

Christie Park opening to take place this Friday

Published on 26 April 2018

The City of Ryde will unveil a new state-of-the-art facility this week with the opening of the new all-weather synthetic sports fields at Christie Park.

Christie Park is one of the most popular sporting venues in the City of Ryde and will now host home fixtures for local clubs within the area.

The two new sports fields at Christie Park are the first FIFA-accredited synthetic fields in the City of Ryde, and will guarantee consistent playing surfaces 365 days a year.

In addition to the all-weather synthetic sports fields at Christie Park, a new tiered seating section for 500 spectators has also been installed and one metre high perimeter fencing introduced around both fields. Cork has been used as the infill layer to provide cooler playing conditions, while netting can be found at the rear of the field to prevent balls from entering the adjacent Lane Cove National Park.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the opening of the new facilities at Christie Park was a brilliant outcome for athletes and fans that use the venue.

“The new facilities at Christie Park will revolutionise the sporting infrastructure here in Ryde. As we have seen with ELS Hall, synthetic pitches leads to less sporting fixtures being called off due to adverse weather events and ensures that sport can continue to be played all year round,” Cllr Laxale said.

“I would encourage everyone to come to Christie Park for the grand opening to see the new facilities first-hand that are now available for local sporting teams to take advantage of.”

The official opening of the new facilities at Christie Park will take place at the venue from Midday this Friday (27 April).

A free barbecue will be available for all of those in attendance.

Christie Park is located at 12 Christie Road, Macquarie Park, opposite Macquarie University.

Enough is Enough - City of Ryde seeks urgent exemption from Housing Code

Published on 20 April 2018

The City of Ryde will seek urgent exemptions from the State Government's new housing code, which once implemented could result in more than 60% of the Ryde local government area developed as blocks of flats, terraces and duplexes.

The resolution was agreed to by Councillors at an Extraordinary Council Meeting last night and follows the release of the new Medium Density Housing Code by the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, earlier this month.

It is anticipated that the changes to the housing code will mean the number of sites in the City of Ryde capable of being developed for medium density housing will jump from 4,082 to an estimated 14,465. This represents approximately 62.5% of all land in the City of Ryde.

Of greatest concern to Council is the introduction of "manor houses" to the City's low density zones. These are essentially a block of four flats that, from 6 July, will be able to be built on lots with a 15m frontage and a land area of only 600sqm. The City of Ryde estimates that 10,383 lots will be able to be developed into a block of flats using the code.

This could result in 41,532 new dwellings and more than 80,000 additional residents in the City of Ryde.

In addition, it allows the approval of medium density housing to be fast-tracked through the State Government's complying development approval pathway by a Council or accredited certifier rather than follow the standard development application process which the City of Ryde currently requires. Unlike the complying development approval pathway, the standard development application process includes consultation with local residents.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the City of Ryde had already bore the brunt of Sydney Metropolitan housing targets following the State Government's decision to rezone commercial space into residential to allow for an influx of high density housing.

"Now the character of our suburbs – the same ones we have fought so hard to protect – is under threat. Enough is enough," Cllr Laxale said.

"Unless the Minister reverses these changes, there will be bulldozers in every street in Ryde.

"Real estate agents are already licking their lips and are offering homes directly to developers. As of 6 July, blocks of flats will be able to be built in our quietest streets

adding more and more residents to our already congested roads and over-crowded schools.

“There are two people in NSW who can stop this - the Member for Ryde, the Hon. Victor Dominello, and the Planning Minister, the Hon. Anthony Roberts. I am now seeking an urgent meeting with these two to seek an exemption to the new housing code and request that Council’s own local planning controls prevail over State Government policy.

“I’ll also be asking Mr Dominello why he supported these extreme changes and why did Lane Cove Council get an exemption from manor house when the City of Ryde did not.”

TABLE 1 – POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

Note: all figures are rounded approximations only

	Ryde LEP 2014 – R2 Zone	Codes SEPP – R2 Zone
Potential number of allotments capable of dual occupancy development	4,082	14,465
Potential number of allotments capable of multi dwelling housing developments	1119 (also capable of being developed for dual occupancy)	(now includes terrace housing and these sites are also capable of being developed for dual occupancy and manor houses)
Potential number of allotments capable manor house developments	0 - Not permitted	10,383 (also capable of being developed for dual occupancy)
Total number of sites capable of medium density housing development	4,082	14,465

