



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT BLACKMORE OVAL, LEICHHARDT

LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2011

Plan of Management Adoption Record

The attached Plan of Management for Blackmore Park was considered on two separate occasions by Council. These being at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 27th September 2011 and subsequently on the 18th day of October 2011.

The following resolutions provide an historic context to the adoption of the Plan of Management by Leichhardt Council as well as a summary of the adopted resolutions which accompany the Plan of Management and importantly the Master Plan for the Park.

ITEM 17 PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR ADOPTION – BLACKMORE OVAL

C493/11 RESOLVED PLATE/ PORTEOUS

- 1. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Council adopt the Plan of Management for Blackmore Park - attached to the report subject to the following changes:
 - a) The deletion of the proposal that the undercover area be used for storage.
 - b) Council defer the issue of the northern fence to the October Ordinary Meeting and the report to provide different options for the fence and outline how they will impact on the Plan of Management.
- 2. The capital improvements listed in the master plan for Blackmore Park are incorporated into Council's planning programme including Council's four year plan and long term financial plan.
- 3. That Council don't close off the path on the southern edge of the Park and that signage warning people that there is a game in progress be installed during games.

ITEM 15 BLACKMORE PARK – PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND FENCING ISSUES

C569/11 RESOLVED PLATE/CINIS

That

- 1. Council endorse the fencing and pathway improvements advocated as part of the Plan of Management along the northern boundary of Blackmore Park, including removal of the chainwire fence between the park and the path.
- 2. Council note that safety and security issues associated with public access to Blackmore Park have been considered as part of the landscape master plan for the park; and in this regard that the proposed boundary fence improvements along the western side of Blackmore Park (Canal Road) be modified to address the security concerns adjacent to the Leichhardt Wanderer's clubhouse area by raising the height of the new fence in this area.
- 3. That final designs once commissioned are consulted with resident sporting users and State Emergency Services to ensure that safety and security issues associated with park use are adequately addressed.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Purpose of Plan of Management	
1.2 Overview of Blackmore Oval	
2. STATUTORY CONTEXT	13
2.1 Local Government Act 1993	
2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979	
2.3 Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000	
2.4 Companion Animals Act 1998	
2.5 Disability Discrimination Act 1992	
2.6 Leichhardt Suburb Profile	
3. CONSULTATION	20
4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT	24
5. PRESENT USE AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES	26
5.1 Condition and Use of the Land and Existing Structures	
5.2 Description of Proposed Future Development and Permissible Uses	
5.3 Principles for Redevelopment of Landscape Improvements	
5.4 New Fencing to Canal Road	
5.5 Site Accessibility and Operation	
5.6 Trees and Vegetation	
5.7 Current and Projected Recreational and Open Space Needs	
6. CLASSIFICATION OF LAND	36
6.1 Categorisation and Objectives for Land	
6.2 Core Objectives	
7. STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	37
7.1 Specific Objectives	
8. CONCEPT PLAN	43
Phase 1	
Phase 2	
APPENDICES	46
Appendix 1 – Preliminary Stakeholder Consultation – Summary of Written Submissions	
Appendix 2 – Minutes of Community Consultation Sessions 1 and 2	
Appendix 3 – Site Survey	
Appendix 4 - New Fencing to Canal Road	

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been developed to guide Council and the community in the future development, maintenance and management of Blackmore Oval, Leichhardt.

Leichhardt Council has established broad objectives in relation to public open space management:

- a) To improve the amenity of open space within the Leichhardt Local Government Area;
- b) To prepare and establish Plans of Management including Landscape Master Plans for each area of open space that guides the future development, management and maintenance of its open space facilities;
- c) To actively engage community input in the preparation of Plans of Management for parkland areas and provide informed planning advice to Council;
- d) To reduce ongoing maintenance costs through the improved design and management of facilities;
- e) To implement sustainability principles with consideration of Council's Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan; and
- f) To establish a proposed and documented program for staged improvement works which are prioritised and agreed to by Council.

