

MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

30 October 2019

## Elwood College & MCC Multi-Purpose Sports Field Project

**\*Following the Community Information Session held on 22 October 2019, the following updated information is available to help local residents and the school community further understand the project.**

*Q: Why has a synthetic ground been chosen to be built at Elwood College?*

A: The identification and decision making process to build the multi-purpose sports facility at Elwood College has been extensive and was formalised between the Department of Education, The Elwood College School Council and the MCC Foundation in December 2018.

The proposed plan and location was determined as part of the overall master plan process between the School and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) and has been disclosed as part of communications about the School's redevelopment plans over the last three years.

*Q: Who are the MCC Hockey Club?*

A: MCC Hockey are a community based club run by volunteers, encouraging people of all ages and abilities to be active through participation. MCC Hockey is an inclusive club and welcomes new players of all ages – you do not need to be a member of the MCC to join.

*Q: Does the MCC Foundation own the facility?*

A: The MCC Foundation will not own the multi-purpose sports facility but the MCC Hockey Club will have access to it. The land and new facility remains the property of the Minister for Education.

*Q: What are the terms of the lease/license between the MCC, the College and DET?*

A: The initial terms set out in the Community Joint Use Agreement (CJUA) are for the MCC to use the premises is 30 years, with an option to extend. The licence will be reviewed at the end of the initial term.

*Q: Who will be able to use the facility outside of school hours?*

A: On top of Elwood College and the MCC's access to the multi-purpose sporting facility, other individuals and local clubs will be able to book to use the facility, which we expect will be similar to the current arrangement at the school's Phoenix Theatre. We are also currently working with the City of Port Philip to connect local clubs and organisations with the project to further determine this. Please refer to the draft and indicative schedule of usage in Appendix A.

*Q: Will the College's students be allowed to access and use the new synthetic pitch and facilities (e.g. at lunchtime/recess) like they currently do with the interim space?*

A: Yes, this multi-purpose sports facility will be built for the students as a recreational and sports related area to use for all school related activities and hours. Students are encouraged to be outdoors and active and this will include unfettered use during lunchtimes and recess breaks.



*Q: What percentage of time after school hours will the facility be in use throughout the year?*

A: Please refer to a draft and indicative schedule of usage in Appendix A.

Hockey, which the MCC intends to use the facility for, is a winter based sport with activity significantly less over the summer months. Other community sporting groups will have the opportunity to hire the facility as well.



*Q: How have local residents been informed about the project?*

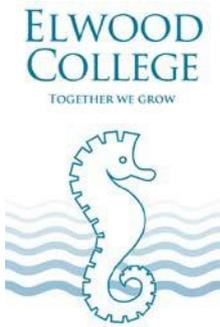
A: The school has previously presented its master plan, including plans for the multi-purpose sports field, and have also communicated this via their website over the last three years. The joint use agreement between the Department of Education, School Council and MCC Foundation formalised the sports ground in December 2018. Since then the following communications and activities have also occurred:

- 1) 4 February 2019 - Letter to residents on Goldsmith and Shelley Streets disclosing the Department of Education, College and MCC Foundation's partnership and intentions to fund the development of the new grounds and plans for an upcoming information session.
- 2) May 2019 - Update on Elwood College's website confirming the School's Grounds master plan previously communicated in recent years which included the sports field.
- 3) 19 July 2019 - Letters to immediate residents on Goldsmith and Shelley Streets to confirm upcoming resident's information meeting.
- 4) 6 August 2019 - Meeting with local residents to present them with preliminary design proposal intentions and to answer concern and questions.
- 5) 16 August 2019 - Email to residents (who have provided email addresses including on the information night) acknowledging concerns plus answers to some high level FAQs.
- 6) 24 September 2019 – Letter sent by email to residents with responses and progress update about key concerns raised from local residents information session held on 6 August.
- 7) 26 September 2019 – Letter drop to 135 residents that live in the surrounding area.
- 8) 27 September 2019 – Supplementary FAQs distributed via email to residents who have provided email contact details. These FAQs were also made available on the College's website <https://www.elwood.vic.edu.au/>.
- 9) 7 October 2019 – Letter drop to 135 residents that live in the surrounding area and also via email advising of Community Information session to be held on 22 October 2019.
- 10) 15 October 2019 - Letter from Elwood College to Students and the School Community to update them an update on the project and the Community Information session to be held on 22 October 2019.
- 11) 22 October 2019 – Community Information session held.

