale Hall was not available.
- Other Management options.

At the conclusion of the meeting residents were informed that a survey would be distributed to all Bedforddale residents seeking their opinion. All the information would be collated and presented to Council before a decision was made on the future use of Bedforddale Hall.

Since that time, Council officers have had further discussion with representatives from SWAMI and based on the outcomes of the public meeting, the group has now withdrawn their application. SWAMI are committed to being an asset to the community in their service provision and do not want to be seen as a competitor with the local community for the use of a local community facility.

Community Development

As the Bedforddale Residents were anticipating a survey form to be distributed as stated at the public meeting, a letter detailing the outcomes of the public meeting and SWAMI's application withdrawal was delivered to all residents in its place in December 2004. The letter also requested any interest from other local non-profit community groups in relation to Council resolution C110/7/04 part (f) which was:

Advise other local non profit community groups of the availability of the Hall for lease, management agreement or hire in the event that SWAMI WA does not proceed with the proposed lease agreement.

There has been limited advertising and no applications or expressions of interest have been received to date.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

Council officers will continue to support SWAMI in sourcing a suitable venue for its activities, however at this stage no other appropriate Council facility has been identified.

There have been no requests from local non-profit community groups to lease the Bedforddale Hall, however advertising has been limited. It is not intended to actively advertise the availability of the City's facilities at this point, other than for casual hire, pending further development of a community facility infrastructure plan for the City. To advertise one facility in isolation of the others, together with the lack of an overall plan for the City is considered to be premature at this stage.

Council Policy is that the City has a preference to lease, where possible, land and/or facilities under City ownership and officers will continue to support and assist non-profit community groups and organisations who wish to enter into these arrangements with the City on an as needed basis.

COMMENT

The development of a community facility infrastructure plan has been the subject of an internal cross directorate working group. Use of existing facilities, planning for new facilities and Lease/Management agreements will be issues that will be considered by this group in its overall strategic planning.

RECOMMEND

That Council receives the report on the outcomes of the public meeting held regarding Sunshine Welfare Action Mission WA Inc's (SWAMI) application to lease the Bedforddale Hall and note SWAMI's subsequent decision to withdraw that application.

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Community Development

CHURCHES COMMISSION CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM – DONATION

WARD ALL
FILE REF: DON1
DATE 14 January 2005
REF YC
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

This item recommends a \$1,500 donation to the Churches Commission Chaplaincy Program. The donation is in place of the Chaplaincy Breakfast which has previously been co-ordinated and funded by the City.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

To encourage community participation and responsibility.

To foster ownership, pride and a supporting and caring community.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

COMD1 Requests for Council Assistance

Budget/Financial Implications

Members' Functions – Catering for Meetings. (PC 8.8001.801.142.702) has provision for the Chaplaincy Breakfast.

The recommended \$1,500 will be allocated from this Account, but for future Annual Contributions there will be a requirement to vary the City's budget to decrease this account by \$1,500 and increase the Donations / Annual Contributions budget by the same amount.

Consultation

Churches Commission on Education

Mayor

Corporate Relations & Personal Assistant

Executive Director Community Services

BACKGROUND

The City has for a number of years been responsible for the co-ordination and organisation of the Chaplaincy Breakfast which ultimately benefits the Churches Commission on Education. The cost to Council is in excess of \$1,500 per annum.

The primary aim of the Chaplaincy Breakfast is to raise funds for the Chaplaincy Programme to which Council also currently contributes an amount of \$10,000 per annum.

Community Development

There have been challenges in co-ordinating the event in recent years, with difficulties being experienced in co-ordinating dates and times, guest speakers and other arrangements. Attendances have also been decreasing.

Churches Commission on Education representatives had suggested that the event could be varied and possibly relocate it to another venue, however further discussion on these matters has resulted in an agreement that Council donate an amount to the Commission equivalent to the cost it normally expends on the event. The Churches Commission may then co-ordinate and organise the event or may elect to utilise the funds to directly benefit the Chaplaincy Programme.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

That Council donate \$1,500 to the Churches Commission Chaplaincy Program in place of co-ordinating and providing the Annual Chaplaincy Breakfast. This in effect increases the current Annual Contribution from \$10,000 to \$11,500.

COMMENT

The Chaplaincy Breakfast has been a successful event and has been beneficial in creating support for the Chaplaincy Program. The donation is appropriate given that the Chaplaincy Breakfast was used by the Churches Commission on Education as a fundraising event primarily for the Chaplaincy Program.

RECOMMEND

That Council donate an amount of \$1,500 (inclusive of GST) towards the Churches Commission Chaplaincy Program in place of co-ordinating the Annual Chaplaincy Breakfast.

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Community Development

***CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ARMADALE – ARMADALE REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (ARA) STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP***

WARD ALL
FILE REF: GRT/1
DATE 17 January 2005
REF CA
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

- The report recommends that a Councillor be nominated to represent the City on the “Creative Communities Steering Committee” established by the Armadale Redevelopment Authority (ARA) for the purposes of progressing the *Creative Communities* project and overseeing the work of the Consultant appointed by the ARA.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Relates to Council’s aims to:

- Achieve a better quality of living for the people of our community;
- Achieve an integrated local economy;
- Strategic Planning including community consultation;
- Have in place a range of services to meet community needs;
- Create an integrated metropolitan centre with a full range of services
- Continue our whole of government approach in the provision of infrastructure to our community;
- Maintain and improve the physical infrastructure to meet the needs of the local community;
- Maintain and improve technologies to enhance decision making, communication and service delivery.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil at present however aspects of the “Creative Communities” plan may require Council to consider financial support for the implementation of strategies and initiatives contained within the plan.

Consultation

Armadale Redevelopment Authority

Community Development

Initial workshops with key stakeholders have been held and the proposed plan is contingent on substantial community consultation.

