Wilson Park Master Plan
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Overview

Currently in initial draft form, this Master Plan will continue to be improved to provide a coordinated approach to the development of the sporting complex known as Wilson Park. Incorporating the sports of netball, touch football, junior cricket, soccer, rugby union and swimming related activities, the complex provides a foundation to community life and physical health within Glen Innes, particularly for our children.

Each of the representative bodies have opportunity to include their ideas for a strategic approach to the physical development of the site, funding opportunities and encourage community support of the facility within their respective organisations.

Sport plays a pivotal role in the development of our young people, builds community identity through representation at higher levels, and provides an opportunity for our young people to develop skills that they can take with them into their adult lives. The provision of a centralised sporting facility provides for the ability of the community to promote sport as a key foundation, and lifts the sense of energy and enthusiasm that our community places on the development of our young people through sport and physical exercise.

The following concepts have been put forward by various groups as a starting point for the ongoing development of this Master Plan. Some groups are more advanced in their planning than others; however, the opportunity now presents itself for all groups to assess their current and future needs and provide input through the review and development of this document.

Netball

INTRODUCTION

The Glen Innes Netball Association (GINA) has identified the need to redevelop its existing netball courts and facilities at Wilson Park.

Being a sport that is played in wet weather, the comfort of spectators is not catered for presently as no shelter exists adjacent to the courts. Amenities are located across the creek, and the condition of the existing asphalt courts is substandard. In recent times the success of GINA in achieving the right to host grand final fixtures has been let down by the condition of the facilities, and such games have been transferred to Armidale.

GINA is passionate about netball and the positive influence it can have on the community and its individuals. Netball promotes good health, offers recognition, enjoyment and a sense of belonging whilst allowing the players to build relationships and gain confidence. The core of this proposal is the sustainability of the association. Sustainability can only be achieved through providing high quality facilities which meet the needs and demands of this popular, fast paced sport. Therefore it is crucial to provide facilities capable of both sustaining and growing the current rates of participation.
VISION
GINA aims to contribute to building a community of healthy, confident and resilient girls and women through participation in a great competition. Netball qualifies as an opportunity for recreation and fitness as well as encouraging pro-social skills through interaction with team mates, opposition players, coaches and support volunteers, therefore directly contributing to the fight against obesity, drugs, violence and crime.

GOALS
- To deliver an effective local competition;
- To become an important part of the inter-regional competition program;
- To continue to identify and nurture talented athletes;
- To deliver a quality training facility;
- To inspire leadership through impact on social, education and health status of girls and women.

OBJECTIVES
- Improve the overall consistency, quality and accessibility of netball facilities;
- Support the participation, growth and sustainability of the Association;
- Provide a quality service to members.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
1. Non-compliance of Policy
The Association has identified the greatest area of need to be the non-compliance of the current courts with the Netball Australia’s National Facility Policy.

GINA currently has three (3) asphalt hard courts; unfortunately, these courts do not comply with Netball Australia’s requirements. The current facilities fail to meet specifications in the following areas: court dimensions, run-off dimensions and most importantly, court condition. The current court surface is not fit for purpose or safe for all weather play. Obstacle free run-off zones have not been allowed for and the bare asphalt has weathered and cracked. Stones have loosened and the surface has become abrasive and uneven. This causes injury and discomfort to players when they fall. The health and welfare of players, umpires and spectators is of paramount importance and these issues must be addressed and rectified to ensure the correct provisions are in place to enable the association to maintain the participation and enjoyment of community members.

2. Accessibility and utilities
The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and National Construction Code provide for the requirement for well supported infrastructure and amenities which are accessible and inclusive to all members of the community. The current court facilities fall short of this provision through a lack of both signage and safe, firm and accessible pathways to connect courts to car park area. Necessary amenities such
as a club room, changing and toilet facilities are non-existent. The site is also devoid of supporting utilities such as power and water.

3. Climatic conditions and first-aid

Netball is a winter, wet weather sport and Glen Innes is renowned for cold winds and rain in the playing season. Play often continues during these raining and windy conditions. However, unfortunately multiple netball rounds are cancelled due to water pooling on courts. Therefore, the provision of shelter, storage and seating offering protection from the weather for scorers, coaches, umpires and the administration of first-aid are essential; especially in the New England area of NSW.

4. Development of talented athletes

The GINA consistently produces athletes who are selected into the Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS). NIAS identifies and prepares talented sports people in the Northern Inland region allowing them to reach their maximum potential. Seven girls were selected in the 2014, 2015 and now 2016 squads. The GINA is also proud to have one of its members, Kirstie Fuller, appointed as Assistant Coach to the Under 17's NSW State Team. Lack of access to quality facilities has enforced greater travel demands on these athletes and their families.

5. Sustainability and growth

The opportunity for GINA to generate revenue through the participation and staging of major carnivals is impossible. Carnival hosting is reliant on a minimum of four (4) to five (5) compliant courts. This opportunity is not afforded to GINA because of the condition of the existing facilities. On average, a carnival could potentially raise $2500.

**DESIGN OVERVIEW**

Figure I
Google maps image showing existing netball courts and shared amenities block located on opposite side of creek.

Figure II
Google maps image showing basic proposed project design. Re-surfacing of two (2) existing courts, addition of two (2) new courts while allowing room for a further two (2) courts in order to meet future needs, construction of club house with changing and toilet facilities, planting of wind break.

