

# Wilson Recreation Reserve Brighton Grammar proposal

## Community Engagement Summary

August 2021

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## 1 Engagement overview

The purpose of this engagement was to ensure that all residents within a 500-meter radius of Wilson Recreation Reserve had opportunity to provide feedback to Brighton Grammar proposal to renew the sportsground and undertake ongoing maintenance of the reserve in return for a nine-year licence (shared use) agreement, safeguarding their existing usage of the reserve.

The engagement process was initially mired by the omission of 100 household from the proposed 500m radius, with residents expressing concern that this may impact the validity of the engagement findings. Residents also suggested that the school holiday may have also resulted in exclusion of some individuals, with Council acknowledging both points resulting in the consultation period being extended by 18 days, resulting in a 31 day consultation period.

The extended engagement period collected 102 additional surveys, including 14 submissions from existing IP addresses (6 different addresses) which have been included in the summary as it is reasonable assumption that two individuals from the same household would submit feedback.

It appears that submissions have been made by individuals that do not currently utilise the reserve during the proposed hours, with comments expressing concern regarding the proposed use (mirrors existing use) restricting access by residents, Saturday use will prevent use by residents and that increased use by teenagers will scare away families the elderly and clients of Bayley House.

There continues to be high levels of confusion regarding the difference between a licence agreement and a lease agreement and it appears that information contained within the frequently asked questions section of the Have Your Say page were not read. Feedback on both items may have been influenced by a flyer distributed by a resident group providing false statement regarding a lease agreement, providing exclusive access to Brighton Grammar School.

Impacts of the pandemic and the reliance of the community to access public open space was a consistent message throughout the engagement period, with residents highlighting the importance of passive recreation opportunities. This is a common theme across all of Councils open spaces and one that must be emphasised when summarising feedback.

Brighton Grammar School caters for boys from early years (long day care) to year 12 and has exceptional facilities, including sports facilities within their campus. Strong sentiments from residents expressed that the school should utilise their own facilities before accessing community open space. Conversations via phone with residents indicated that not all residents are aware of the requirements of different sports and view all open space as the same and that sports such as rugby, soccer and Australian rules can utilise the same playing fields.

There was strong localised opposition to the proposal with residents expressing concerns in the following areas:

- Exclusivity – misunderstanding of the definition of a licence agreement.
- Mistrust of Brighton Grammar – view that following execution of the licence agreement additional use will be requested, and the reserve will become an extension of Brighton Grammar.
- Maintenance and renewal should be the onus of Council – not a private entity.
- Poor community relationship with the Brighton Grammar School.
- Community open space should not be monopolised by private entities.
- That Brighton Grammar would control access to the reserve.

Residents that strongly oppose the proposal do not see a compromise position being met.

There was also strong support for the project with respondents expressing support in the following areas:

- Support the need for upgrading the sporting facilities at Wilson Recreation Reserve, specifically to improve the safety of the ground surface and identifying the condition is poor and the drainage issues need to be resolved. There was also support for the maintenance of the grounds to Brighton Grammar School standards which are considered more satisfactory than the grounds maintained by Council.
- Those that strongly supported the proposal indicated that they were fully supportive of the financial investment by BGS as it lessens the financial burden on Council and maintains community access.
- Support shared use of community open space.
- Others agreed with the upgrades however consider it Council's responsibility to fund the necessary improvements.

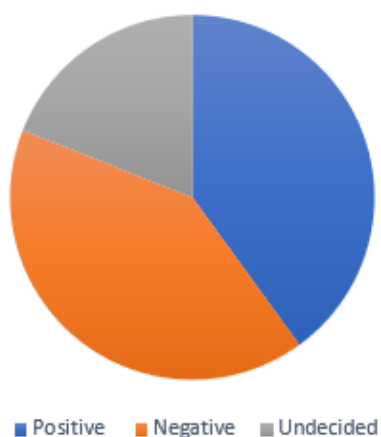
Respondents indicated that they would like the following items included as part of the scope:

- Access to public toilets
- Additional seating
- Accessible access from Bayley House to the reserve
- Consideration to exercise equipment

For Council to formalise an approach that meets the needs of the sports community and mitigates the known impacts on residential amenity, consideration to the following is required:

- Guarantees that the usage will not increase during the life of the agreement
- Recognition that a licence agreement shouldn't just roll over. Consultation at the end of the nine-year period is required.

Respondents did not simply provide support or oppose to the proposal instead, taking the opportunity within each question to make further statements to support their view, making a clear delineation difficult. Overall, 40% provide positive feedback, 41% provided negative feedback with 19% undecided.



## 1.1 Next Steps

The findings of the community engagement process will be published via the Have Your Say page, prior to publishing the agenda for 17 August 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Officers to respond to any new questions raised as part of the consultation process and prepare a report for consideration of Council.