BACKGROUND

Following consideration of a report to the August 2004 City Strategy Committee Meeting, Council Resolved (CS44/8/04) in part to:

Endorse, in principle, the direction as outlined in this report and the attached “Road map to becoming a Creative Community”.

For ease of referral, some of the information provided in the earlier report is again provided as part of the background to this matter.

In October 2003 the Hon Mal Bryce AO, Chairman of the Industry Communications and Technology Forum, hosted a seminar in Armadale titled “the Knowledge Economy and the Creative Community”. Mr Bryce advocated that the creative community is not imposed from an external source, but is the result of a community deciding to reach out and engage rather than allowing itself to be ignored by the global knowledge economy. The seminar explored some of the key challenges faced by Armadale in the context of positioning in the knowledge economy.

As a result of the seminar and the community feedback received, the Armadale Redevelopment Authority (ARA) determined to embark on a community driven *Creative Communities Armadale* project with the support of the City of Armadale.

On the 29th July 2004 the ARA and the City jointly agreed to organise a workshop titled *Creative Communities Armadale*. A Reference Group made up of the region’s key stakeholders was invited to develop the direction for *Creative Communities Armadale* in the context of positioning Armadale within the knowledge economy. The City was represented by the Mayor, Cr Zelones, the CEO and the Executive Director Community Services.

The aim of *Creative Communities Armadale* is to extract social, economic and competitive benefit within and for the Armadale region from the use of ICT and the forging and fostering of social partnerships between all stakeholders is acknowledged as a critical component to facilitate this aim. *Creative Communities Armadale* will focus on revitalising the economy, re-badging the Armadale region and creating an entrepreneurial spirit across all community sectors and will add value in the interlinked key component areas of:

- Communication Infrastructure (Broadband infrastructure);
- Community Capacity (ICT skills, digital literacy, education and community access);
- Enterprise Development (ICT business incubator and mentoring); and
- Sustainability Showcase (environmentally sustainable developments).

As part of the outcome of the workshop a draft *Creative Communities Armadale* Strategic Plan was prepared with the aim of creating an overarching framework and implementation plan that would strategically position Armadale within the context of the knowledge economy

Community Development

as a vital component of the region's strategy for sustainability. This strategy will be underpinned by the guiding principles of:

- Sustainability
- Deliverability
- Value
- Social inclusion
- Environment

The draft *Creative Communities Armadale* plan was used to support an application by the City to the Outer Metropolitan Community Fund administered by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development in August 2004. At the same time the ARA undertook to appoint a Consultant who could independently progress elements of the plan and specifically a detailed research, analysis and benchmarking of the current state of the region's telecommunications infrastructure, with particular reference to broadband connectivity and digital literacy in the community.

It was envisaged that, when approved, the *Creative Communities Armadale* Plan would become the basis for developing a regional 5 year ICT strategy in response to, and interpretation of, the Government's strategy for technology development within the State. The plan would have social inclusion and equity at its heart addressing the digital divide both within the region and as a region ensuring participation by all sectors of the community. Its focus would be on forging social partnerships, engagement and cooperation with government agencies and in particular, innovative ways of taking ownership over enterprise development will need to be explored to ensure tailored targeted delivery of a range of extension services in the field of digital literacy / e skills development, such as workshop programs, promotions for inward investment, funding support and financial sustainability of components of the Creative Communities strategy.

The Creative Communities Reference Group at its meeting in July identified the framework and key components of the strategic plan, aligned to the general direction and areas of focus for the Armadale region. The next steps were to:

- Carry out scoping / audits of the key components,
- Facilitate sector specific Reference Groups and conduct workshops,
- Foster social partnerships,
- Provide a web presence and community advocacy functionality to assist in delivering the strategy,
- Finalise the plan with regard to the steps above.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

Although the application by the City to the Outer Metropolitan Community Fund to support this project was not successful the ARA has progressed elements of the project, specifically through the appointment of a Consultant to undertake a detailed research, analysis and benchmarking of the current state of the region's telecommunications infrastructure with particular reference to broadband connectivity and digital literacy in the community.

Community Development

In order to maintain momentum and progress in this project the ARA has created a Steering Committee to oversee the work of the Consultant. The chair of the Committee is Cr Zelones and the Executive Director of the ARA will also be represented on the Committee. The ARA has now requested that the City of Armadale nominate an elected member representative. Given the nature of the project, the Chief Executive Officer has also nominated the Executive Director Community Services, who has been involved with this project since the workshop in July 2004, and the City's Manager Information Technology.

COMMENT

This project represents another opportunity for the City and ARA to work together to develop a community plan, focussed on ICT infrastructure, community capacity, enterprise development and sustainability. Whilst unsuccessful for grant funding on this occasion the opportunity to use this project to leverage future grant and other funding to support this project is significant and should allow for its development through the contracting of suitably qualified and experienced individuals who can research, analyse and develop a plan for the region.

It is envisaged that this project will continue to be managed by the ARA in conjunction with the City.

Options

Committee can choose to recommend to Council that:

- 1) a Councillor from the Community Services Committee be nominated;
- 2) a Councillor representative from another Committee be nominated;
- 3) no nomination be made at this time.

Option one (1) is recommended.

Conclusion

The Creative Communities plan for Armadale is one that has the potential to generate significant benefits for the Community and, as mentioned above, has wide reaching implications in relation to:

- Communication Infrastructure (Broadband infrastructure);
- Community Capacity (ICT skills, digital literacy, education and community access);
- Enterprise Development (ICT business incubator and mentoring); and
- Sustainability Showcase (environmentally sustainable developments).

It is a project that has broad community benefit and is an area that needs to be developed and expanded. Many communities have undertaken similar projects of varying scales and are keen to develop and sell their image as a *knowledge, information, networked, learning, connected, and/or creative* communities.

