

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Plan 2023

Coolbellup Community Association Submission

We have adapted the online survey for the Community, Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan to focus on Coolbellup for this response but have endeavoured to mirror the questions to assist in data collation.

Engagement and Consultation

We would reflect that there doesn't seem to have been as much interest in this consultation as hoped. We continue to be concerned about how the City of Cockburn engages. There are only 11 responses on the interactive map on Comment on Cockburn, and the one on Coolbellup missed the intent of the consultation. It discussed dog parks which are outside the scope of this consultation. Similarly, the Facebook Post of 15th March 2023 on the City of Cockburn Facebook page had 66 comments but many of them weren't relevant (schools, roads, parking, playgrounds, open spaces).

We know these responses will all make up the statistics when the report is pulled together, but they won't meaningfully influence the new plan. Without a proper briefing people can't provide useful feedback. This allows staff to "get on with it" but it doesn't often end up in the right result for residents, as the CSRFP specifically notes:

"Whilst the community space in Coolbellup is called the 'Coolbellup Community Hub', it does not function as a hub or have a welcoming presence, due to poor design and limited space. Addressing the shortcomings of this facility, which includes the Coolbellup Library, is required to better meet the needs of the community." CSRFP, Page 28

Let's not make the same mistakes again. We hope to see City of Cockburn engage in an ongoing, a true co-design process where the problem and the power is shared and results in a better building.

When reviewing the Community, Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan 2018-2030 Plan (CSRFP 2018-2030) we noted with concern that the survey underpinning the plan had only 2 Coolbellup responses. This is the fundamental concern our Community Association has in relation to this Plan - that people living outside of our suburb and our City get to have a veto over how our facilities look like. Sporting clubs are usually the named tenants of facilities, and this doesn't always serve local communities. Having most infrastructure focused on sport can be positive and important, but it can also have unintended consequences. In Coolbellup we experience it daily as the limit of what's on offer in our hub, Len Packham and Tempest Park to the people who live there day in and day out. The people who pay the rates to support the establishment and upkeep of these facilities.

Table 3 **Where Respondents Live**

Suburb	%	n
I live outside the City of Cockburn	35	46
Beeliar	5	7
Bibra Lake	8	11
Yangebup	7	9
Atwell	8	11
Success	5	7
Hamilton Hill	5	7
South Lake Cockburn Central	6	8
Hammond Park Wattleup Henderson	2	3
Spearwood	4	5
Coolbellup	2	2
North Lake	2	3
Aubin Grove Banjup	5	6
Jandakot	2	2
Coogee North Coogee	3	4

From Annexe 2 – Consultation –page 5 of CSRFP 2018-2030

Survey Questions

1. Name – Coolbellup Community Association

The Coolbellup Community Association has been incorporated since 1983. We have recently become the Coolbellup Town Team to continue to explore how we can better develop a “heart” or hub in Coolbellup and connect our suburb together.

2. Age

We are 40 in 2023!

3. Suburb

Coolbellup

4. Gender

N/A

5. Which best describes your reason for providing feedback:

This response is on behalf of the Coolbellup Community Association

6. How did you hear about this consultation?

Social media, e-newsletter, Comment on Cockburn website, word of mouth

Questions 7-12

Questions 7, 9 and 10, 11 and 12 have been combined below and responded to in relation to each relevant facility in Coolbellup.

Question 8 about regularity of using facilities has been left out as it doesn't quite make sense from an organisation perspective. We are utilising Len Packham monthly but as further detailed below it doesn't quite meet our needs.

7. How important to you are the following types of community facilities in Coolbellup?

9. Are there any specific barriers that prevent you from using the City's community facilities?

10. How satisfied are you with the following types of community facilities in Coolbellup

11. If you selected 'somewhat or very dissatisfied', please share your reasons why.

12. Are there any community facilities in Coolbellup you think need improvement?

Libraries – Coolbellup Library

7. Important

Our library is very important to us and as noted in the CSRFP 2018-2030 it is important for our neighbourhood given our socio-economic status.

9. Barriers

Lack of space for community, poor design, especially lack of storage.

10. Somewhat satisfied

11. Why somewhat satisfied:

Again, as noted in CSRFP 2018-2030 on page 28, “Whilst the community space in Coolbellup is called the ‘Coolbellup Community Hub’, it does not function as a hub or have a welcoming presence, due to poor design and limited space. Addressing the shortcomings of this facility, which includes the Coolbellup Library, is required to better meet the needs of the community.”

12. Improvement

We would like to see the library area extended; the non-public offices relocated elsewhere. If space is short, we would suggest the City of Cockburn explore empty Coolbellup Shopping spaces to hire as a tenant. This would be an amazing boost to our local shops which are an important social connection mechanism. In particular, the Child Health Centre could join the shopping centre with its two GPs, a dentist, podiatrist and pathology collection centre. Also, it would be wonderful to have better tables and chairs for the activity area.

We would also like to see consideration of a government-run after-school care facility in the Activity Room/ outdoor play area, noting that Sonas Day care only look after children aged up to 9 years. We recognise that this would require a survey of school parents to see if they would support it.

The Activity space could also be managed by Library staff to coordinate after school events, creative events etc.

We would like to see a pedestrian/access link between Len Packham and Library with vibrant zebra crossing.