## 2 Background

In 2018 community consultation was undertaken as part of the Wilson Reserve (the Reserve) and Brighton Recreational Centre (the Centre) Masterplan.

The Centre and Wilson Reserve are located on Outer Crescent, Brighton. The Centre is part of the Bayside Cluster of Community Centres and is operated by a not-for-profit community-based organisation, leasing the Council owned building. The Centre provides a range of services and spaces, catering to the needs of a range of different user groups of varying ages and abilities. Wilson Reserve adjoins the Centre and is used by the community and a range of community and school groups for a wide range of sports and general recreation purposes.

In March of 2018, the Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment of the Centre found:

- The Centre is ageing and lacks contemporary design features (e.g., natural light, flexible meeting rooms, waiting areas and spaces for socialisation).
- The building lacks storage and spaces for group administration.
- The Centre has minimal interface and connection and access with the neighbouring Wilson Reserve; and
- Many of the existing spaces within the Centre are not fit-for-purpose and require significant set up and pack down between activities.

The Social Needs Infrastructure Assessment was endorsed by Council at its Ordinary meeting on 21 of August 2018. At this meeting it was resolved to commence preparation of a masterplan for the Centre and Wilson Reserve area.

The findings of the community consultation period were presented to Council at the 18 October 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council, with the community expressing that Wilson Reserve is an important open space where they can be in a natural environment, socialise and get fit. Almost all respondents acknowledged that Wilson Reserve require upgrading and the site will not meet the needs of the community in the future. The most common suggestions for improving Wilson Reserve were:

- Amenities (drink fountain, tables, seating etc.).
- Improved surface.
- Undercover area.
- BBQs; and
- Improved parking and access.

At this meeting it was resolved:

That Council:

1. *Notes the findings from the community engagement undertaken for the Brighton Recreational and Wilson Reserve Masterplan (Attachment 1).*
2. *Engages key stakeholders of the Brighton Recreational Centre to commence a deliberative co-design approach to redeveloping the Centre.*
3. *Engages with representatives of Brighton Grammar School to explore and assess the proposal to improve sporting facilities at Wilson Reserve.*

At the 16 February 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council, a report was heard detailing a revised proposal from Brighton Grammar School (BGS) to renew the sportsground at Wilson Recreation Reserve, where it was resolved:

That Council:

1. *confirms that Wilson Reserve remains Council owned, public open space and that Council's priorities for the Reserve are community use and easy access for residents*
2. *defers a decision on the Brighton Grammar School proposal, to allow community consultation and stakeholder engagement with local residents and key stakeholders, with particular consideration given to Brighton Cricket Club, and Bayley House*
3. *further considers a report no later than June 2021 on the results of the consultation and includes in the report an assessment of the proposal against Council's Open Space Strategy 2012 and any impact the proposal will have on availability of open space for community use within the Middle Brighton area.*

Subsequently at the 15 June 2021 Council meeting, it was resolved:

*That Council receives a report detailing the findings of the community consultation at the 17 August 2021 Council meeting.*

The Brighton Grammar (BGS) School proposal is:

That it invests \$500,000 into upgrading the ground surface and cover annual maintenance costs of \$100,000 per year for a nine-year period. Totalling a \$1.4 million investment in the Reserve.

In return BGS are seeking a nine-year licence that supports the use outlined below:

Year round:

- Lunch time access (excluding Thurs) 12.40pm – 1.30pm
- Thursday lunch time access 1.30pm – 2.20pm

Winter Access

- Monday to Thursday 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- Saturday 8.00am – 2.00pm

Summer Use - outside of allocated community cricket training and competition.

### 3 Definitions and scope

This consultation focused specifically on the proposal from Brighton Grammar School, considering any impacts this proposal may have on the availability of open space within the local area.

#### 3.1 What can the community influence?

- The community could provide their views for consideration by Council on the proposal put forward by Brighton Grammar School to renew the sportsground at Wilson Recreation Reserve
- Landscaping and fencing considerations

#### 3.2 What can't the community influence?

- Recreation types on Wilson Reserve (it will remain used for cricket, rugby and passive recreation including dog walking)
- Use of the reserve for other purposes – it will continue to be used as a sportsground.
- Improvements to car parking
- Upgrades to Brighton Recreation Centre (Feedback on the design for upgrading Brighton Recreation Centre will be gathered as a separate consultation process later in 2021.)

- Retracted proposal for a sports pavilion (excluded from scope)
- Terms of the license agreement

### 3.3 Stakeholder assessment

This stakeholder assessment is a generalised understanding of sections of the community that have a connection to the project or matter. This information is used to understand the types of tools and techniques that will achieve the strongest and most effective outcomes for engagement and communication.