Community Development

RECOMMEND

- 1. That Cr be nominated to represent the City on the “Creative Communities Steering Committee” established by the Armadale Redevelopment Authority (ARA) for the purposes of progressing the *Creative Communities* project and overseeing the work of the Consultant appointed by the ARA.**
- 2. That the matter also be referred to full Council in the event that any member wishes to nominate.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Community Development

DOB IN A HOON PROGRAM FOR ARMADALE

WARD All
FILE REF: ORG/070
DATE January 2005
REF MW
RESPONSIBLE Community
MANAGER Development
Manager

In Brief:

- This item outlines a proposal for the City of Armadale to participate in a 'Dob in a Hoon' program as part of its community safety initiatives and as a way of contributing to safety on local streets.
- The item recommends that the 'Dob in a Hoon' program be supported in principle and that its feasibility and implementation in Armadale be investigated.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

- To encourage community participation and responsibility
- To improve the overall well-being and safety of the community

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Under investigation

Consultation

City of Gosnells
Armadale Police
Community Safety Advisory Committee
Roadwise Committee
Coordinator Support Services

BACKGROUND

The City of Gosnells initiated their 'Dob in a Hoon' program campaign in March in 2004 to coincide with the implementation of new State Government "anti hoon" legislation. It was developed to reduce incidences of anti social behaviour and excessive speed. **(Refer to Attachment "A-2"- Summary of Attachments – buff page.)**

Community Development

The program involves:

- A partnership between a key contact within the local Police Traffic Branch and Council
- Creating a database (ie Microsoft Access) of reported information from the public
- Officer time once a week in sending report originals to Police (1- 2hrs per wk)
- Maintenance of database and reporting statistics
- Monthly reports to be submitted to Police, Road Wise Committee and Community Safety Advisory Committee

The program has benefits in providing continuity in reporting problem areas through the creation of a database giving an accurate picture of specific places within the community for police to target. At present any complaints received by the City of Armadale are directed to Police at the traffic branch. Different Police officers handle complaints and there is limited data collected and retained so it is difficult to gauge the extent of problem(s) related to this behaviour. As an indication of potential workloads at present the City of Gosnells receive on average six calls a week regarding hoon type incidences.

The success of the Gosnells ‘Dob in a Hoon’ program hinges on combining with other proactive programs together with efficient and effective responses by the Police. Offenders are prosecuted but other options such as referral of offenders to Quit Motorplex and their ‘Safe Streets’ program are utilised as well.

The Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) and Roadwise Committees are still to be formally consulted in regards to details of the ‘Dob in a Hoon’ program and its proposed adoption in Armadale.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

There is the potential to develop a coordinated approach between the City of Armadale, Armadale Police and the community, to combat excessive speed and anti social behaviour, in creating a ‘Dob in a Hoon’ program in a local context. Initial funding required, according to the Gosnells model, appears to be minimal and may include purchase of computer data software and marketing, which could be sourced out of Community Safety Initiatives Budget. Armadale Police have also offered to assist in covering these costs. Costs associated in marketing such an initiative via fliers have been quoted currently at \$478 per 1000x colour A4 folded brochures (depending on detail and design) as attached to this Agenda at Attachment “A-2”. These could be disseminated in the City of Armadale Libraries and throughout existing community safety networks. The community’s first point of contact would be to contact the City of Armadale’s Community Development Officer and lodge details of an incident. The telephone number could be advertised on the City of Armadale website and through the City’s newsletter. The Community Development Officer would then collate received information on the data base and forward incident details to Police for their follow up. Results of police actions and any apprehensions can be fed back by Armadale Police for collation on the database.

Community Development

COMMENT

Analysis

The City of Gosnells have piloted the ‘Dob in a Hoon’ program for 12 months with apparent benefits being an increase in local safety, along with offending drivers being apprehended and or diverted to driving education programs. The City of Armadale could replicate similar outcomes if adopted in an Armadale context. City of Gosnells Officers have cited minimal maintenance and running costs for the project.

As with all such programs the key to its success will be the outcomes created. It will be important for the Police to respond to and action issues as they arise with feedback being provided to residents. This will generate a sense of “belief” in the project and its benefits to the community. This in turn will be dependent upon the resources available to the Police to follow up and action these matters. This aspect will need to be discussed by both Advisory Committees when they meet to discuss the implementation of this program.

The next steps in progressing this project would be to develop a detailed proposal of the program being remodelled in Armadale, along with its further feasibility being explored through the Roadwise and the Community Safety Advisory Committees. Subject to Committee endorsement, implementation could be relatively quick and efficient.

Options

1. Endorse, in principle, ‘Dob in A Hoon’ proposal with Council officer to continue investigating feasibility and implementation of program in Armadale through Roadwise and Community Safety Advisory Committees
2. Not to approve the further investigation and proposed implementation of ‘Dob in a Hoon’ campaign in Armadale

Option 1 is recommended

Conclusion

The success of ‘Dob in a Hoon’ type program creates links between Council, community and Police and leads to the apprehension and diversion of community members using excessive speed into speed safety programs. Such a program if adopted could be of benefit in abating excessive speed or anti social behaviour experienced in Armadale.

Community Development

RECOMMEND

That Council:

- a. **Endorse, in principle, the proposal to develop and operate a ‘Dob in a Hoon’ program with Council officers to continue investigating feasibility and implementation of the program in Armadale in consultation with the Roadwise and Community Safety Advisory Committees.**

- b. **Subject to satisfactory approval by the Roadwise and Community Safety Advisory Committees, implement the ‘Dob in a Hoon’ program and provide an update report to a future Community Services Committee.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Library & Heritage Services

****PUBLIC HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – FILLING OF VACANCY**

WARD ALL
FILE REF: CTE/5
DATE 14 January 2005
REF PLW
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

- Ms Kristie Jenkins has resigned as the Heritage Country Tourism Association (Inc.) representative on the Public History Advisory Committee.
- The report recommends that the nomination by the Heritage Country Tourism Association of Mr David Smith as its representative on the Public History Advisory Committee, be approved.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Communication

The effectiveness of Council's communication with the community: We will measure this by the level of the range of mechanisms available for community input into Council's decision-making.

