

16th May 2011
Open Letter
Bombay Community

Bombay Community Multisport Development Community Meeting

7.30pm 20th June 2011 at the Bombay Community Hall

"A family focused facility that enhances the quality of sport, recreation and cultural opportunities for Bombay and the wider communities"

Dear members of the Bombay community,

As you will recall we held a meeting at the Bombay Community Memorial Hall on 2nd August 2010. It was a good turnout with in excess of 120 people. Those attending included representation from the Council, Counties Manukau Sport, existing sports and recreational clubs, Bombay School and the wider community.

The meeting considered the merit of investigating the creation of a new multisport and recreational facility that would serve Bombay for the future. In this context it also considered the opportunity to acquire land that is available next to the existing rugby grounds. At the end of the meeting it was agreed we form a Working Group that was reflective of the community and the existing sport and recreational clubs to take this matter further.

The Bombay Community Working Group has since achieved the following:

1. Engaged Visitor Solutions to develop a Community Plan.

Visitor Solutions have a lot of experience in the development of multisport facilities with the recently completed Papatoetoe facility one of significant note. You can visit their website at www.visitorsolutions.net

The key reasons for developing the Community Plan are to:

- Establish a foundation document to enable partner clubs and organisations to work together and to co-operate more efficiently as they investigate the potential of establishing and developing a community multisport and recreation facility.
- Establish an overarching entity that represents the interests of all the member clubs and organisations in order to provide a coordinated 'Bombay voice' to key decision makers and funders.

The purpose of the Community Plan is to:

- Provide a formal foundation for partner collaboration during the planning and potential development of a Bombay Community Multisport and Recreation facility.
- Articulate a shared vision and objectives for the proposed Bombay Community Multisport and Recreation facility.
- Articulate and document partners' requirements and concerns regarding the Bombay Community Multisport and Recreation facility so they can be addressed in future stages.
- Set out an agreed project 'road map'.

The cost of developing this plan was \$5,000 (plus GST). This was funded through the existing sporting clubs and organisations that have an interest in this project, including a small contribution from Council.

This Community Plan has now been agreed by the foundation clubs and community groups and is available in full on the Bombay School website (www.bombay.school.nz).

2. Pre Feasibility Needs Analysis Study

The next stage of the project "road map" was the completion of a Pre Feasibility Needs Analysis Study. The study was preliminary in nature and not about the detail. It does contain an analysis of the catchment area and local clubs, the existing network of facilities and identifies the core benefits of the development.

The study was completed by Visitor Solutions in March at a cost of \$9,000 (plus GST). This was funded by members of the Bombay community. This study is available in full on the Bombay School website.

In broad terms the recommendations arising from this study were as follows:

- Preliminary evidence suggests the project is feasible;
- An in-depth full feasibility study (FFS) to determine the projects optimal configuration and feasibility, and any further recommendations should be completed; and
- Subject to the outcomes of the FFS work with Council to investigate securing the budget for a staged development within the new 10 year community plan.

3. Presentation and submission to the Franklin Local Community Board and Auckland Council

Following the completion of the Community Plan and Pre Feasibility Study we presented to the Franklin Local Community Board. A copy of this presentation is available on the School website as well. We also made a submission and presented in person to the Auckland Council in respect of their 2011 / 2012 Plan.

4. Full Feasibility Study underway

The next stage in the 'road map' outlined in the Community Plan was the completion of a Full Feasibility Study. We sourced a proposal to undertake this work from Visitor Solutions. It is a significant piece of work that will take the best part of four months and cost \$50,000. This is where the real detail has to be worked through and the tough issues dealt with sensibly. A copy of this proposal which incorporates the methodology that will be followed and critical areas that will be covered is available on the School website.

The Auckland Council have are contributing \$30,000 towards the completion of this study. We have made application to the Lotteries Commission for the remaining \$20,000, with a response expected in June. Both the Auckland Council and Counties Manukau Sport have provided letters in support of the project and our application. If unsuccessful we will be fundraising to cover this amount.

The plan is to have the Full Feasibility Study completed by the end of August, in time for submission to the Auckland Council as part of their long term planning process.

This is the study that will not only assess the ultimate long term feasibility of the entire project but also provide the detailed strategic and business planning information that forms the basis under which the development proceeds and the facility operates long term. It is a very important phase and we will need to liaise closely with the foundation clubs and wider Bombay Community to ensure comprehensive consultation and the consideration of all the issues and options. **This now becomes our main focus.**

We know there will be plenty of questions. Things have moved quickly. With that in mind we have posted all the relevant information on the School website and encourage you to visit and have a read.

We are also proposing to schedule a community meeting to present in person to you. This is set down for:

7.30pm 20th June 2011 at the Bombay Community Hall

In the meantime we ask that you help us disseminate this information throughout the community via email and word of mouth.

If you would like to be kept up to date with developments and are not on our database please e-mail us at bombaycommunityproject@gmail.com so we can include you.

If you would like to donate an amount to assist in the funding of the project please contact us.

In the meantime if you have any question please contact us.

Kind regards

Ron Dawbin, Peter Maxwell and Dave Roberts
Trustees of the Bombay War Memorial Sports Grounds Trust