

### P City of Ryde RYDE OUTDOOR YOUTH SPACE INFORMATION SESSIONS FAQs

### Meadowbank Information Session with Police Officer Q&A Thursday, 9 March 2017 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Q&A with Crime Prevention Officer from Ryde Local Area Command located at the Gladesville Branch

1. Q: Do you have existing issues at the skate park in Macquarie Park (located at Ivanhoe Estate)?

A from Police: We do have issues at skate parks but these are no more or less than what we get at any other skate park or area such as Top Ryde Shopping Centre.

2. Q: There are current issues in the park at the moment like people lighting fires or driving cars on the grounds. How would the police address the additional issues that come with a skate park?

A from Police: We encourage people to report incidents, crimes and antisocial behaviour. We have limited resources and you may have to wait for us to respond but if there is an issue and it is occurring you should call us.

3. Q: Would a skate park increase these issues?

A from Police: It would not increase the problem, they are two different issues. A skate park won't become a policing hot spot. There is a skate park up the road from the Station (Gladesville Skate Park) that does not cause too much grief for us.

4. Q: Do you find with the skate park near you that it is used in the early hours?

A from Police: Not really, there is little lighting there which comes from Victoria Road. People have congregated there, but it is not a huge problem for us.

5. Q: Will Council provide more resources to the police if a skate park is built?

A from Police: No, not in relation to this project.

6. Q: There is a perception that skateboarders are drug takers and drug dealers and tattooed louts, from your experience what age groups are using the skate park in Gladesville?

A from Police: They vary from kids to adults.

# 7. Q: What is the current surveillance (active surveillance) around Gladesville park?

A from Police: Police do regular patrols of hot spots. However there is no regular patrol for the park.

# 8. Q: Youth hang around the wharf and there are major issues from a bad crowd.

A from Police: It is about safety by design and we patrol the area at night.

#### 9. Q: What does natural surveillance mean?

A from Police: It refers to the positioning of the park that is visible by motorists and residents from the street.

A from Convic: Natural surveillance means the park is visible to the street and people passing by can see what's going on in the park. This visibility limits the opportunity for crimes or bad behaviour to happen. This project can be an opportunity to remedy these current issues.

#### 10. So is it up to us in the community to look after the park?

A from Police: There should be ownership by everyone and community responsibility.

#### 11. Q: What about grafitti in the park?

A from Convic: The community will look after the park and clean up and protect it. Like other sports the users care for the space. You don't see tennis players ripping up a tennis court. They self-police it. If there is graffiti it will be removed immediately.

A from Police: Rapid removal is the key strategy for graffiti management and needs to be maintained.

### 12. Q: What is your involvement in this project?

A from Police: If this project were to go to a DA (Development Application) stage, that is where we get involved and look at elements like location, lighting and suggestions of CCTV.

### 13. Q: Will there be money provided to look after this facility?

A from Council: For a facility of this size we would have to have a high level of maintenance for the facility as well.

### 14. Q: How much influence do the City of Ryde have with the Police?

A from Police: The City of Ryde and the police operate independently. However we work with Council and apply safety by design principles when we look at development applications to reduce crime. So we do liaise with

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Council over a variety of issues. But no one has power over the other we work together.

15. Q: In 2005/2006 the police had no objection to a skate park in Ryde, as it was not shown to increase crime. In 2010 the police made a statement that skate parks provided no community benefit and were against a skate park. It is now 2017, does having a facility like a skate park increase issues with crime in an area such as Meadowbank Park?

A from Police: I can't comment on what was said back then. No, I can't say it would [increase crime]. We have no statistical evidence that shows that a skate park increases issues with crime. We have a couple of skate parks in our patrol and we don't have too many issues. I encourage everyone to report all crimes at the time to the police.

Police Q&A Session Ends

## 16. Q: Has Council decided it's these two parks, Eastwood Park and Meadowbank Park?

A from Council: The Skate Park Working Group formed in July 2015 and went through a process to evaluate about 10 open space parks in the area. These two parks best met the criteria. Council have asked us to consult on these two parks.

# 17. Q: It will impact and add pressure to the infrastructure in Meadowbank. Will infrastructure issues in Meadowbank be addressed?

A from Council: There will be some different use within the park, it will repurpose the space. Council does not have control of certain infrastructure outside the park.

# 18. Q: Is it true that they are looking to put a second story on the amenities block?

A from Council: I've heard that a club has approached the appropriate section within Council to discuss some options for the amenities block.

19. Q: You spoke about these types of facilities having close proximity to shops and accessibility to amenities close to the park, Meadowbank Park doesn't have this in the park, therefore if this proposal were to go ahead does this mean that there will be more development such as shops and other buildings in the park?

A from Convic: This doesn't mean the criteria for a skate park is to have this amenity within it. It means that when we look at a space for a skate park one

of the criteria we use is to look at how close it is to these amenities and give it a score based on proximity.

A from Council: At the most there may be a café but based on the current zoning that is the maximum we would be able to do if we were to put anything in.

**20. Q:** Is there a particular size we would need for this type of facility? A from Council: This depends on what the community would like to see in the area that will determine the size of the facility and what the park can allow for. There are also constraints that will need to be taken in to consideration.

# 21. Q: In 2010 they were going to put this design near the river and the cycleway, why has this changed?

A from Council: I can't speak to the decision in 2010. However I am aware that there is a project for fitness equipment along the river which has been installed at Meadowbank Park and will be installed in Anderson Park next.

#### 22. Q: What happens next?

A from Council: This is one part of the consultation we are doing. Convic will summarise all the feedback from the community and Council will provide a report to Councillors to make a decision on the way forward. There are two sessions on Saturday that looks at the design and concepts for these sites.

#### 23. Q: Who puts together the report?

A from Council: Convic will prepare the consultation report from the community feedback and provide it to Council staff. Council staff will then create a report for Councillors.

### 24. Q: If this was to go ahead is Convic the contractor?

A from Council: If this proposal were to go ahead, we would most likely go through either an EOI (expression of interest) or tender process as per council's procurement process depending on the cost of work and structure as this may be done in two parts being final detailed design and construction, or done as one part.

# 25. Q: Is there enough money in the budget to support a high level facility?

A from Council: The budget for the design and construction of the Youth Space is \$1.5 million. There will also be an annual operational budget for maintenance.

#### 26. Q: What type of facility does this money build?

A from Convic: The Freemantle example shown in the presentation was 1.9 million, so the facility would be a little smaller than that.

A from Council: The philosophy we take, which we currently use with our playgrounds is to scale a design where we may have a smaller space yet provide a better quality facility.