Legislation Implications

Assessment of legislation indicates that the following regulations apply:

Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.8 to 5.18

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

General assessment has not revealed any applicable Policies / Local Laws.

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Public History Advisory Committee

BACKGROUND

Council approved the recommendation of Ms Kristie Jenkins to the former History House Museum Management Committee, as the Heritage Country Tourism Association (HCTA) representative, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on 5 August 2003. Ms Jenkins has recently resigned from the HCTA. Advice received from the HCTA is that Mr David Smith is their recommended representative to the Public History Advisory Committee (formerly History House Museum Management Committee).

Library & Heritage Services

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The proposal is that Council approve the nomination of Mr David Smith as the Heritage Country Tourism Association representative on the Public History Advisory Committee.

RECOMMEND

1. **That Mr David Smith be appointed as the Heritage Country Tourism Association representative on the Public History Advisory Committee.**
2. **That Council note that the term of all members of the Public History Advisory Committee and all other Council Committees, will expire at the next Ordinary Council elections in May 2005.**

****ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Library & Heritage Services

PUBLIC LIBRARY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

WARD All
FILE REF: LIB/1
DATE 17 January 2005
REF PLW
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

The report recommends that Council writes to both the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the President of the Western Australian Local Government Association, acknowledging the work and commitment by both parties to achieve a successful outcome of the Framework Agreement for the provision of Public Library Services in WA, and committing the City of Armadale to continue to support the enhancement of public library service delivery through its support of the Joint Advisory Committee that is to be established under the Framework Agreement.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

To achieve a whole of government approach in the provision of infrastructure to our community.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

BACKGROUND

In an agenda item to Council in 2004, the following was reported:

Council will be aware from numerous other reports that a new Framework Agreement for the delivery of the public library service in Western Australia has been the subject of negotiation between State and local government now for some four years. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 17 October 2000 and it was

Library & Heritage Services

anticipated that this would underpin an anticipated 18-month negotiation of an overarching Public Library Framework Agreement that would take WA's network of public libraries into the 21st century.

While there was agreement on many of the matters considered by the Framework Agreement Negotiating Committee, the matter of State government funding for the public library system was the cause of the Framework Agreement stalling.

A recent Infopage received from the Western Australian Local Government Association related to the Public Library Framework Agreement outlines the current status that is seen as a major breakthrough in progressing the Framework Agreement.

In essence, until now the State Government has not been prepared to articulate any standards in the Framework Agreement. It was only prepared to: 'Commit to provide funding which will progress towards the achievement of optimum standards for resource provision to public library services'. Local Government was requesting the State to 'Commit to capital funding standards for resources whereby: Base stock provision is 1.25 items per capita; and replacement stock provision is a rate of 12.5% per annum'.

Council will recall that WALGA, together with the Local Government Librarians Association, ran a successful lobbying campaign earlier in the year, that resulted in the State committing an additional \$10.3M towards public libraries over the next four years in its forward estimates, of which \$8.8M is allocated for additional stock. The State Library has now stated that it is confident, that by the end of 2007/08, it will be approaching the Library Board standards of base stock provision of 1.25 items per capita and replacement stock provision at a rate of 12.5% based on forward estimates.

This has resulted in the State being prepared to commit in a four year Framework Agreement to the dollars allocated in the forward estimates and to articulate in the Agreement recognition of the Library Board of WA standards. So while the State will not commit 100% to actually achieving the standards, they are now prepared to acknowledge the standards as a minimum and they have advised that they are confident of coming close to achieving those standards over the next four year period.

WALGA is now seeking feedback from Local Government on the acceptance of the State's position.

As a result of the feedback received, WALGA advised the State Government that local government was prepared to enter into a four year agreement for the provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.

As a result a Framework Agreement was signed between State and Local Government on 20 December 2004. A copy of the Framework Agreement is attached. **Refer to Attachment "A-3" – Summary of Attachments – buff page.)**

Library & Heritage Services

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The proposal is that the City of Armadale writes to both the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the President of the Western Australian Local Government Association as the signatories to the Framework Agreement, acknowledging the work and commitment by both parties to achieve a successful outcome of the Agreement, and committing the City of Armadale to continue to support the enhancement of the public library service delivery through its support of the Joint Advisory Committee that is to be established under the Framework Agreement.

COMMENT

Analysis

The following statement was made by Ricky Burges, Chief Executive Officer of WALGA in respect of the new Framework Agreement:

“Delivery of the public library service is a unique partnership between State and Local Government. The Framework Agreement enshrines key principles for the provision of the service, defines the mutual and respective roles of State and local Government and provides an overarching set of principles under which individual agreements between each Council and the Library Board will be developed. Within the Framework there is the autonomy and flexibility for Local Government to develop local level agreements in response to community needs.

The Framework delivers substantive benefits to Local Government including: committed State Government funding, a definition of core services that the State will provide free to Local Government, and acknowledgement of the resource level required to deliver an effective service, and, for the first time, a process for joint decision making in public library service provision. Local Government’s commitments under the Framework include: the provision of physical and technological infrastructure, staffing and operating costs to agreed standards, the establishment of collection development policies which align with community needs and an assurance that the State’s assets are properly managed. In addition Local Government core services are defined. The implementation of the Framework will be through a Joint Advisory Committee with equal State and Local Government representation.

I would like to thank all Councils who contributed to the development of Local Government’s policy position over the four years of negotiation and the WA Local Government Librarians Association who provided valuable support on the negotiating committee.”

Options

N/A

Library & Heritage Services

Conclusion

State and Local Government have spent four years negotiating this Agreement, so it is appropriate that the City of Armadale writes to both the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the President of the Western Australian Local Government Association as the signatories to the Framework Agreement, acknowledging the work and commitment by both parties to achieve a successful outcome of the Agreement, and committing the City of Armadale to continue to support the enhancement of public library service delivery through its support of the Joint Advisory Committee that is to be established under the Framework Agreement.