This Plan of Management also supports the vision and directions outlined in Council's 2020+ Strategic Plan in relation to community well-being; accessibility; and a sustainable environment and specifically the objective to plan open space and other developments to increase open space, enhance the natural environment and native biodiversity.

1.2 Overview of Blackmore Oval

Blackmore Oval is located in the suburb of Leichhardt and is accessed by Canal Road. Refer to Figure 1 for a location plan and Figure 2 for an aerial photograph of the park. The land is legally described as Lot 649 in DP 729259. The Park is approximately 1.56 hectares in area.

The study area comprises an oval marked for use by rugby league, rugby union and baseball, a former park caretaker's cottage, public amenities building, a small storage shed, and a small retention basin and stormwater channel.

Blackmore Oval is predominately used by three sporting clubs, namely, the West Boomers Baseball Club, Balmain Rugby Union Club, and Leichhardt Wanderers Junior Rugby League Club. The single oval currently serves all of these sporting bodies. It is marked with a baseball diamond and has a baseball fence in the south-western corner for seniors matches and a baseball fence in the south-eastern corner for junior matches.

The former caretaker's cottage is now used predominately by the Leichhardt Ashfield State Emergency Service (SES) Unit and a small area by the Wanderers predominately for clubroom use. Refurbishment of the cottage was undertaken by the SES and was officially opened on 26 August 2009 for the purposes of offices, training, equipment storage and parking. During October 2009 the building was damaged as a result of arson and is being refurbished.

Associated with the oval is a small shed that is currently used by the SES and the West Boomers for storage.

Car parking is located on Canal Road comprising on-street parallel parking along the park side of the road, and a car park on the canal side of the road accommodating front-on parking. Canal Road is a "shared zone" for cars and pedestrians and the maximum speed limit is 10 km / hour.

The Park is located on the northern edge of the suburb of Leichhardt. The park is not visible from any road in Leichhardt except Canal Road because of the intervening railway line embankment. This may impact on the park's level of usage by the general public.

The land uses surrounding the park comprise:

- Canal Road and the Hawthorne Canal beyond to the west;

- Film studios immediately to the south-west;
- Railway line and Darley Road and single detached dwellings beyond, to the south and south-east; and
- City West Link Road to the north and north-east.

The study area also contains two public footpaths that connect from the suburb of Leichhardt to Hawthorne Canal. Further south of the site along Hawthorne Canal it becomes an off-leash dog area. While north of the study area Hawthorne Canal soon merges into Iron Cove. There is a pedestrian path that travels into this area.

Prior to the construction of the City West Link in the late 1990's the park was larger and included practice cricket nets. These were subsequently removed because of a resulting lack of space.

Blackmore forms part of a popular recreational precinct which includes the areas of Hawthorne Canal and Iron Cove. Further north of the park adjacent to Iron Cove is Leichhardt Park that includes Leichhardt Oval and swimming pools. Hawthorne Reserve, an active dog recreation area, lies to the south of the study area and contains popular cafe, "Café Bones".