Due to the wide-ranging impacts, individuals’ groups have not been named but listed in categories.

**Impact:** What level of change will the stakeholder / community segment experience because of the project / matter

**Interest:** What level of interest has been expressed or is anticipated

**Influence:** Reference to the [IAP2 Spectrum](#). This project has been assigned at the ‘Consult’ level. This means we will keep you informed, listen to, and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Stakeholder	Impact	Interest	Influence
Aged care facility (the crescent) located close to site	L	L	Consult
Bayley House	M	M	Involve
Brighton Cricket Club	H	H	Involve
Brighton Grammar School students and their families	M	M	Consult
Brighton Grammar School administration	H	H	Involve
Brighton Recreation Centre Board	M	L	Consult
Brighton Recreation Centre users	L	M	Consult
General community interest/action groups	L	M	Consult
Local dog walkers	M	M	Consult
Nearby residents	M	M	Consult
Save the Wilson Recreation Reserve Group	M	H	Consult
Wider Bayside community	L	L	Consult

## 4 Consultation process

### 4.1 Consultation methodology

From 28 June to 14 July 2021, Council conducted a community engagement process to gather community feedback on residential impact of the proposal.

The key tools for gathering feedback included:

- Online engagement through Have Your Say, including opportunity to ask questions, as well as provide feedback via a survey or written statement.
- Bookable meetings with project team to ask questions and submit feedback
- Printed survey and engagement materials distributed on request
- Pop up information sessions at Wilson Recreation Reserve

- Direct conversations with key stakeholder groups including Bayley House and Brighton Cricket Club
- Provisions to provide feedback anonymously or via post.

## 4.2 Key tools for communicating the project

- Direct liaison with Bayley House, Brighton Grammar School, Brighton Cricket Club and Save the Wilson Recreation Reserve Group.
- Letters distributed to residents within 500m of the Reserve, including aged care facility
- Social media, especially 'sponsored' posts targeted to residents living in Brighton to increase audience reach
- Council's e-newsletter THIS WEEK IN BAYSIDE
- Email notification to Have Your Say members
- Direct emails to key stakeholder groups
- Printed flyer with QR code for online survey at Brighton Recreation Centre
- Pop up face-to-face engagement sessions at Wilson Recreation Reserve

The consultation was promoted via social media on the main Bayside City Council Facebook page, and Council's Instagram page. To reach people who were not subscribed to the Have Your Say Project page a paid advertising campaign was run targeted people living within Brighton.

Although we encouraged people to visit the Have Your Say page to provide feedback and provided a convenient link, some social media users opted to provide their feedback on the page. Feedback on social media summarised within this report.

### 4.2.1 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels reached approximately 25,000 community members. Communications shared via public social media groups further expanded this reach.

Sponsored social media advertising was particularly effective in raising awareness of the consultation, particularly among Bayside residents who may not subscribe to Council communications channels. A large proportion of visitors came through to the Have Your Say website directly, this is assumed to be from the letter that was delivered to residents living with 500m of the reserve as well as signage that was installed on site with a QR code directing people to the engagement webpages (69%), in contrast 20% of people arrived at the engagement webpages via social media.

Engagement was promoted via the communication channels listed in the table below. No additional social media

#### Communications tools and reach activities and participation

Details	Activity
<b>Council website</b> <b>386 views</b>	<b>News item:</b> Upgrades proposed for Wilson Recreation Reserve Page views 386, 130 link clicks through to Have Your Say
<b>E-newsletter</b> <b>8,440</b> <b>Total reach</b>	<b>This Week in Bayside e-newsletter</b>
<b>209 clicks to Have Your Say</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 July 2021, 8437 recipients, 3,608 opens, 137 clicks, 23 clicks through to Have Your Say</li> <li>• 8 July 2021: 8,416 recipients, 3,701 opens, 49 clicks, 49 clicks through to Have Your Say</li> </ul>
<b>Social media (organic)</b> Main Council page	<b>Facebook post promoting consultation (organic)</b> Posted 5 July 2021: 6,867 reach, 197 comments, 3 shares
<b>2,329 reach</b>	
<b>Social media (paid advertising)</b> <b>13,141 reach</b>	<b>Facebook ad targeting individual suburbs</b> 841 links clicked to Have Your Say



<b>Social media-Instagram</b> 5 July	1,327 organic impressions, 34 likes
<b>Letter</b>	Mail out to residents living with 500m of the reserve (approximately 600 residents).
<b>Signage</b>	Signs installed at Wilson Recreation Reserve.
<b>Subsequent letter</b>	To capture all residents that may have an interest in the reserve a second mail out was undertaken, with 1200 residents provided information regarding the proposal.
<b>Pop up sessions</b>	Seven pop up sessions were held across a 14 hour period. 246 members of the community were provided with flyers with a QR link to the Have Your Say page.