RECOMMEND

That the City of Armadale write to both the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the President of the Western Australian Local Government Association, as the signatories to the Framework Agreement, acknowledging the work and commitment by both parties to achieve a successful outcome of the Agreement, and committing the City of Armadale to continue to support the enhancement of public library service delivery through its support of the Joint Advisory Committee that is to be established under the Framework Agreement.

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Miscellaneous

PIONEERS' REUNION VENUE

WARD All
FILE REF: SOC/9
DATE 21 January 2005
REF YW
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

- This report seeks approval to change the current practice of rotating the Pioneers' Reunion between the Roleystone, Kelmscott and Armadale Halls to holding it at the Armadale District Hall on a permanent basis.
- It is recommended that Council approve the Armadale District Hall as the venue of choice for holding future City of Armadale Pioneers' Reunion functions.

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Social Infrastructure - to encourage community participation and responsibility.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Corporate Relations & Personal Assistant – Mayor's Office

BACKGROUND

This matter was raised by Cr Wallace at the Community Services Committee of 23 November 2004 under Councillors' Items (C175/11/04):

“Officers be requested to investigate holding the Pioneers' Reunion at the Armadale Hall on a continuous basis rather than at various venues throughout the district as is the current practice.”

To qualify to become a “pioneer” of the City of Armadale a person has to have been:

1. resident in the district from 1900 to 1920 for a period of 10 years or more;
2. resident in the district for 40 years or more, before 1st January 1990;
3. resident in the district for 50 years, continuously or otherwise.

Traditionally it has been the practice to hold the Pioneers' Reunion at the Armadale, Kelmscott and Roleystone Halls on a rotational basis.

Miscellaneous

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

Council's approval is sought to change the present practice of rotating the Pioneers' Reunion between the Armadale, Kelmscott and Roleystone Halls and for the function to be permanently held at the Armadale District Hall.

Research has indicated that over the last three years the number of persons qualifying to attend the Pioneers' Reunion has increased from 405 to 436 people, with approximate numbers attending, rising from 200 to 250, placing an extra demand on servicing the function, i.e. catering and administration costs.

The rationale for holding the function permanently at the Armadale District Hall is multifaceted, i.e.

- increased access to public utilities, such as train and bus services for participants;
- the close proximity of the Armadale District Hall to the City of Armadale Administration Centre which will enable ease of access for catering and support staff who need to set up and attend the function.
- a decrease in staff time/wages spent in transporting equipment to and from the Roleystone and Kelmscott Halls (not so far to travel);
- a decrease in administrative work in not having to rotate the venue;

Options

1. Permanently hold the Pioneers' Reunion at the Armadale District Hall providing a savings in administration time and cost. Also to be considered is the greater convenience of public transport for participants and proximity to the City of Armadale Administration Centre enabling ease of access for catering and support staff who need to set up and attend the function.
2. Continue the current practice of rotating the Pioneers' Reunion at the Armadale, Kelmscott and Roleystone Halls, with its resultant loss of convenience, higher cost and time requirement and decreased access to public transport.

Option 1 is recommended.

RECOMMEND

That Council approve the Armadale District Hall as the venue of choice for holding future City of Armadale Pioneers' Reunion functions.

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Ranger & Emergency Services

DOGS ON RESERVES

WARD	All
FILE REF:	DOG/1
DATE	January 2005
REF	BLW
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	Executive Director Community Services

In Brief:

Report on the problems associated with dogs defecating in public open space areas, and to identify management strategies to ensure dog owners are aware of their responsibilities.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Social Infrastructure – To have in place the range of services to enhance the well-being and safety of the community and to foster a professional environment for the effective governance and administration of the City's services.

Legislation Implications

Section 51 of the *Dog Act 1976*:

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Local Law Relating to Dogs:

- Clause 6.1 (Offence to excrete)
- Clause 5.1 (Place where dogs are prohibited absolutely)
- Clause 5.2 (Place which are dog exercise areas)

Budget/Financial Implications

Approximate cost for the supply and installation of each advisory sign would be \$120.

Approximate cost to supply and install a standard dog faeces disposal unit is \$280.

Current annual maintenance cost, which includes cost of bags and emptying the bins, is \$285 per unit.

Consultation

Elected Members

Manager Recreation Services

Manager Ranger & Emergency Services

Manager Parks & Reserves

Ranger & Emergency Services

BACKGROUND

Following consideration of a report to the September 2004 Community Services Committee Meeting, Council Resolved (C155/10/04) to;

Recommit the report on 'Dogs in Reserves' to a future Community Services Committee meeting".

For ease of referral, some of the information provided in the earlier report is again provided as part of the background to this matter.

Public open space management has changed dramatically in the last ten years and the range of recreation activities have expanded. There is now much more emphasis on efficiency and improved reserve management, whilst at the same time conflict in public parks appears to have increased, although not necessarily because of a higher incidence of problems. Dog owners have not been immune from these changes; increased restrictions have been imposed on their use of public open space either by requiring dogs to remain leashed or by outright banning.

That dogs should be allowed access to public open space is the basic premise of this report, and that dog access to public open space should be incorporated into urban animal management strategies and public open space/recreational plans. Dog owners are a significant group of parks and reserves users; on numbers alone dog owning households constitute a large number within the community. It is estimated that approximately forty two (42) percent of Australian households own one or more dogs.

Public parks and reserves are important environments in which owners can train and socialise their dogs in acceptable behaviour. Dogs also need ongoing exposure to the public to reduce boredom and pent up energy, which has been linked to behavioural problems such as aggression and excessive barking.

COMMENT

The problems generally attributed to dogs and their owners in the public realm include defecation, aggression to humans and other animals, barking and other nuisance behaviour, however this report will deal specifically with dogs defecating in public open spaces.