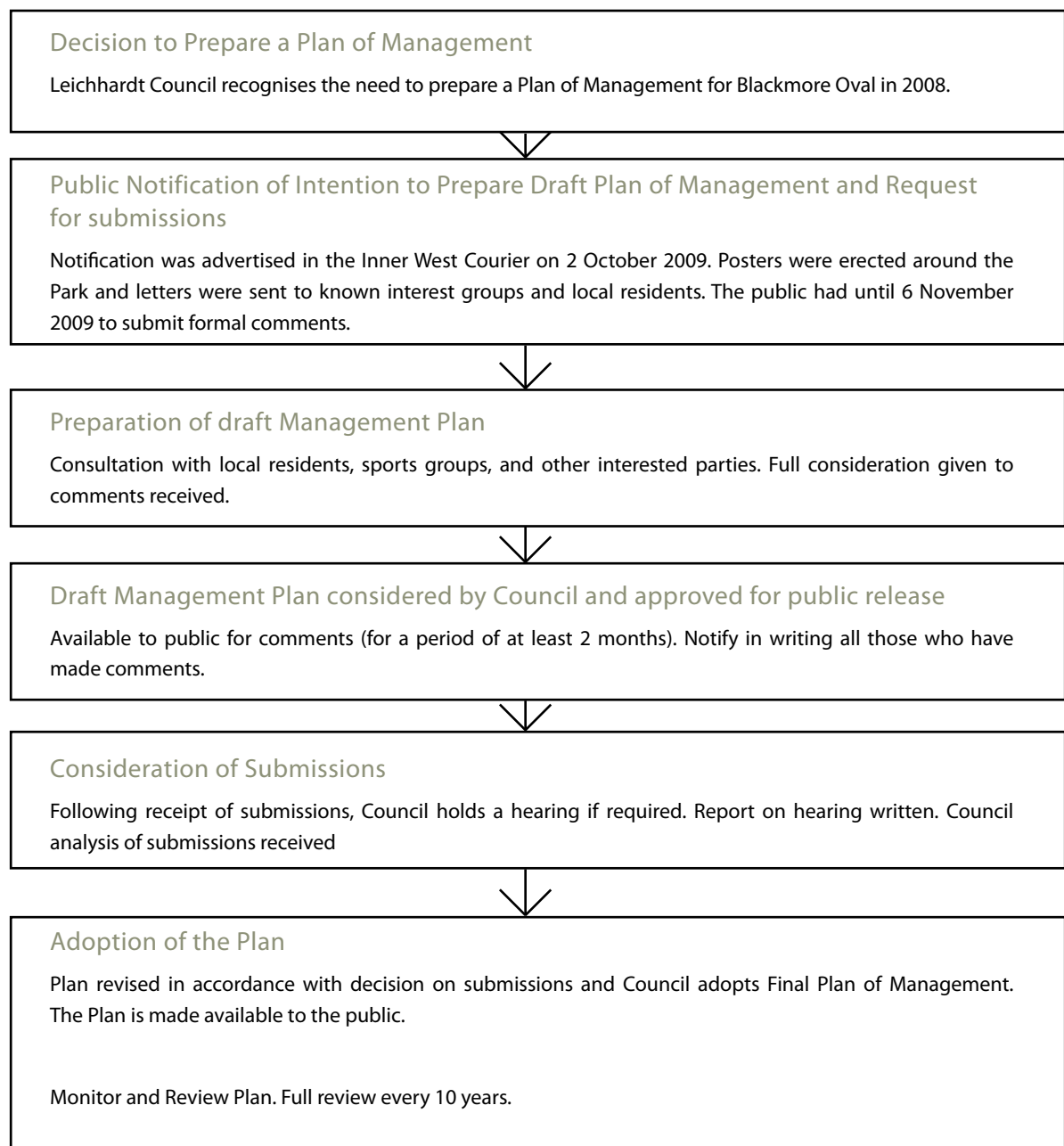
The major challenges associated with the management of the park include the competing and overlapping demands for use of the oval from the three sporting groups that currently use it, combined with its use by pedestrians (including dog walkers).