## 5 Participant profile

The consultation was targeted at residents living or working in Brighton and are connected to the Reserve but was open to all residents to provide their feedback.

### 5.1 Have Your Say page

Between 29 June to 1 August 2021, the page generated the following traffic:

Views	Visits	Visitors	Contributions	Contributors	Followers
3850	2720	2269	237	220	34

**Views** – the cumulative number of times a visitor visits the page

**Visits** – the number of end-user sessions associated with a single visitor

**Visitors** – the number of unique public or end-user in a site. A visitor is only counted once

**Contributions** – the total number of responses of feedback collected

**Contributors** – the unique number of visitors who have left feedback, and

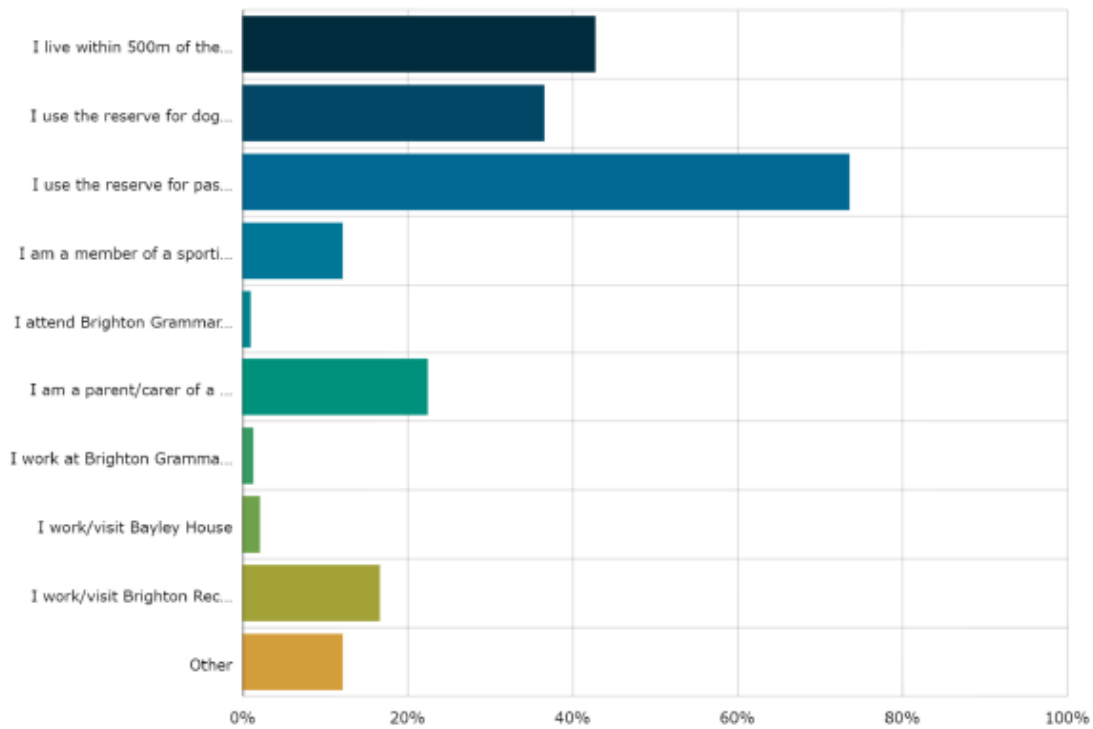
**Followers** – the number of visits who have subscribed to the page using the follow button.

The consultation collected participant data as only *Have Your Say* members were able to participate in the engagement. The survey collected the participant's connection to Wilson Recreation Reserve, age range and gender data. The paid social media campaign also collected age and gender data.

The traffic through this site indicates that affected residents were aware of the proposal and had opportunity to provide feedback.