Sporting fields and clubrooms – Len Packham

Also, from CSRFP 2018-2030 page 38 it notes “it is recommended that a master-planning process be undertaken at the Coolbellup Hub. The intent of this process will be to consider the design limitations of both Len Packham Clubrooms and the Coolbellup Community Hub, with the view to better integrating the spaces together.”

Improve how City of Cockburn Engages

This Master Planning process needs to be done with meaningful, ongoing engagement and co-design with the people that live and use the facilities. This requires different thinking. For example, the Master Plan could be developed with a team consisting of a 50/50 split of membership between Cockburn staff and residents/ community stakeholders like sports teams **that work across the whole life of the project**. The consultation that we were invited to at Tempest Park was manifestly inadequate. Having 30 minutes to provide sketchy feedback after a technical briefing about Business Cases is not going to allow us as residents to provide useful feedback or to properly influence new development. We will end up back where we are, with a poorly designed area.

7. Very important

9. Are there any specific barriers that prevent you from using the City's community facilities?

Storage is one key barrier. It would be great to see the tables in a separate store that is hidden behind an attractive barrier which could then free up more storage space for uses such as the Coolbellup Community Association and Cooby Yoga.

As noted above this re-design needs to be considered alongside the review of the Hub. **The engagement needs to be done meaningfully and across the whole life of the project. It needs to be properly co-designed.**

In the CSRFP 2018-2030 it notes a projected budget of \$100K for feasibility study and \$1m to upgrade. We know that this budget is manifestly inadequate in 2023 terms. We would urge that you consider a true co-design process with community to support a Lotterywest Grant application so that the whole budget can be much more generous. We recognise that this is more work, and we are very keen and committed as community members to see this happen.

10. How satisfied are you with the following types of community facilities in Coolbellup
Somewhat satisfied

11. If you selected 'somewhat or very dissatisfied', please share your reasons why.

12. Are there any community facilities in Coolbellup you think need improvement?

The Clubrooms are not as old as Tempest Park – but there are aspects of its design which just don't seem to work. Being able to sub-divide it into smaller spaces, improve storage, consider a visual link with the Hub. Greater inclusion might be achieved through a meaningful co-design and creation of a new booking process. Currently the soccer clubs have veto over community use. Can this be re-designed, so it is more of a partnership?

Sporting fields and clubrooms – Tempest Park

Very Important

9. Are there any specific barriers that prevent you from using the City's community facilities?

10. Somewhat satisfied

11. Why somewhat satisfied:

It is currently not in a good condition.

12. Improvement

CCA was very concerned when reviewing the that the CSRFP 2018-2030 that it doesn't mention the AFL team the Cooby Cats – they are a very important team to Coolbellup. In our recent submission on Tempest Park, we noted that the facility needs to be upgraded to a multi-purpose clubroom with an adequate, safe playground for children which is able to accommodate:

- the Cooby Cats
- the pool competitors

Also consider:

- Cooby youth
- an evening dining venue
- other community groups for use during the day, e.g., Mums and Bubs, workshops, yoga etc.

Skate parks and pump tracks – Coolbellup Skate Park

7. Important

Important

9. Barriers

Further consultation would be beneficial to better understand the needs of local users. We haven't had the time to do this.

10. Somewhat satisfied

11. Why somewhat satisfied:

It is currently not in a good condition.

12. Improvement

Coolbellup Skate Park needs a community-led approach to upgrading it and re-painting it regularly – allowing local youth to design and paint, reducing ongoing graffiti. See comments above on engagement.

Seniors Centre

N/A but our Seniors are very important to us. We appreciate that Coolbellup Leisure Club has sufficient storage at Len Packham Clubrooms and do not want to see that diminished in any review of services.

Youth Centre

Extremely Important

7. Important

Important

9. Barriers

The lack of a dedicated drop in space, the lack of paid qualified Youth Workers and coordinators to support our youth makes it difficult to sustainably provide services for our young people. The existing venues of Len Packham and the Hub either don't have enough storage or enough capacity to meet the needs of an effective youth service. The lack of a drop in space is a key barrier to the developing community-led ideas response to the lack of Cooby youth services.

10. Somewhat satisfied

N/A

11. Why somewhat satisfied:

12. Improvement

We need to have more drop-in spaces for our young people. Centralising youth services in Cockburn isn't effective for the Western suburbs of Coolbellup in particular.

Specialist sports facilities (e.g., court sports, BMX, surf life saving, Cockburn ARC, bowls, etc.)

N/A

Community halls and buildings

N/A

Arts and cultural facilities

N/A (It's hard to think of arts and cultural facilities in Cockburn – it seems like everything is sport, sport, sport!)

13. Are there any new community facility ideas you think we should consider?

A Cooby Youth Space Drop-In centre.

14. From your perspective, what is the one most important facility upgrade or idea the City should consider in its next plan?

The key thing though is to see a **shift in how Cockburn engages**. The way Cockburn engage isn't always delivering the right outcomes for Cockburn people. After a poor experience, people lose faith in consultation processes and no longer want to be involved. This Plan is an opportunity for Cockburn to do something different, and end up with better results.

Submission: Pip Brennan, Chair, Coolbellup Community Association