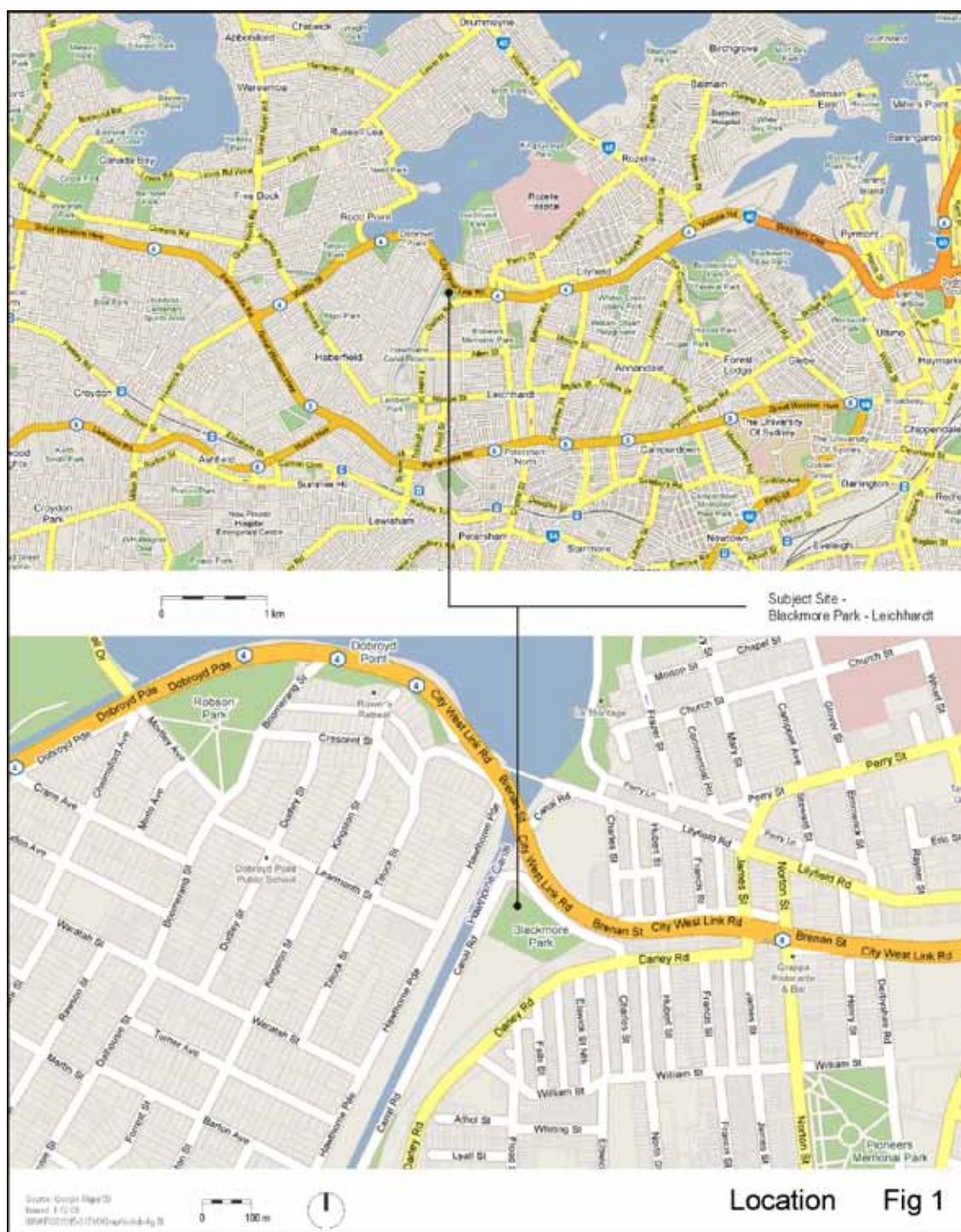
A Leichhardt Council Report dated 16 July 2008 sought to rectify the issue of companion animal access to Blackmore Park. The sporting bodies using the park had raised concerns with Council over dogs accessing the oval when training or sporting events were in play. Currently, the park's omission from Leichhardt Council's "Access to Open Space Strategy for Dogs" means it is an on-leash area, although the Companion Animals Act 1998 prohibits dogs on sport/playing fields. Options put forward in the Council Report were 1. Removing the north-eastern pedestrian gate; 2. Education and enforcement; and/or, 3. Fencing the oval.

While it is not the purpose of this Plan of Management to allocate time periods for use of the oval and facilities by the respective sporting groups, it aims to resolve the physical space requirements of the respective groups and other users, and set out the physical improvements that may be required of facilities.