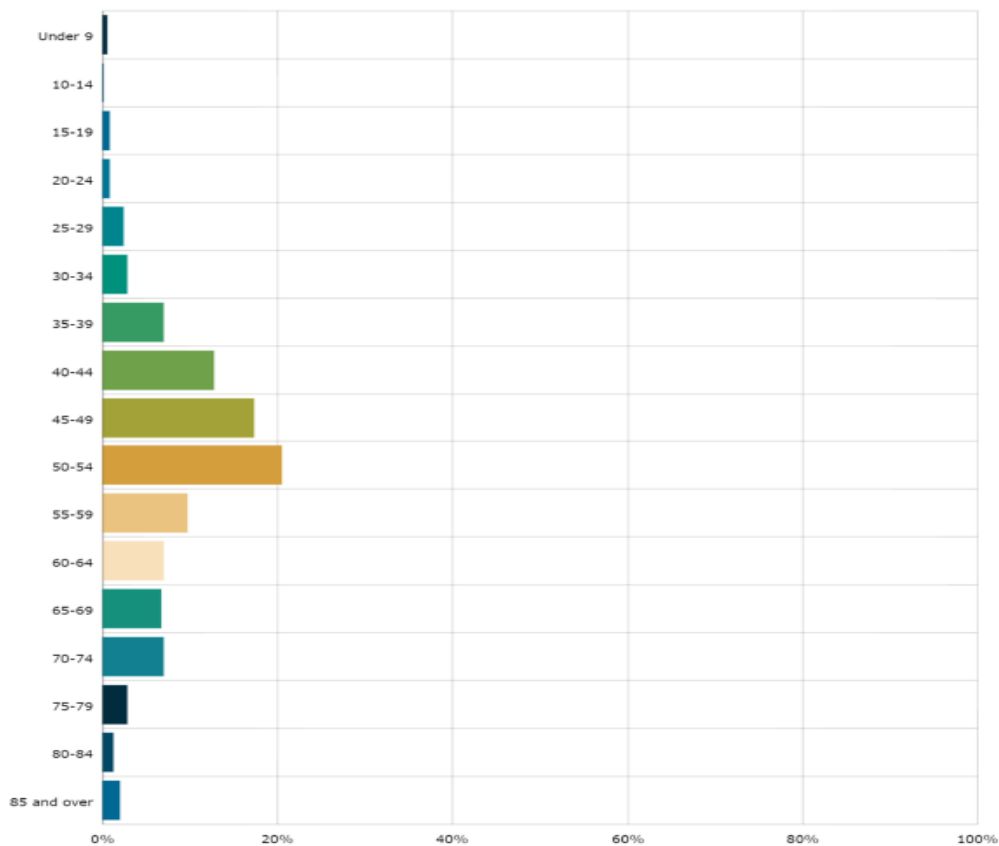
#### 5.1.1 Connection to Wilson Recreation Reserve

Participants were asked how they use Wilson Recreation Reserve and were provided with the opportunity to select multiple options. The top five connections to the reserve include, I use the reserve for passive recreation including walking and running (191), living within 500m of the reserve (111) participants that use the reserve for dog walking (96) parents of Brighton Grammar students (58) and I work/visit Brighton Recreation Reserve.



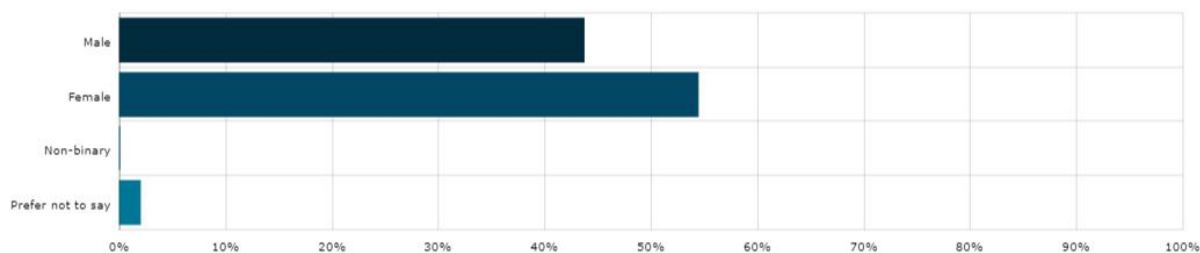
### 5.1.2 Age group

As demonstrated in the table below, the feedback received was widely dispersed amongst age groups. Most feedback received was by participants aged between 40- 69 years old (74%). A small cross-section of feedback was received online from participants aged over 70 years old (13%) and over a quarter of the surveys were from people aged under 40 years old (13%).



### 5.1.3 Gender

Majority of respondents recognise as female at 56%.



