

News Release

7 February 2012

FACELIFT PLANNED FOR THE RECREATION RESERVE

Oval size, poor accessibility, safety concerns and the lack of comfortable viewing/seating areas are just some of the reasons why Council and the existing Mansfield Recreation Reserve users have identified the need to redevelop the Reserve.

Mayor Jeff Whyte said “The Reserve, located in the heart of Mansfield, is the shire’s primary social, recreational and sporting precinct”.

“The current facilities are far from ideal and potentially put at risk the safety of all of our football and netball players and importantly the eligibility of teams for the Goulburn Valley League”.

“We anticipate the outcomes of the funding applications to reconstruct the netball courts and constructing spectator seating on southern boundary of oval will be announced in the coming months. If we are successful in these applications we hope to commence works on the project later in 2012.”

“The netball courts require some immediate repairs and in the coming weeks we will be undertaking some temporary works to ensure that the surface is safe for the upcoming season and until the reconstruction of the new courts can commence.”

“Rather than construct a new (and more costly) facility, this project will maximise the benefits and usage of this existing community resource creating a venue where we will be able to host a wider range of activities including festivals, outdoor concerts, markets, sporting events, social gatherings and Neighbourhood Safer Place functions” said Mr Whyte.

The project is one of the top priorities in 2012 for Mansfield Shire Council. Council has already invested a significant amount of cash and in-kind support towards the development of the concept plan and have committed to construction.

Initial cost estimates indicate that the total cost of the project will be approximately \$2 Million. This means that additional funding will need to be secured from other levels of government for the project to proceed.

In order to accommodate Council and community resources, funding avenues and minimise disruption to users, the project has been split into stages.

Funded through a grant from the Federal Government, the first stage of this project – upgrading the playground was recently completed in December 2011.

Funding applications for subsequent stages which include reconstructing both netball courts and constructing spectator seating on southern boundary of oval have been submitted to various State Government funding programs.

Initial schematic plans were developed in consultation with key reserve users and in early 2010 these plans were displayed for public comment. The community's feedback was collated and used to refine of the Reserve redevelopment plans.

Council has recently invited tenders for the development of detailed design documentation.

Further information and the concept plans are available on Mansfield Shire Councils website, under current projects.

ENDS

For more information please contact David Roff, Chief Executive Officer of 5775 8555.