Despite Local Laws requiring a person in charge of a dog to remove and dispose of faeces deposited by their dog (penalty \$200) there is reluctance by a minority of dog owners to comply. There are a number of reasons for this; some dog owners, especially in large public areas, do not generally accept a dog defecating in a public area as anti-social behaviour or a health risk. Others believe that defecating by their dog is a behaviour that they have no control over, or that it is harmful to the dog not to defecate when it wants to. However studies have shown that it is possible to overcome much of this resistance by education, enforcement and the provision of services such as bins and bags for dog faeces in areas of heavy use by dog owners.

Ranger & Emergency Services

The City of Armadale requires dog owners to properly dispose of faecal deposits, and encouraging people to do this is best achieved through an integrated dog management program comprising **education, communication and enforcement**.

Education

Whilst it has been well documented that pet owner education is seen as a solution to dog associated problems, there is little details as to the type and content of education dog owners and the community need. Education programs could involve:-

- Creating an awareness of dog associated problems.
- Informing the community of Council policy.
- The legal obligations of pet owners.
- The management of the animals' behaviour.

It is recommended that, as part of its overall education strategy, the City of Armadale: -

- (a) Promote the defecating of dogs in public places as anti-social behaviour and that dog faeces is aesthetically displeasing and inconvenient to other users of these areas.
- (b) Ensure that education programs for dog owners and the community, to reduce dogs defecating in public place, includes:-
 - (i) The use of warning signs in public places where dogs are exercised
 - (ii) The display of posters relating to dogs fouling public places.
 - (iii) All dog training groups to include in their conditions of training, information on the correct disposal of dog faeces.

Defecation

Dog faeces in public open places, recreational areas and footpaths is a source of annoyance, aesthetically displeasing and considered to be a health risk.

Despite the general reluctance of many dog owners to remove their dogs faeces and dispose of it studies have shown that it is possible to overcome much of this resistance by education, enforcement and the provision of services such as bins and bags for dog faeces in areas of heavy use by dog owners.

By promoting fouling as anti social behaviour other members of the community remind dog owners that it is unacceptable when they see the dog defecating in a public place. Research in the United Kingdom suggests that promoting the health risk of dog faeces may be counter productive because of the small number of reported cases of catching diseases from this source.

It has been demonstrated that the provision of bins and bags for dog faeces will also encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs. The bins should be provided with a lid and bags affixed to the post. Special bins can be purchased for this purpose. Advisory signs are necessary at every entry point to a park or reserve, however these should not be substituted for other options such as those outlined above. The cost for the supply and installation of each advisory sign is \$120. The current cost to supply and install a standard dog faeces disposal unit is \$280.

Ranger & Emergency Services

Enforcement

Whilst education and the provision of services will change the behaviour of many dog owners, they will not be fully effective unless the City is prepared to take punitive action against dog owners who refuse to pick up their dog faeces, notwithstanding enforcement being limited by the difficulty of identifying the offending dog (owner).

Current Situation

The Manager Parks and Reserves reports that facilities for the collection of dog faeces is currently in place on the following reserves, each reserve has two (2) units.

Frye Park
Cross Park
Fancote Park
Rushton Park
Minnawarra Park
Sanctuary Lake
Creyk Park

Current annual maintenance cost, which includes cost of bags and emptying the bins, is \$285 per unit. Historically ten (10) bins per year are burnt or otherwise vandalised beyond repair, with the cost of replacement being in the vicinity of \$2,700.

The intent is that these facilities will continue to expand to other reserves within the City, particularly in response to requests from the public, however there has not been an allocation of funds in the current Parks and Reserves budget, other than for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of the bins already in situ.

In addition, Council currently has six reserves designated as “dog free”:

- Gwynne Park
- Bob Blackburn Reserve
- Morgan Park
- John Dunn Oval
- Springdale Park
- Memorial Park.

SUMMARY

In recent years local government authorities have favoured or introduced a range of specific programmes to encourage and make it easier for people to be more responsible e.g. disposable or reusable “pooper scooper” that owners either bring with them or use on site, plastic dog refuse disposal bags and on site facilities for the collection of dog faeces provided by the municipality and so on.

Ranger & Emergency Services

As part of the City's ongoing animal management strategy Ranger Services will carry out an audit of Council reserves for the purpose of identifying sites for additional bins for the disposal of dog faeces, in areas where there is a demonstrated need and locating signs relating to:

- ❖ The control of dogs.
- ❖ Council's local laws on the use of public open spaces (brief).
- ❖ The appropriate usage of bins for dog faeces.
- ❖ Which part of the reserve is an "on leash" area?

It is envisaged that this particular project will take place during the winter months following which a report on the audit will be forwarded to the Manager Parks with the appropriate recommendations.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

- a. **receive the report relating to Dogs in Public Open Space areas and support the conducting of a reserves audit throughout the City by Ranger Services for the purpose of identifying sites for the installation of both advisory signs and dog faeces disposal units;**
- b. **refer for consideration in the 2005-2006 budget an amount of \$5,000 for the installation and ongoing maintenance of additional signs and units.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Recreation

ARMADALE AQUATIC CENTRE – POOL BLANKET PROPOSAL

WARD All
FILE A173263/1
DATE 20 January 2005
REF PGQ
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

This report

- Presents a proposal for Council to provide pool blankets for use at Armadale Aquatic Centre; and;
- Recommends that Council support the proposal in principle and a net amount of \$37,000 be listed for consideration of funding in Council's 2005/06 draft budget for the purchase pool blankets, rollers and winch for the 50 metre pool.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Relates to Council's aim to maintain and upgrade physical infrastructure for the economic and physical well being of the local community.

Compliments the City of Armadale's Corporate Greenhouse Action Plan (2001), developed as part of the Cities participation in the Cities for Climate Protection program, in which the City has committed to reducing corporate greenhouse gas emissions, and set a reduction goal of 20% by 2010, based on 1998/99 levels.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Funds are presently not allocated in Council's 2004/05 budget or 15 year Financial Plan to purchase the pool blankets, however operational savings (gas & water consumption, and chemical usage) from the use of the blankets is likely to see the initial investment recouped within 4-5 years.