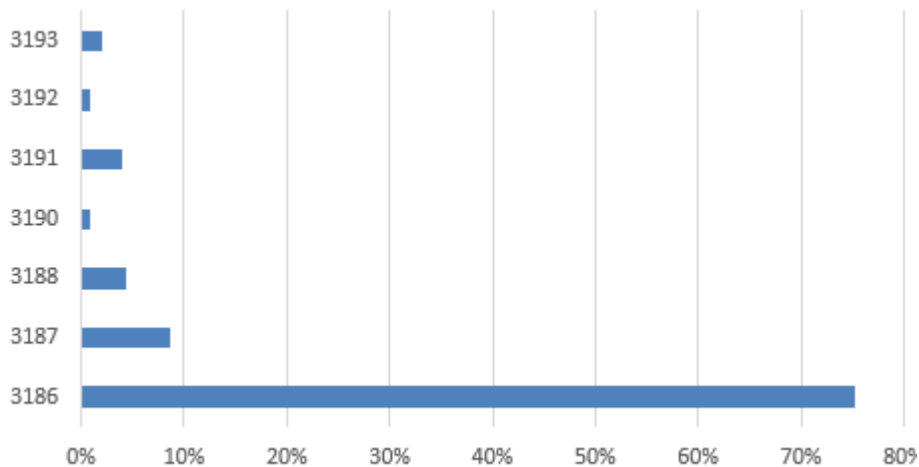
### 5.1.4 Visitation of the reserve

As part of the survey participants were asked when they like to visit the reserve as demonstrated in the table below. The use of the reserve is evenly disbursed across the week with Monday and Saturday demonstrating the highest level of use.

	Morning	During the day	Evening	Count	Score
Monday	26.67% 52	55.38% 108	17.95% 35	195	1.91
Tuesday	21.74% 40	57.61% 106	20.65% 38	184	1.99
Wednesday	20.45% 36	61.93% 109	17.61% 31	176	1.97
Thursday	19.89% 36	59.67% 108	20.44% 37	181	2.01
Friday	23.33% 42	57.78% 104	18.89% 34	180	1.96
Saturday	28.57% 58	63.55% 129	7.88% 16	203	1.79
Sunday	19.79% 37	69.52% 130	10.70% 20	187	1.91

### 5.1.5 Postcodes

Participants were asked to provide their postcodes as demonstrated in the suburb table below of the 260 surveys received, 191 respondents live in Brighton (75%) 22 respondents in Brighton East (9%) 11 respondents live in Hampton (4%) 10 respondents live in Sandringham (4%). Feedback was also received from people living in Highett, Cheltenham, Black Rock/Beaumaris, Elsternwick. Responses were also received from suburbs such as Parkville, Banyule, Kew, Albert Park, Caulfield, Ormond, and Albert Park. As these respondents only represented one response from each postcode, they have been excluded from the table below.



## 5.2 Survey

- 258 respondents provided feedback to the survey online
- 2 hard copy surveys were submitted
- 24 Email correspondence
- 32 phone calls

## 6 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback for the Wilson Recreation Reserve renewal proposal. Participants were asked whether they consent to their feedback to be published in the community engagement report, those that approved have been attached in the engagement data verbatim.

### 6.1 Support for actions

Participants generally support the need for upgrading sports facilities at Wilson Recreation Reserve, specifically to improve the player/user safety through improved surface, identifying the condition is poor and the drainage issues need to be resolved. There was strong support for the maintenance of the grounds to Brighton Grammar School standards which are perceived as more satisfactory than the grounds maintained by Council.

Those that supported the proposal indicated that they were fully supportive of the financial investment by BGS as it lessens the financial burden on Council to renew and maintain a community asset.

Others agreed with the upgrades however consider it Council's responsibility to fund the necessary improvements.

### 6.2 Localised Objection

Strong localised objection was received to the proposal, particularly from residents who frequent the park for passive recreation including walking. These residents feel that the proposal restricts their access, to what they believe as one of the only unstructured open space areas in Brighton.

The most significant concern relates to a perception of exclusive use and that there is no community benefit from the license arrangement. It is viewed by many respondents that BGS will block access for public use and will take priority limiting the of the reserve outside of sport.

Others identified concern about the flow on effect with other private entities potentially taking away open space from the community.



### 6.3 Feedback from Bayley House

Officers have met with Warwick Cavanagh Chief Executive Officer, Bayley House, and staff member Kerri Rolfe to discuss the proposal. Bayley House indicated that the proposal in general is positive and believe that it will contribute to the community through improved facilities without restriction to existing community use.

Bayley House, would like Council to consider as part of the proposal improved access from Bayley House to the reserve, including widening and levelled resurface suitable for wheelchairs to access the reserve from Bayley House.

Improved seating or additional seating within the southeast corner of the reserve would also improve their exiting within the reserve.

### 6.4 Feedback from Brighton Cricket Club

Officers, Michael Arceri Chief Operating Officer Brighton Grammar and Bernard Mutimer President Brighton Cricket Club met to discuss the proposal. At this meeting it was confirmed that:

- Brighton Grammars use will predominately be during April to September, for their rugby program.
- Cricket facilities are available at Brighton Grammar and will support their program. Occasional use may be required and will be through agreement of the working group.
- A working group consisting of BGS, BCC and Officers will be established to work through maintenance issues, handover between seasons and sportsground maintenance.
- All reporting of maintenance issues will be reported through Council's maintenance request reporting numbers.
- The sportsground will be renewed and maintained to the highest standard.

Brighton Cricket Club confirmed their support for the proposal.

### 6.5 Out of scope feedback

Strong support for a public toilet and additional seating at the reserve was indicated and would support all users of a highly valued community asset.

