

## **D R A F T**

**North-western (working title) Hub – Working Group, Meeting 2. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **Gaps and needs (infrastructure related):**

A range of gaps were mentioned through the process of determining the need for a Hub. General consensus of an under-supply of indoor court facilities, support facilities at parks and floodlighting of fields compared to other parts of the city (except for bowls). Poor or lack of drainage causes frequent closure of fields (particularly for training and junior games) and floodlit areas get chronic overuse.

Lack of appropriate facilities and infrastructure were seen as something that is holding clubs back particularly in the ability to offer flexibility in opportunities to train. Training facilities/fields/courts with more all-weather floodlit surfaces and more floodlighting of existing fields were considered key needed additions with benefits for Rugby, Football, and Netball. Football was indicating that even its many community teams were keen to train.

Some parks in the Northwest lack appropriate basic support amenities (toilets, changing rooms and storage), social spaces and focus points. Some also lack appropriate drainage and irrigation systems.

The bowls club also struggles in an environment where there are many clubs all competing for members.

The YMCA a potential partner of the hub indicates its need to support initiatives that take pressure off its indoor court spaces and provide greater continuity of use. Many new sports are not able to grow because much of the existing indoor space is at capacity with outdoor sports training and or various versions of the game using up indoor space (Futsal as an example).

Some infrastructure developments identified to date to cope with current demand and increase participation in the future are:

- Shower and change facilities at Edgar Macintosh Park
- Restore use of floodlit fields at Middleton Park
- Owen Mitchell park lacks changing facilities, currently club is upgrading the lights
- Refurbish or replace currently decommissioned unsafe lights at St James Park
- More fields with floodlights and more storage at Tullet Park, currently modifying changing rooms (partitioning existing ones in half)
- A hybrid turf area at each key park to relieve pressure on fields for skill drills and set piece training
- Nunweek Park needs significant investment in floodlighting and support facility (change, toilets, social and storage spaces). Also opportunity to access to a suitable full-size field at Nunweek Park (currently used solely by Hockey) moving to shared use with football, potentially replace at next surface renewal with hybrid surface
- Netball training facility (floodlit courts), currently all grades travelling to Hagley Courts for training. Could be via a school-community shared provision or shared use arrangement
- Artificial bowling green, potential to be covered

#### **Gaps and needs (people related):**

One gap of note was aging membership (in committees and the bowls club in general) and the need to replace volunteers and difficulties in being able to do that (needs to be addressed but beyond scope of infrastructure discussion)

### **Aspirations (infrastructure related):**

It was identified that pavilion space for sport/recreation is key also. Multi-use space with some administration or multi-club social and amenity space would provide a home for a collective of clubs and spaces for a range of activities for a hub including spaces for the clubs currently engaged with this hub. It was pointed out that infrastructure needed to be future proofed at least in the sense that it be flexible with spaces be able to meet changes in demand.

This was referred to in the meeting as 'third place', not home, not work but a familiar and socially comfortable place you could go and hang out based on a sporting or recreation interest.

Nunweek Park was identified as significantly under invested in infrastructure appropriate to the size of the park.

Schools were identified as a potential source of more facilities through partnerships. It was reported that some clubs are already working with schools.

Making sense of where there are opportunities was considered a work-on for the board. There was general agreement that there are exciting opportunities to add value to the hub through a greater focus on and delivery of appropriate infrastructure.

HUB

### **Objects and Vision Discussion:**

Focus areas for a new hub:

*Community (6), Sport (5) Multi-activity (5) Recreation (4) Performance (2) Social (2)*

Themes:

#### **A multi-site hub**

This hub would be a multi-code and multi-location hub. There are many existing use rights on parks and several existing facilities/leases across the various locations. This is a strength of the Northwest hub as it reaches across a cluster of suburbs providing membership opportunities and sport and recreation services from its member sites or in support of its partners (in this case the YMCA, as an initial partner).

In summary, this is a multi-site hub as a fundamental strategy to ensure it has wide reach into the community and provides a range of opportunities and activities. It will attempt to create opportunities across this cluster of locations that are complementary to each other and are grounded at the local level in their respective communities.

*Where it works collectively with new delivery and infrastructure its brand will appear publicly. Where it works behind the scenes it will reinforce the club/organisation brand of its members and partners.*

## **Community well-being**

There was a strong sense that the hub should focus on the community and by this it was meant a focus on improving health and well-being in the community and that the hub entity should consider its role in that community as a provider of sport and recreation activity toward that end.

## **Community and sport performance-based activity**

There was agreement to the value of being able to focus on both '*social and recreation forms of sport and recreation participation*' and '*performance sport*' and that these were not mutually exclusive. Performance sport training and development pathways are important and the utilisation of modern ('balance-is-better') approaches should be a cornerstone of what a hub would do to help and encourage membership and participation.

## **Multi activity space**

New infrastructure needs to address the opportunity for multi-activity spaces. This is indicated to be key in any new development reinforcing the need for spaces to be flexible, adaptable, and designed with multiple users in mind. A key example of this would be sport surfaces (netball and other codes having lines on courts), hybrid pitches (a turf for rugby and football training plus general recreation). Some of this thinking could apply to updates of existing infrastructure as well.

## **Casual informal activity**

The hub will reinforce the need for an 'open to all' inclusive approach to parks and infrastructure use as a cornerstone of its operating model. Where facilities are not being used formally for training, games, and competition; informal/casual use will be encouraged to maximise community accessibility.

## **Inclusiveness**

This hub will embrace diversity and inclusion with a focus on the removal of barriers based on race/culture, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and/or disability and will be mindful of obligations under the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

## **Vision:**

*Residents of North-West Christchurch have access to quality shared and multi-user facilities, recreation, community and social activities and services that are provided by organisations working together in an enduring partnership within the community*

## **Objects:**

1. To build a strong partnership of sports clubs and recreation organisations collaborating to provide quality sport and recreation activity
2. To focus collectively on building community cohesion by delivering active participation which has the health and well-being of residents as a central pillar.

3. To facilitate sport and recreation opportunities that increase the number of people who participate as club members whilst providing for those who are actively engaged in social and casual/unstructured forms of participation.
4. To enhance opportunities for performance-based sport, connecting participants to quality resources in Canterbury and across all member clubs that promote sporting excellence
5. To build, repurpose, retrofit, develop, manage, lease, rent and/or advocate for member club quality sport and recreation infrastructure that is fit-for-purpose for sport, recreation, play and community activation.
6. Create and utilise flexible spaces as a Hub that capitalises on a range of sport and recreation and can have multiple users whilst maintaining a quality experience for all
7. To operate in an inclusive manner recognizing the values of diversity and inclusion that encourage full participation and remove barriers for all.
8. To partner with external agencies to expand, develop and grow these objectives.
9. To use a systems-led approach that brings modern management, administration and governance thinking into sport and recreation provision at all levels, offering a fit for future model
10. To support member sport clubs to develop and thrive and enable them to own their future.
11. To develop a values based organisation with a positive culture and policy-led development
12. To achieve synergies through a shared-services approach to sponsorship/procurement and services provision