Figure III
Draft of Club House.
Figure I Current Netball courts

Figure II Proposed improvements to netball facilities
Figure III - Draft of Club House
FUNDING

The indicated budget required from initial quotes is as follows:

- Resurface existing courts $28,000
- Construct 2 x new courts $165,000
- Construct new amenities $135,000

Funding is being sought from a range of sources including Local, State and Federal Governments along with the local community and private sector. As the more funding is accessed, the greater chance of achieving sustainable project outcomes.

Applications currently in progress include:

1. Netball NSW – letter of support (sgouveia@netballnsw.com).
2. Glen Innes Severn Council – approval (consent to implement project; DA approval; letter of support), financial support and or low interest loan.
3. Mr Adam John Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands – support and advice in securing government grants including Public Reserves Management Funding.
7. Commonwealth Bank Community Grants - $10,000.
9. Sponsorship Proposal – Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd, White Rock Wind Farm, for major sponsorship.
10. ClubGrants Category 3 Fund -$500,000 - $1 000,000. Subscription to mailing list for notification of next round of funding end 2016.
11. GINA – fundraising $10,000.
   Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser – in progress
   Book and Bric a Brac Fair – Saturday 2 April, Anglican Church Hall
   Coffee Incident BBQ – Celtic Festival Weekend
   Trivia Night – Saturday 28 May, RSL.
2 March 2016

Sally Floyd
Secretary
Glen Innes Netball Association
PO Box 35
Glen Innes NSW 2370

Dear Sally

Via email: gleninnesnetballassociation@gmail.com

Re: Glen Innes Netball Association Facility Development Project Proposal

On behalf of Netball NSW, I wish to formally support Glen Innes Netball Association and their facility development project proposal including the redevelopment of the existing two hard courts and an increase in standard of the available amenities.

Netball provides the basis for almost 115,000 registered members in NSW and over 200,000 school children to participate and enjoy the sport at all levels of participation across NSW. In 2015, the Northern Inland region, including the Glen Innes Netball Association registered 3,500 members, resulting in an increase of 20% from the previous year, indicating a growing interest in netball within this region.

Glen Innes Netball Association currently has access to 3 outdoor courts which are not compliant with the Netball Australia National Facilities Policy. The provision of an increased number of courts would enable the Association to enhance the delivery of their current programs and competitions, as well as attracting new participants into the region through the delivery of Carnivals, Clinics and/or school competitions.

Furthermore, with an increase in participation particularly for young women and children, it is critical to provide adequate access to acceptable standards of amenities including a club house and toilet/change rooms. These facilities would enable Glen Innes Netball Association to host events, support their regular competitions and provide storage for netball equipment, thus providing a more positive experience and safer environment for their members.

Netball NSW is proud to support the development of netball facilities within the Glen Innes area and if you require any further information please don’t hesitate to contact me on 9951 5000 or ccampbell@netballnsw.com.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Campbell
Chief Executive Officer
**Soccer**

The Glen Innes & District Football Association has identified a number of issues that need to be addressed to bring the soccer fields to an acceptable standard. These include the condition of the playing fields, spectator facilities and lighting.

The club is seeking funding and works to be carried out on the playing surface of Wilson Park. Last year with drought the playing surface became very cracked and uneven leaving long trenches and hollows along the fields. This could be remedied by regrading and topdressing the fields, and providing adequate irrigation to prevent cracking and associated ground movement during changes in season.

The club would also like to relocate the main seniors field to the front of the amenities block, to enable the use of change rooms, toilets, lights and canteen. At this stage the seniors field is in the far most corner from the facilities. Last season three (3) senior teams played every second Saturday on Wilson Park against travelling teams and there is a need to be able to accommodate these travelling teams in a more player and spectator friendly manner.

The club has over 250 registered players plus hundreds of players from clubs such as Armidale, Grafton, Warwick, Stanthorpe, Inverell, Tenterfield and Guyra travelling to play soccer on Wilson Park each year. This provides not only sporting opportunity, but also brings economic benefits to Glen Innes business houses.

The need for the main field to be adjacent to the club house is also very important for the seniors to be able to train under the lights at 6pm in winter on a full sized field. Having more than 50 senior players it is currently not possible to train under limited lighting on the current small field adjacent the club house.

A concept plan has been developed for the refurbishment of the amenities block to improve functionality as shown on the following page.
Proposed changes to amenities at Wilson Park soccer fields
**Glen Innes Swim Centre**

Detailed planning and construction is underway for the refreshment of the Glen Innes Swim Centre.

The main pool has been reconstructed as two (2) pools, a 25 metre lap pool with disabled access and a seven (7) metre learn-to-swim pool. Amenities have been refurbished, and the filtration system upgraded to comply with health requirements.

In the 2016 off-season further works will be undertaken to construct a clear wind break and a render will be applied to the amenities block to improve the visual appearance.

Wind Break to be constructed around Glen Innes Pool.
**Cricket**

The cricket wickets at the Wilson Park complex are not currently suitable for senior cricket, being located too close to boundaries. One of the pitches no longer has the synthetic surface due to deterioration.

It is proposed that the two (2) existing pitches be replaced by a pitch nearer the centre of the complex, allowing for senior fixtures to be played, particularly at times when other grounds are unavailable due to other events.

The construction of a two (2) metre high fence along Grey Street will assist in reducing the frequency of balls being hit onto the roadway.

**Touch Football**

No specific needs have been identified for touch football at this stage; however, other improvements will generally benefit this sport as well.

**Rugby Union**

The rugby union fields at Wilson Park have not been utilised in recent times due to the roughness of the playing fields. Topdressing and reinstating the field irrigation supply from Rocky Ponds Creek would address this issue.

**Other Sports**

Any proposals for other sports to be played within the Wilson Park complex are invited for assessment and inclusion in this Master Plan.