### 6.6 Item-specific feedback

#### 6.6.1 Value of Wilson Recreation Reserve

Respondents were asked to answer, 'Why is Wilson Recreation Reserve important to you?' Comments submitted by 154 respondents.

#### 6.6.2 Strengths of the proposal

Participants were asked 'What do you view as the strengths of Brighton Grammar School's proposal to renew the sportsground at Wilson Recreation Reserve?'. There were 242 respondents with 39.3% positive sentiment, 8.4% mixed response, 36% negative and 16.5% neutral. Feedback has been summarised by themes below.

Topic	Community feedback
Maintenance of the reserve and safe and improved sportsground (123 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comments regarding the poor condition of the sportsground surface and risk to players</li><li>• Comments indicating benefits of improved maintenance of the reserve for both sport and community use.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments praising BGS for excellence in ground design and maintenance</li> <li>• Comments regarding necessary upgraded facilities</li> <li>• Comments regarding maximising usage of the reserve – improved health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>
Supportive of the proposal (9 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments expressing a win for the community and that the park will benefit from renewal</li> <li>• Comments indicating the proposal makes sense</li> <li>• Comments expressing that the school is entitled to use the reserve</li> <li>• Comments that the pandemic highlighted the need for quality open space.</li> <li>• Comments suggesting that Improvements need to go further than just the sportsground – pavilion, public toilets.</li> </ul>
Financial benefit for Council (19 comments)	<p>Comments supporting the decrease in burden on rate payers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments commending improved facilities and ongoing maintenance with no cost to rate payers.</li> <li>• Comments noting that financial input from a large user group is a great outcome.</li> <li>• Comments applauding BGS willingness to invest money into the reserve while remain open to the public.</li> </ul>
Fencing (4 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General support demonstrated, through comments like great idea</li> <li>• Comments that the proposed fencing will assist to capture errant balls and adds safety for dogs</li> </ul>
Negative comments to this statement (87 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments that there are no benefits to this proposal</li> <li>• Comments that renewal is not required</li> <li>• Comments not supporting exclusive use</li> <li>• Some respondents do not view this as a sportsground</li> <li>• Comments regarding purchase of public land</li> <li>• Comments that there are no benefits to licencing public land.</li> <li>• Comments that Council should pay for renewal of public land.</li> <li>• Comments suggesting a more reasonable compromise be met.</li> </ul>

There were no specific questions to this item.

### 6.6.3 Limitations of the proposal

Participants were asked ‘What do you view as the limitations of Brighton Grammar School's proposal to renew the sportsground at Wilson Recreation Reserve?’. There were 249 respondents with 14.9% positive sentiment, 8.8% mixed response, 41% negative and 35.3% neutral. Feedback has been summarised by themes below.

**Topic****Community feedback**

Brighton Grammar  
(51 comments)

- Comments regarding the school acquiring land instead of using open space.
- Comments regarding BGS sense of ownership of the reserve and overuse by the school.
- Comments suggesting BGS have their own space and should use it
- Comments that Council is foregoing the Brighton community for BGS quest for more space
- Statements such as the proposal is a fox dressed in sheep's skin
- Comments indicating, they don't like the idea of lunch time spill over.
- Comments questioning what happens after 9 years.

Restricts community access  
(64 comments)

- Comments regarding denial of free use of open space
- Comments regarding exclusive use by BGS
- Comments that use by BGS may lead to families, older adults being uncomfortable using WRR from increased use by teenagers.
- Comments regarding loss of access for Bayley House
- The reserve will be closed for a period with the renewal encouraging other use – attracting more use
- Comments that public land should not be locked up with private entity
- Comments proposing take over by stealth

Upgraded amenities such as seating, BBQ, and toilet blocks  
(18 comments)

- The addition of public toilets would be beneficial
- Include a BBQ at the site
- Exercise equipment would be beneficial at the site. Addition of exercise equipment would be great
- Needs a pavilion or cover for sport
- Additional fencing should be considered
- Consider use for the purpose of soccer
- Better dog walking facilities are required

Fencing  
(5 comments)

- Do not want fencing
- The look of the fencing will detract from the reserve

General objections  
(19 comments)

- Statements such as shame on Bayside Council
- Comments that the proposal is outrageous
- Comments of appalling abuse by Council
- Comments suggesting Council could do it themselves, no need to delegate
- Belief that costs to renew and maintain have been inflated
- Comments concerning precedence

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing priorities, who gets preference</li> </ul>
No limitations observed (87 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access will still be available</li> <li>• Will be good to see it utilised properly Happy to have Brighton Grammar utilise the sportsgrounds</li> <li>• No limitations to the proposal Nothing will fundamentally change</li> </ul>
Uncertainty or no response (10 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal is difficult to speak to</li> <li>• Requires more clarity around the licence agreement. What happens after 9 years.</li> </ul>

A total of **46 respondents** posed questions to this topic and have been included verbatim (repeat statements removed).