TABLE 2 – DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Development Standard	Ryde LEP 2014/Ryde DCP 2014	Codes SEPP
Dual Occupancy	Attached only Min area – 580sqm Min road frontage – 20m	May be detached or may be one above another Min area – 580sqm Min frontage – 12m at the building line or 15m at the building where one dwelling is above another.
Multi dwelling housing (terraces)	Not permitted Controls for Multi-dwelling housing - Villas Min area – 900sqm Min road frontage – 20m	Min area – 900sqm Min frontage – 18m at the building line
Manor houses (three or four dwellings on one lot strata subdivision permitted)	Not permitted	Min area – 600sqm Min width – 15m at the building line

Digging deep for a family in need

Published on 16 April 2018

Residents may be aware of the tragic plight of Hao Wang and Fiona Yang, who suffered serious burns when their Marsfield home was destroyed last month.

Mr Wang and Ms Yang are both still in intensive care as a result of their injuries, leaving their children in immediate need. They need support, accommodation and even transport so that they can attend their local school and pre-school in Ryde.

To assist, the City of Ryde and the Salvation Army has launched a fundraising drive to collect donations from the community during the [Cinema in the Park](#) series.

Our outdoor cinema events are incredibly well attended, and I know our community will come together to help a local family in need.

So if you are at Anzac Park this Saturday or Yamble Reserve on April 28, please look out for the Salvos. They will be working with us to raise much-needed funds for these kids and this family in that is so desperately in need.

Outcomes from Council Meeting 27 March 2018

Published on 11 April 2018

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 27 March. Here is a summary of the main outcomes from the meeting:

COUNCIL OPPOSES MODIFIED PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE IN BUNDARA RESERVE

The City of Ryde resolved to prepare a submission opposing the modification of the pedestrian footbridge over Delhi Road in North Ryde, noting that there should be no impact on the Bundara Reserve.

Council also resolved to write to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, requesting an extension of the public consultation period and to highlight the issue using its usual media channels. For more on this, [click here](#)

FIFA WORLD CUP LIVE SITE COMING TO RYDE

Australia's first game of the FIFA World Cup will be screened live on a big screen at ELS Hall Park in North Ryde following unanimous support from Council.

This year's FIFA World Cup will take place in Russia with Australia beginning their tournament against France on Saturday 16 June. The live site at ELS Hall Park will be a family friendly event with food and fun activities planned throughout the evening. For more on this, [click here](#)

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TO BE ENHANCED

Following feedback raised by parents, Council resolved to explore enhancing the City of Ryde's playground implementation program as part of its review of the program. This includes establishing a Children's Play Panel made up of community members who will provide feedback on existing and future playgrounds.

CITY OF RYDE OPPOSED TO LOCAL PLANNING PANELS

Council voiced its opposition to the forced introduction of the Local Planning Panels on the City of Ryde. Local Planning Panels are independent bodies who assess certain development applications made to local councils.

Council's opposition was recorded after it was reported that the total cost of the panel will be approximately \$230,000 per year. Council also resolved to seek reimbursement from the State Government for all costs incurred from operating the panel.

COOPERATION LEADS TO REDUCTION IN CRIME IN EASTWOOD

Council acknowledged the work undertaken by the Ryde Police Area Command, local associations and Council staff in support of the local Eastwood business community in addressing safety concerns in Eastwood town centre.

The cooperation had not only led to a reduction of robberies in the area but also encouraged Eastwood residents and business owners to work closely with the local police.

MEETING TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF RYDE

The City of Ryde will write to the Member for Ryde, the Hon. Victor Dominello, the Planning Minister, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, and the Transport Minister, the Hon. Andrew Constance, inviting them to attend and address a public meeting to listen to community concerns about overdevelopment in the City of Ryde, particularly Gladesville. In the event that the invitations are accepted by the MPs, Council will arrange for the public meeting to take place.

RETURN AND EARN CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

In an effort to encourage residents to take advantage of the NSW Governments Return and Earn Container Deposit scheme, the City of Ryde resolved to investigate the feasibility of offering collection points at appropriate locations in the community.

In the event that this occurs, the City of Ryde will assist with education campaigns that will assist residents learn how the scheme works and where containers can be deposited.

CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE MEETING STRUCTURE

From 2 April 2018, all Council Committee meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. This includes the Works and Community Committee (6pm start), Finance and Governance Committee (6.45pm) and the Ryde Central Committee (7.15pm).

PEDESTRIAN ISSUES AROUND OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE SCHOOL

Council will organise an urgent meeting prior to 4 May with representatives of Our Lady Queen of Peace School, the local P & C, the Church and key Council staff to discuss pedestrian access, pedestrian lights and any other safety issues in the vicinity of the school.