Process to Prepare Blackmore Oval Plan of Management









View looking north



Subject Site -
Blackmore Park - Leichhardt

View looking west



Source: Bingmaps.com.au 09
Issued: 10-06-10
09/WP/30/10/15-01/740/Graphic/sds-fig BI Fig 5

Oblique aerial views **Fig 3**

2. Statutory Context

The statutory framework to guide the preparation and operation of the plan of management for Blackmore Oval is primarily set by the:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

In addition, the other legislation, regulations and environmental planning instruments of relevance to the plan of management are:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000
- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992

2.1 Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 (Local Government Act) 1993 is the legal framework for the system of local government in NSW.

Provisions of the Local Government Act relating to plans of management are set out below. These prescribe the content of the plan; categorisation of land and objectives relating to these categories of land; and procedures relating to public notice, exhibition and amendments to the plan.

Integrated Planning

On 1 October 2009 the NSW Government introduced a range of initiatives design to integrate and improve Long Term Strategic Planning within NSW Local Government. The reforms require that Local Government develops a series of inter-related plans comprising a:

- 10-year community strategic plan establishing strategic objectives (local priorities and future aspirations) together with strategies for achieving those objectives;
- Resourcing strategy including asset management planning, a workforce management strategy and long term financial planning. The resourcing strategy is to plan for the resources required to implement the strategies established by the community strategic plan that the council is responsible for; and
- Delivery program for every four years showing how projects and programs are going to be delivered during a council's term in office. The delivery program is to detail the principal activities to be undertaken by the council to implement the strategies established by the community strategic plan within the resources available under the resourcing strategy.

Leichhardt Council is in the process of completing its resourcing strategy and delivery program. The work carried out to date has confirmed the need for infrastructure improvements. In addition to ensuring that all existing assets are maintained, Council also has other statutory responsibilities, for example, the implementation of its Disability Discrimination Act Action Plan.

As such, in developing a Plan of Management, Council has a responsibility to ensure that the contents of the plan can be funded over a reasonable period of time.

To facilitate this requirement Council staff will be assessing individual elements of the Plan of Management in terms of:

1. There being a demonstrated need or requirement supported by relevant documentary evidence.
2. The likely cost and the cumulative impact on Council's capital works program.
3. The likely delivery date in the context of other items already listed on the Delivery Program. In this regard Council list individual items in one of the following three categories:
 - a. Short term (1-5 years)
 - b. Medium term (5-15 years)
 - c. Long term (15 years plus)

Prescribed Contents for Plan of Management

Clause 36 of the Local Government Act provides that a Council must prepare a plan of management for community land. This clause provides that a plan of management must set out:

- the category of the land,
- the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets, and
- the prior approval of the Council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

The plan of management must include a description of:

- the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
- the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and

The plan of management must:

- specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
- specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
- describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Categorisation and Objectives for Land

Clause 36(4) requires that the land the subject of the plan of management be categorised as one or more of:

- a natural area
- a sportsground
- a park
- an area of cultural significance
- general community use

The classification of the land is discussed at Section 6

Procedures for Public Notice, Exhibition and Amendments to Plan

Clause 38 of the Local Government Act provides that the Council must put the draft plan of management on exhibition for a period not less than 28 days. A public notice must specify that submissions can be made on the draft plan of management after the day the exhibition period ceases, for a period of not less than 42 days.

Clause 39 of the Local Government Act provides that prior to the public notice being issued on the draft plan of management (Clause 38) the draft plan of management must be submitted to the owner of the land, and to include any provisions required by the owner of the land.

Clause 40 of the Local Government Act provides that after receiving submissions, the Council has the option to amend the plan of management or to adopt it without amendment. Should Council make amendments, it must again exhibit the plan in accordance with Clause 38 this is, unless the amendments are not considered as substantial, in which case, the plan can be adopted without the requirement for further exhibition.

2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) provides for a system of environmental assessment and planning for development in NSW. The Act establishes a hierarchy of planning instruments which zone land and regulate specific types of development across the State.