- Will BGS install any toilets that can be used by the public?
- Is it going to be dog friendly?
- How soon can it commence?
- Will Bayside Council upgrade Wilson Recreation Reserve with rate payer's money regarding installing seating, a drink fountain, outdoor gym/exercise equipment, a small shelter with BBQ's and/or a small toilet block?
- Will this impact on the development of the Brighton recreation centre which is much needed in expansion and modernisation?
- I would like to know who sanctioned BGS already using this reserve for its winter rugby, recess/lunchtime 'spill over' or physical education requirements?
- Were other schools given the opportunity to consider whether they would like to make an offer on the parkland?
- Why is it necessary for council to find private partners to fund public projects?
- What policies and guidelines does the Council have in place to prevent any other private organisations or sporting club approaching the Council with a similar commercial arrangement for payment of 'maintenance or upgrade costs' as consideration for open space?
- Where can this timetable be viewed?
- Who decides on what is allowed?
- What is the course of appeal should residents feel that the allocation is unfair?
- Is council looking at providing more open space in middle Brighton?
- Why is the cricket pitch being removed?
- Will this impact on the development of the Brighton recreation centre which is much needed in expansion and modernisation? This needs to be prioritised over the maintenance of the oval as a public/ council run recreation facility
- Would Brighton Grammar be responsible for legal liabilities and other expenses related to leasing the area in the nine-year lease period?
- Can the agreement be terminated?
- Would it have to stay a rugby pitch for all the nine years?
- Which Council staff or Councillors are benefiting for facilitating this? There must be some graft here somewhere, because this certainly doesn't pass the pub test.



#### 6.6.4 General Feedback

A total of **152 respondents** provided statements for consideration, with sentiment captured in the statements below.

- I welcome it. Good to hear!
- Concerns raised regarding the proposed fence along Outer Crescent, suggesting a fence would aesthetically detract from the current open space feel of the reserve
- Concerns as to the possible number of students that will be involved during the designated BGS allocated times and if overcrowding is likely
- I think improving the condition and safety of the sportsground is a fabulous thing and if Brighton Grammar want to take it on that's great.
- I think it's a good idea - the school takes on the cost, they get some benefit. the community gets the most benefit because the school will only be using the ground for a small fraction of the week.
- There is no rational basis for the Council to reject or delay this win-win proposal.
- Positive in that rate payers get to enjoy the benefits of a well-maintained sports field without the cost of doing so.
- Don't be biased towards boys only activities consider all genders and ages
- Extra provision for flocks of cockatoos feasting on new grass seed - spotted over 150 two days in a row this year. Studies show large flocks are due to food scarcity (Kaplan 2021)
- It is unnecessary for them to want more space when they have plenty of room, such as their gym and parks. It is great that children from Brighton grammar are wanting more exercise/more children can get their exercise, however, this would limit the exercise of the greater public.
- It feels corrupt. The Council officers seem to be biased in favour of BGS.
- There are real concerns that in the case of accident or injury which entity would be responsible.
- Other concerns include the effect on birdlife occasioned by the replacement of the grass on the playing surface and the possible use of herbicides and other chemicals.
- I believe it will be acquired to a greater extent than thought....by stealth
- I think it is great that they are prepared to manage and maintain the field. The community will have a much-improved field and will still have the same use as they do now.
- I do not consider it reasonable for the School to have exclusive access on a Saturday. That is precisely when most ratepayers wish to use the facility

#### 6.6.5 Discussion on social media

The discussion on the Council Facebook page was mixed with concerns largely related to the perception of limiting community access to open space and disliked the privatisation of a community asset. Those in support of the proposal commended Council for improving community facilities with no impact on usage.

### 6.7 Pop up sessions

Seven pop up sessions, across 14 hours were conducted throughout the engagement process. It was not the intent of these sessions to seek feedback, instead ensure that residents that utilise the reserve were aware of the proposal.

Excluding the Saturday morning where Brighton Grammar were competing, most sessions found the reserve relatively unused, with majority of use being seen in the playground and Brighton Grammar training sessions.

Use that was witnessed included, children kicking for goals, people walking dogs, running around the perimeter of the sportsground and users sitting on park benches. All use, including that during training time provided shared access.

At these pop-up sessions 246 information brochures were handed out to park users providing a QR code link to the engagement process.

## 7 Project Evaluation

The engagement process exceeded expectations in terms of reach with 260 surveys submitted for consideration.

The conversation outcomes for visits to the Have Your Say page are shown below.