Consultation

Cr Munn
Environmental Planner
Regional Greenhouse Coordinator
Manager Armadale Aquatic Centre

Recreation

BACKGROUND

As part of Council’s overall strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the City, the Regional Greenhouse Coordinator has undertaken research on the feasibility of providing pool blankets for use at Armadale Aquatic Centre.

The Armadale Aquatic Centre is open to the public for a six-month period from mid October until mid April each year and is heated by a gas fired heating system. The majority of gas consumption occurs during the shoulder periods of the season i.e. at the start and finish of the season.

Approximately 5-6 years ago, the former Pool Manager investigated the feasibility of pool blankets and was able to obtain at no cost some second hand blankets from another centre. Although the pool blankets did deliver a small reduction in gas costs during the trial period, there were problems with the blankets needing to be manually put on each night after closing and taken off prior to opening each morning, the easterly winds blowing the blankets off during the night and vandal damage from unauthorised entry to the Centre. These operational problems meant that the purchase of new pool blankets was not pursued at the time however, advances in technology with the use of automated winching systems and improved heat retention of the blankets themselves, have made the proposal a more viable one.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to purchase thermal insulating blankets for the 50 metre and 25 metre pools at Armadale Aquatic Centre. The blankets would be stored on a series of mobile rollers and come with an automated electric winching system to enable easy movement of the blankets on and off the pools. Two options are presented for consideration i.e. Standard Thermal Blankets and Reversible Thermal Blankets:

Facility/Item	Standard Thermal Blankets	Reversible Thermal Blankets
<i>50 Metre Pool</i>		
Blankets	\$23,841	\$30,246
Rollers	\$9,180	\$9,180
Winch	\$6,318	\$6,318
Sub-Total	\$39,339	\$45,744
<i>25 Metre Pool</i>		
Blankets	\$10,208	\$12,648
Rollers	\$7,451	\$7,451
Sub-Total	\$17,659	\$20,099
Totals	\$56,998	\$65,843
<i>Note: Prices are subject to increases in 2005.</i>		

The Standard Thermal Blankets come with a 5-year warranty, and are suitable for most indoor and outdoor applications. Challenge Stadium purchased this type of blanket for the indoor 50-metre pool in 1991 and only replaced the blankets this year.

Recreation

The Reversible Thermal Blankets come with an 8-year warranty, and are a stronger product with a double thermal layer. An advantage of this type of blanket is that it can be put in over the top of lane ropes, thereby alleviating the need to remove lane ropes each night and reinstall them the next morning. Although there is a cost difference of approximately \$6,400, the Reversible Thermal Blankets are a superior product and if Council did wish to support the proposal, it would be recommended that this type of blanket be purchased.

Although funds are not provided in either Council's 2004/05 budget or the 15 year Financial Plan for this proposal, data obtained from the Terry Tysack Aquatic Centre, which has similar facilities to Armadale i.e. outdoor 50 metre and 25 metre pools, indicates potential for significant ongoing cost savings through the use of the pool blankets. In the year immediately after the pool blankets were installed at the Terry Tysack Centre, savings of approximately \$42,000 on heating costs were achieved for the six-month period from October to March.

With Council's recent decision to extend the pool season through until the end of the April School Holidays, the annual heating cost at Armadale Aquatic Centre has increased to approximately \$45,000. Information supplied by the manufacturer of the pool blankets indicates likely annual savings of approximately \$20,000 for the 50-metre pool, and \$8,000 for the 25-metre pool. If a conservative view was taken, annual savings of at least **\$20,000** on heating costs appear to be achievable through the use of the pool blankets.

The advantages and disadvantages of the proposal are summarised below:

Advantages

- Reduced annual gas heating costs of approximately \$20,000
- Reduced annual costs for water, electricity and chemical consumption. The amount of the savings are difficult to quantify but are estimated to be at least \$2,000 per year.
- Annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 200 Tons – e CO₂ (Tons of equivalent Carbon Dioxide). As well as the obvious environmental benefit, Council would be seen to be doing its bit to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improvements in water quality at the Centre by keeping out leaves & dust etc. that blow into the pools overnight.
- If Council does go ahead with the proposal to enclose the 50 metre and/or the 25 metre pools, the use of pool blankets would be strongly recommended in order to reduce condensation problems on the internal walls and roof, as well as reducing overnight heat loss.

Disadvantages

- Even with the use of the winching system, additional staff time would be required to put the blankets on each evening and take them off each morning. Over the course of the pool season, this would result in additional staffing costs of approximately \$5,000.

Recreation

- The pool blankets would take up space on the concourse and would be an extra thing to supervise to prevent children climbing on them and possibly injuring themselves and/or doing damage to the blankets.
- The pool blankets may be subject to vandalism caused by unauthorised overnight entry to the Centre.
- The price per unit of gas under the gas supply contract is based on consumption of a minimum volume of gas. If the City was to substantially reduce its gas consumption through the use of pool blankets, there will be an increase of approximately 10% in the cost per unit of gas for the lower volume of gas that is consumed. Over the course of the season this would add approximately \$2,500 per year to the cost of heating the water.

COMMENT

Analysis

The financial equation of the proposal is summarised as follows:

Capital Cost (allowing for price rise) \$68,000

Annual Savings

Gas consumption	\$20,000	
Water, chemicals & electricity	<u>\$2,000</u>	\$22,000

Additional annual costs

Staff	\$5,000	
Increased gas costs	<u>\$2,500</u>	\$7,500

Net annual saving **\$14,500**

Under the above “worst case” scenario, the pay back period on the purchase of the pool blankets is approximately 4 ½ years. Should the savings be more in line with the manufacturer’s calculations, the pay back period would be about 2 ½ years. If assessed purely on a financial basis, the proposal could be considered a reasonable investment.

Aside from the financial considerations, the proposal does have a significant environmental benefit with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It would also be a very positive public relations exercise for Council.

