

Submission to the Maungakiekie-Tamaki board

RE: Future use for Hamlin Park

Tena Koutou

The Mt Wellington Cricket Club committee would like to thank the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board and Auckland Council for including us in their proposal as we all work towards the best possible outcome for all parties. The Mt Wellington Cricket Club Committee and members within the club all unanimously agree, that the Cricket Club would not survive if we were relocated from Hamlin Park to Mt Wellington War Memorial Park or potentially any other park. Points that reinforce our position to stay at Hamlin Park are stated below.

Hamlin Park

- The footprint at Hamlin Park would only support one softball diamond and with the softball members increasing, as we've been advised, this would very quickly become insufficient.
- The Hamlin Park ground is away from the main road and traffic, so we do not have to be concerned with balls falling in and around traffic. This also provides a safe area for members, families, and spectators.
- Hamlin Park already has a practise cricket wicket and net facility in place.
- The original cricket clubhouse still stands on the hill at Hamlin Park, which is not portable. The cricket club would have no storage for gear, trophies, and statistics boards that are all currently hung in the clubhouse.
- There are toilets and changing facilities available to use. With the length of cricket games, appropriate toilet facilities are important.
- The quality of cricket at Hamlin Park is excellent, the pitch and outfield are both suited to cricket and are enjoyable to play on.
- Hamlin Park is located next to a supermarket and small shopping community. Again, given the length of cricket games, this allows families to attend games while still being able to have the ability to get lunch or incidentals.
- It is right next to a supermarket and small shopping community which is very handy to all parties
- The Mt Wellington Cricket Club are prepared to build a working relationship with the Mt Wellington Rugby Club and use Hamlin Park to its full potential, we have initiated contact and the response has been very positive.

Mt Wellington Cricket Club

- Mt Wellington Cricket Club has been located at Hamlin Park since the early 1960's. We would lose our history and identity as a club if we were relocated.
- The cost to relocate would be crippling to the club given our financial situation.

Mt Wellington War Memorial Park (MWWM)

- Given the slower nature of cricket games, we often find the general public have no concern about walking through the middle of a game, which causes us to stop a game. 95% of the time, when politely asked if they could walk around it causes confrontation. I've seen other teams carry on playing which puts the public at risk, however, they feel like they have no choice as they don't want to face a confrontation. With the faster nature of softball, as well as the decreased size of the playing surface, we do not believe that softball teams would face the same problem.
- When playing at MWWM, we have lost a number of cricket balls in the water. This is not only a hassle, but an unnecessary cost and waste of resources.
- Wind blows through MWWM all year round and is generally very cold. This not only provides poor playing conditions, but poor conditions for spectators, which would mean our family, friends and children would not attend games. Again, due to the length of time a cricket game lasts, this seemingly small problem is exacerbated when spectators and players are there for hours on end.

Summary

With the above points taken into consideration we as the Mt Wellington Cricket Club feel strongly that retaining Hamlin Park as our home is of huge significance, not only for the history, clubhouse, general enjoyment, quality and safety that Hamlin Park provides but for the future of the Mt Wellington Cricket Club. I have had confirmation that we would lose one full cricket team (approx. 20 members) immediately if we were to be relocated which would severely impact on the club's future.

As mentioned at the meeting the Cricket Club are supportive of working together with all parties to come to a suitable outcome. We understand that there is a lack of green space to provide each club with all of their demands, but the proposal presented by the Auckland Council shows there are grounds available that could fit two full softball diamonds and see this as an opportunity to make one of those available grounds the home of softball for the club in need, and keep Hamlin Park for cricket and rugby, which has been a suitable home for a number of years. From what we understand, the softball club is going to need to relocate regardless of the outcome as Thompson Park is not suitable for softball, therefore, a successful decision regarding our submission would result in only the softball club having to relocate, but will also future proof both the softball and cricket clubs.

Naku Noa

Lewis Hori

Mt Wellington Cricket Club President