

Friday 20 March 2015

RESIDENTS RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ARGYLE/BOWLING CLUB SITE OPTIONS

Community response to the Council's proposed options to develop the Argyle Centre and Ryde Bowling Club sites has been positive.

Around 40 local residents attended a community meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss the Council proposals that would realise the sites' potential to generate income, provide housing and address the loss of community and recreational facilities for residents since the closure of the sites.

City of Ryde General Manager, Gail Connolly, whose presentation contained a history of the sites, explanation of the zoning, and strategic vision, said: "The community needed to be reassured that the sites would not be sold.

"Our strategic vision for the sites ensures that the future benefits of any development will flow back to the community.

"While the two sites sit side by side their zoning requires that they will be developed independently of each other but with an integrated vision."

The General Manager added that all of the comments and suggestions made by the residents which will be taken on board and presented in a report to Council in early May.

Options

Argyle Centre Site – Council owned land zoned B4 (mixed use).

Proposal is to construct a mixed-use building (residential and commercial/retail mix) similar in size to a building directly across Blaxland Road, that would provide some key workers housing within the community. The development could be funded from the Council's property investment portfolio reserve and borrowings.

Bowling Club Site – Crown land zoned REI – Public Recreation

Council will seek expressions of interest to develop the site in line with permissible uses that include facilities for community/environmental/indoor recreation/outdoor recreation/arts/culture, as well as restaurants and cafes and return to parkland.

The sites whose use dates from the early 1900s, sit side by side on a parcel of land on Blaxland Road at the south-west corner of Ryde Park. The Argyle site is owned by the Council while the Bowling Club is located mostly on Crown land, with the City of Ryde having care control and management of the land.

Residents are invited to complete the online survey at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/acbc

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