*Q: Have there been any impact assessments conducted to date?*

A: Modifications will be made to the ground design including actions in place to ensure any loose particles are filtered, captured and disposed of responsibly before they enter drainage or stormwater outlets.

Light spill documentation will satisfy all Australian standards (AS4282-2019) for residential areas and once a supplier is chosen, a fact sheet will be available to the local community.



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Despite traffic and parking impacts on the surrounding streets being within the domain of the City of Port Philip (COPP), the project team is currently working with the COPP to minimize and manage any ongoing impact once the facility is operational.

Similarly, the project team is also committed to ensuring noise and sounds from the facility are low and we will work with the COPP and MCC Hockey Club to determine initiatives which can help minimise this.

*Q: Will the synthetic surface be permeable?*

A: The synthetic surface is permeable. As part of the design, the project working group will consider measures to mitigate and not negatively affect water run-off and flooding risk.

*Q: Will the synthetic surface need to be blue to satisfy Premier League Hockey requirements?*

A: No. The synthetic surface will be green in colour.

*Q: Will the school grounds still be accessible to the community?*

A: The School grounds are the property of the State Government, and the Minister for Education is the responsible authority. The school grounds are not formally accessible to the general public after hours. This will not be changing with the development of the new multi-purpose sports ground.

*Q: How will the sports lights affect the local area?*

A: The sports field lighting will be constructed with light poles that are utilizing state of the art sports field technology. The light poles will be 18 metres in height and the LED light technology being considered has the ability to be far more focused on providing controlled light to the field, not flood light.

The project team will also ensure that the facility will satisfy Australian Standards (AS4282-2019) for light spill to surrounding residential areas, and will have thorough testing carried out to clarify how far the light spills away from the field during installation and commissioning and also after the construction of the light towers.

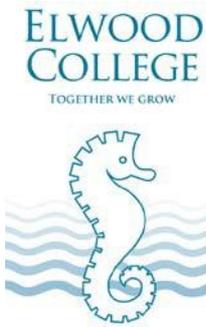
Once a supplier has been chosen, we will endeavour to provide residents with further information to outline how the lights will operate.

*Q: What will the impact be to the environment?*

A: There are a small number of trees and shrubs that will be removed on the school site to allow the development of the sports field. The College and MCC have considered multiple options to minimise the number of trees that will need to be removed.

After engagement with the community, a decision was made to move the fence on the Shelley Street side of the ground in towards the hockey field 300mm to allow for planting of vegetation on the outside of the fence. This will provide a visual and sound barrier to the street.

We are planning to create a mound running the length of the field facing the Goldsmith



Street side of the ground, which will create a buffer from noise and an area for spectators to view. This will be green open space, and will be grassed, with potential for further 'screening' vegetation to be planted over time.



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We will work with a landscape architect to plant trees and vegetation around the outside areas of the field to assist in creating a natural barrier. The DET has a policy of a 2-for-1 replacement policy with the type and maturity of vegetation to be confirmed at a later date.

We will also make contact with the Port Philip Eco Centre to see how we can work together with them to assess and minimise any impacts to local fauna.

*Q: Which planning permit has been obtained?*

A: Similar to the improvements that have been occurring in recent years at the school, land vested in the Minister for Education falls outside of the Council planning process.

*Q: Are there plans for additional car parking?*

A: A new 30 car capacity car park was not initially intended, but we will now be proceeding with this and placing it on the existing staff car parking site. This will not reduce any further green space. Car park entrance options will also be further considered and we are working on the most appropriate plan when considering preserving green space available, the school's needs now and into the future, and the expected traffic.

The closure of Shelley St and Goldsmith St, or the changing of access to permit only parking are not issues that the school or MCC have control over. These both fall within the domain of the City of Port Philip (COPP) but we will work with them to monitor and minimise any impacts.