Given that Council does not have any funds currently included in its 15-year financial plan for this proposal, and the capital cost of purchasing the blankets is an unfunded project, Council may wish to consider the option of staging the purchase of the blankets over two financial years. This would reduce the financial impact of the proposal in year one, and allow

Recreation

the performance of the blankets to be assessed prior to committing to purchasing the additional blankets.

If this was Council's preferred option, it would be recommended that the blankets for the 50-metre pool be considered the initial priority. Although the blankets are more expensive than for the 25 metre pool, the 50 metre pool contains approximately 3 ½ times more water than the 25 metre pool, and provides the opportunity for the greatest savings in gas costs and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Allowing for price escalation, a budget allocation of \$48,000 would be required for the initial purchase of the pool blankets, rollers and winch. The estimated operational savings in year one would be approximately \$11,000, leaving a net contribution of **\$37,000** required from Council. Subject to the performance of the blankets in delivering cost savings, Council could then decide whether it wished to proceed with the purchase of additional blankets for the 25-metre pool at a later time.

Options

The main options available to Council with regard to this proposal are as follows:

1. Fund the purchase of the pool blankets as an unfunded project in 2004/05
2. List for consideration of funding in Council's 2005/06 an amount of \$68,000 to purchase pool blankets for both the 50 metre and 25 metre pools.
3. List for consideration of funding in Council's 2005/06 an amount of \$48,000 to purchase pool blankets for the 50 metre pools.
4. Decline the proposal

Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposal does have merit and is worthy of Council's consideration. For the reasons outlined in the report it is recommended that Council adopt the approach identified under Option 3.

RECOMMEND

1. **That in recognition of the likely ongoing cost savings and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, Council support in principle the proposal to provide pool blankets for use at Armadale Aquatic Centre.**
2. **That a net amount of \$37,000 be listed for consideration of funding in Council's 2005/06 draft budget for the purchase of pool blankets, rollers and winch for the 50-metre pool at Armadale Aquatic Centre.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

Recreation

RUSHTON PARK – PROPOSAL TO INSTALL ACCESS GATE

WARD Kelmscott
FILE REF: A178691
DATE 19 January 2005
REF PGQ
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

- This report responds to Council Resolution C182/12/04 requesting that officers investigate the closure of the Rushton Park (off Orlando Street) public car park after hours to reduce acts of vandalism and anti social behaviour.
- Recommends that a suitable gate be installed at the entrance of the car park off Orlando Street, and arrangements be made for the gate to be closed each evening and reopened to the public the following morning.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Relates to Council's aim to maintain and upgrade physical infrastructure for the economic and physical well being of the local community.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

The cost to install a suitable gate and sign is approximately \$2,000, and can be funded from Council's allocated budget (\$170,000) for the redevelopment of the site.

Some additional ongoing costs will be incurred to open and close the gate each day (approximately \$1,200 per year), which are currently not budgeted for. This will need to be considered at part of Council's 2005/06 Budget and 15 Year Financial Plan.

Consultation

- Ward Members
- Manager Parks
- Manager Property Services

Recreation

BACKGROUND

Following consideration of a report to the December 2004 Community Services Committee, Council Resolved (C182/12/04) in part as follows:

2. *Officers investigate the closure of the public car park after hours to reduce acts of vandalism and anti social behaviour. A further report be provided to the January 2005 Community Services Committee.*

The problem of anti social behaviour in the car park off Orlando Street has been going on for many years. Prior to the closure of the Kelmscott Pool, pool staff would often be faced with large amounts of broken glass in the car park and on the concourse of the pool upon arrival at work. Despite the use of security guards and requests to the Police, the problem has been an ongoing one.

Especially over the summer period, groups of young people use the car park during the evening as a meeting place and engage in anti social behaviour such as “burn outs”, drinking, graffiti, abusive language etc.

The problem has escalated over the summer period and many requests have been received for Council to take some action to reduce the incidence of anti social behaviour in the car park at Rushton Park.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The proposal is to install a suitable access gate slightly back from the entrance to the car park off Orlando Street, at an approximate cost of **\$2,000**.

The design of the car park provides several bays immediately upon entering the car park, which should be retained as unrestricted car parking for legitimate users of the park. The kerbing then narrows the access road into the rest of the car park and provides a suitable location for an access gate to restrict after hours entry to the main section of the car park.

It is also proposed that a suitable sign be installed at the entrance to advise users that the car park access gate will locked each evening.

Arrangements would be put in place for the car park access gate and the former pool toilets to be locked at a certain time each evening, and then reopened the following morning. It is envisaged that an honorarium of approximately \$1,000 - \$1,200 be paid to a local resident who is willing to undertake this simple task each day.

Recreation

COMMENT

Analysis

Although disappointing that Council should need to consider such action in order to reduce the anti-social behaviour that has been going on for some time, Council needs to be seen to be doing something to address this matter.

There is always the argument that restricting access to a particular area will simply relocate the problem somewhere else, and this is a real possibility. To do nothing however, is not considered an appropriate response from Council.

If Council is supportive of this proposal, and once the habit of young people using this area for anti-social behaviour is broken, Council may wish to go back to unrestricted access to the car park in the future. This option could be explored in the future if Council receives requests to revert back to full access to the car park.

Options

1. Install the access gate as proposed in this report.
2. Decline the proposal and request a greater Police response to address the ongoing problems

Conclusion

In order to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour at Ruston Park during the evening, it is recommended that a suitable access gate be installed at the entrance to the car park off Orlando Street, and arrangements be put in place for the gate to be locked each evening and reopened the following morning.

RECOMMEND

- 1. That in order to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour at Ruston Park during the evening, a suitable access gate be installed at the entrance to the car park off Orlando Street, and arrangements be put in place for the gate to be locked each evening and reopened the following morning.**
- 2. That an amount of \$1,200 be referred for consideration and inclusion in the 2005/2006 annual budget.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

LATE ITEMS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORTS

COUNCILLORS' ITEMS