The EP&A Act is the principal environmental planning legislation controlling the development of land in NSW. All State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) must be consistent with the objects and controls contained within the Act. They include:

- the management, development and conservation of natural and artificial resources,
- the promotion and co-ordination of the orderly and economic use of land,
- protection, provision and co-ordination of communication and utility services,
- provision of public purposes,
- provision and co-ordination of community services and facilities,
- ecological sustainable development, and
- the provision and maintenance of affordable housing.

2.4 Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000

The Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000 (the LEP) is the primary statutory instrument for controlling land use and development in the local government area of Leichhardt.

Zoning

The subject land is zoned 'Open Space, Recreation and Leisure' (Clause 24) under the LEP.

The objectives of the Open Space, Recreation and Leisure' zone are to:

- (a) to maximise the provision of open space in order to provide a diverse range of settings and recreational opportunities to meet the needs of the community,
- (b) to ensure the equitable distribution of, and access to, open space and recreation facilities,
- (c) to retain, protect and promote public access to foreshore areas and provide links to existing open

- space,
- (d) to ensure development is compatible with any Parks Plans of Management, Landscape Plans and Bicycle Plan adopted by the Council,
 - (e) to conserve and enhance the ecological role of open space, including flora and fauna diversity (including the genetic, species and ecosystem diversity of flora and fauna), habitat corridors and the potential of open space to cleanse air, water and soils,
 - (f) to provide opportunities in open space for public art.

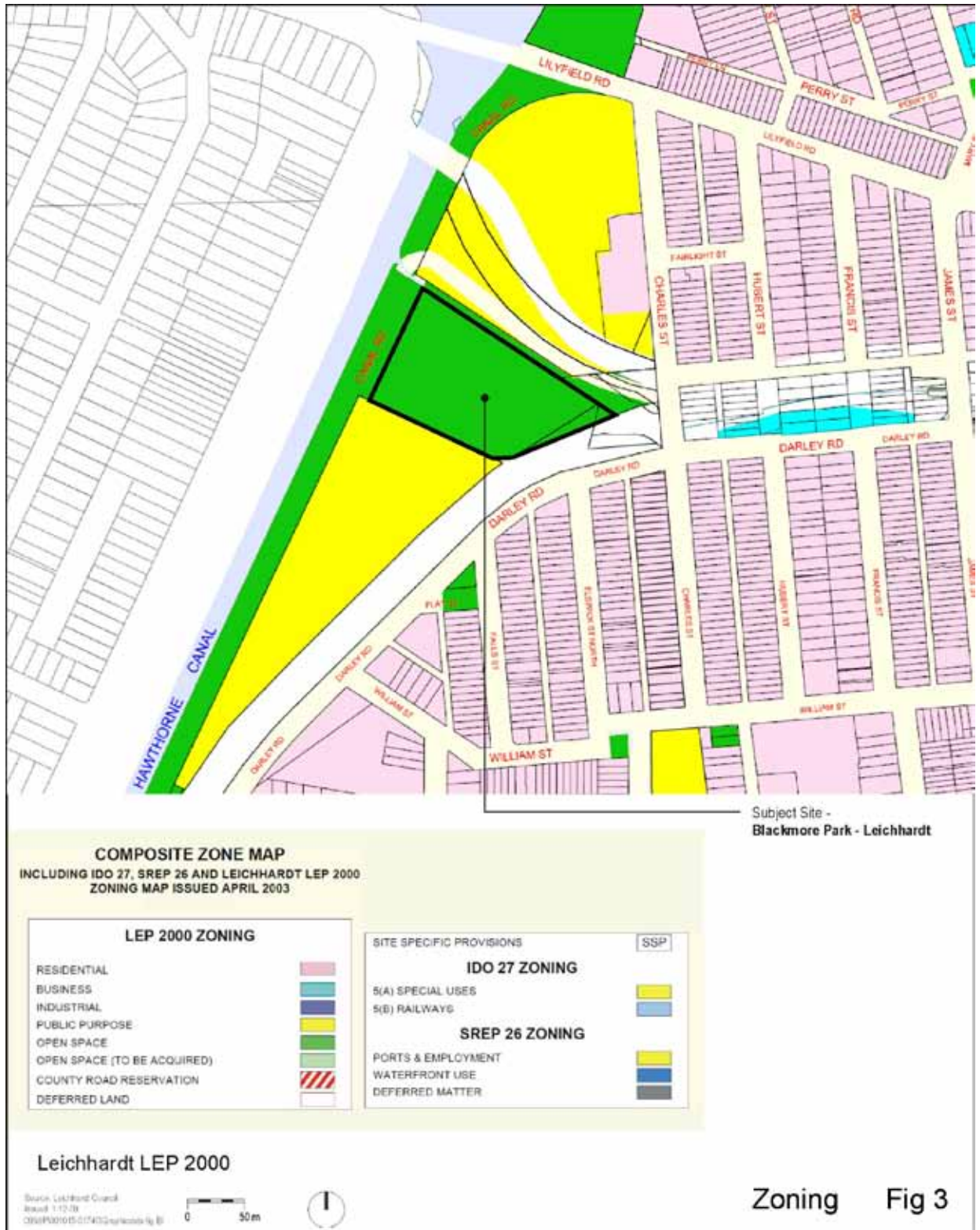
Development allowed without development consent in the zone includes for the purpose of:

- ancillary sporting structures
- open space embellishment
- playgrounds
- recreation areas

Development allowed only with development consent in the zone includes for the purpose of:

- clubs
- community facilities
- community gardens
- jetties
- kiosks
- public amenities
- public transport stops
- recreation facilities
- demolition
- subdivision

All other development outside of these purposes above as defined by the LEP is prohibited in the zone. The LEP defines the types of key development listed above.



Zoning Fig 3

2.5 Companion Animals Act 1998

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 (Companion Animals Act) has as its object, the “effective and responsible care and management of companion animals”.

The Companion Animals Act includes responsibilities for dogs in public places and public places where dogs are prohibited.

Clause 13 of the Act (‘Responsibilities while dog in public place’) sets out:

A dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person.

This section does not apply to a dog accompanied by some competent person in an area declared to be an off-leash area.

Clause 14 sets out that there are some places where dogs are prohibited. These include:

- Children’s play areas (within 10 metres of any playing apparatus provided in that public place or part for the use of children);
- Food preparation/consumption areas;
- Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited (for public recreation or the playing of organised games and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited);
- Child care centres.

Leichhardt’s Access to Open Space Strategy for Dogs is a strategy that determines levels of access of dogs to open space, in accordance with the Companion Animals Act.

Blackmore Oval is not specifically addressed in the Strategy. This plan recommends that an amendment be made to the strategy so that it is clear that the whole of the Park is accessible to dogs on-leash only.

2.6 Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Discrimination Act) sets out to eliminate discrimination against persons with a disability, including in relation to goods, services and facilities and access to premises.

The Discrimination Act sets out provisions relating to “Access to Premises” (Section 23). This makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of their disability by denying access to or use of premises or facilities that are public; or by the path of travel to the premises. Exceptions to this rule include if the making of the access to premises would qualify as ‘justifiable hardship’ on the person who provides the access.

Section 24 of the Discrimination Act sets out provisions relating to goods, services and facilities that make it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of their disability by refusing to provide the person with the goods or services or in the manner in which those goods, services or facilities are provided to the person. Exceptions to this rule includes if the provision of the goods or services or makes the facilities available would qualify as ‘justifiable hardship’ on the person who provides the goods or services or makes the facilities available.

2.7 Leichhardt Suburb Profile

Blackmore Oval is part of the Helsarmel precinct within the Leichhardt Suburb Profile that forms part of Leichhardt Development Control Plan. The Profile does not reference the park and inaccurately notes:

Other than the Pioneer Memorial Park, public open space is limited in Helsarmel with two small parks located on the corner of North and William Street and on the corner of Darley Road and Falls Street.