People in the vicinity of Eltham Street will be invited to a separate meeting to discuss parking problems and any other traffic related matters.

WATER MAIN TO BE RELOCATED ON PITTWATER ROAD

Council has accepted the tender for the relocation of a water main on Pittwater Road, Gladesville owned by Sydney Water. Work on the relocation will begin soon.

RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Larry Dunne, President of the Epping Eastwood Lions Club, was presented with a commemorative plaque in recognition of 60 years of the Epping Eastwood Lions Club.

In addition, Hugh Lee OAM was presented with a commemorative plaque in recognition of his contribution to the local community of Eastwood, in particular the Lunar New Year Committee.

Meanwhile, a park bench and a plaque will be installed at Eastwood Oval by the City of Ryde to acknowledge the 60th anniversary of the Eastwood St Andrews Athletic Football Club.

BENNELONG PUTNEY PROJECT

The City of Ryde resolved to support the creation of the Bennelong Putney Project Committee. The committee will be formed of interested citizens who seek to acknowledge the importance of Bennelong. Its aims will be to investigate the potential Aboriginal burial site in Putney and progress any measures required to protect the site.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 April.

Restoration works completed on historic monuments in Ryde

Published on 11 April 2018

The City of Ryde has continued its efforts to protect and celebrate the area's local history having recently completed restoration works to the historic Gladesville Clock Tower and the Ryde Tramway Monument.

The Gladesville Clock Tower, located at the intersection of Wharf Road and Meriton Street, has been restored to its former glory by City of Ryde staff after its brickwork had deteriorated over the years due to environmental conditions and ground vibrations.

Also known as the Sheridan Memorial Clock, the Gladesville Clock Tower is of historical significance as an important piece of civic infrastructure from the mid-20th century.

The clock tower was designed in 1940 by Council Engineer J C Sutherland in what is known in architectural terms as the inter-war functionalist style and is considered a good example of a locally designed public clock tower.

The Ryde Tramway Monument, meanwhile, has undergone a makeover and been relocated to its original home at the intersection of Church Street and Blaxland Road in Ryde.

The monument, which had been situated at Ryde Civic Centre, was first unveiled in 1907 and commemorates the introduction of the original tram service to Ryde.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the restoration works to the significant monuments paid testament to two important phases in the City's history and the development of its town centres.

"As the City of Ryde undergoes immense change to its landscape it is important that Council does what it can to preserve monuments such as the Gladesville Clock Tower and the Ryde Tramway Monument that are of historical and architectural significance to the area," Cllr Laxale said.

To coincide with the completion of the two restoration works, a launch of the new Gladesville Heritage Walking Trail booklet will take place at the Gladesville Clock Tower at 10am on Wednesday 18 April.

Road Safety Improvements Introduced at Meadowbank Public School

Published on 09 April 2018

The City of Ryde has installed 25 'No Stopping' signs and will increase enforcement of parking breaches to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety outside Meadowbank Public School.

The 'No Stopping' signs have been installed at intersections around Meadowbank Public School to make it clear to motorists where they can park near the school and not impact on the vision of motorists travelling through the area. Meanwhile, the increased enforcement is due to begin this week as a way to encourage motorists to obey parking rules in and around the school by Council rangers.

The safety measures were introduced following information sessions conducted by City of Ryde staff with members of the community at Meadowbank Public School and Denistone East Public School in late March.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, who attended both information sessions, said the improvements at Meadowbank Public School were just the beginning, with more improvements at other schools to be rolled out over time.

"Based on the initial information sessions it is clear the City of Ryde has to do more to address concerns about pedestrian safety around our schools, including greater communication from Council on what traffic and parking improvements are planned around schools, and increasing education for motorists and schoolchildren on how to stay safe in high traffic areas around schools," Cllr Laxale said.

"Pedestrian safety around schools is a priority for the City of Ryde and these information sessions proved to be an invaluable tool in hearing from concerned parents and residents and identifying ways in how Council can make improvements to safety.

"The City of Ryde is determined to get out more and engage in meaningful face-to-face consultation on important topics for the community, and these information sessions are another example of how we want to achieve that."

Following the information sessions in March, an additional was held at Truscott Street Public School on 4 April, while a session at West Ryde Public School is scheduled between 7pm and 8pm on Tuesday, 10 April.

Those that cannot attend any of the information sessions can submit their views online or add comments to an interactive online map via the City of Ryde's [Have Your Say](#) page.