3. Consultation

Preliminary Consultation

Two stages of preliminary public consultation were conducted prior to formal exhibition of the draft plan of management. These consultation stages comprised:

1. Invitation for Written Submissions; and
2. Community Consultation Session prior to development of options.

Invitation for Written Submissions

Residents in the vicinity of Blackmore Oval were notified by a letter drop of the intention of Council to prepare a plan of management for the Park and written submissions were invited.

Six (6) written submissions were received in relation to the Oval. The key issues raised in the written submissions include the following:

West Boomers (baseball)

- Baseball club needs uses of both Callan Park and Blackmore – so a coordinated approach is needed.
- There is year-round unmet demand for baseball, so sharing of Blackmore will not be the only solution.
- Irrigation of ground is needed, particularly in the summer. Could tap into reclaimed effluent.
- Only 5 of the 9 lights were installed and this limits night time use of the ground.
- Address safety of children in relation to dogs – suggest fencing the ground.
- Support general community use of the ground.

Balmain Rugby

- Change rooms should be redeveloped – they are old and small.
- Need higher fence near the canal as balls always enter the canal.
- Presently a canteen is needed to be assembled and dismantled each time.
- Ideally would like a new building comprising a canteen, mini-grandstand and change sheds.

Park users

- Cricket pitches should be returned that were lost to the freeway.
- Suggest shared arrangement with ground users and dog owners, so that dog owners use in mornings when the ground is not used.
- Suggest use of plant, *Syringa vulgaris* (European or English Lilac).
- Suggest residents can rear tubestock to plant in the park. The species would be determined by Council and would give residents a sense of ownership.

Community Consultation Session

Two consultation sessions were held for Blackmore Oval prior to exhibition. Residents in the vicinity of Blackmore Oval were notified by a letter drop of the community consultation session that was held in the Park on 5 December 2009 and again in January for a meeting held on 30 January 2010. For both sessions a number of notices were also erected in the park to notify people about the consultation session. The workshops were held in the park because of good accessibility to surrounding residents and because it gave residents the opportunity to show presenters their issues 'first-hand' in the park.

This first community consultation session was attended by 11 community members (including representatives of West Boomers Baseball Club, the Wanderers League club; and Balmain Rugby) and 2 Councillors.

The key issues raised in the first community consultation session included the following matters and suggestions:

- Balls fly from the playing field near the path adjacent to the film studios which puts pedestrians at risk. Proper fencing is needed for pedestrian safety.
- There needs to be greater enforcement of dog access to the park.
- The gate near the canal is problematic because people cut through the field, even when games are in progress.
- View that dogs should be prohibited from the park because they are a safety hazard.
- Suggestion by Council officers to Councillors that the gate to the playing field is permanently closed but this was rejected (LMC).
- The field needs to be cleared of dog faeces before games.
- The park was left as an unregulated area (not identified in LCAMP) so dogs need to be on-leash (Councillor).
- A resident's view was that clubs have taken over use of the park. Agree that dogs should be on-lead in the park and adamant that it should be a shared park that all ratepayers can use.
- Recommend that the State Emergency Services (SES) is involved in consultations.
- Suggestion for cricket nets to be located near the film studios.
- Balls frequently end up in the canal. Recommendation that the canal is caged.
- There is a current lack of parking. Tandem parking is currently employed when games are held at the playing field.
- Suggestion that the boomgate is relocated to allow for more parking spaces (LMC).
- A survey of users for parking and transport needs is required (Councillor).
- Suggestion that the pathway and trees could be removed and the baseball diamond pushed closer to the film studios.
- Suggestion that the path next to the canal could be improved so it does not feel so enclosed and to make it more pleasant to walk through. A low wall could be installed for spectators (LMC).
- Grants are being investigated by Council from Sydney Water for irrigation of the playing field (LMC).

This second community consultation session was attended by 9 community members (including representatives of West Boomers Baseball Club, and the Wanderers League club); 3 representatives from the SES and 3 Councillors.

The key issues raised in the second community consultation session included the following matters and suggestions:

Rugby league

- Rugby league used to train at Blackmore on Wednesday and Friday nights. They were requested to "compress" their use of the playing field so rugby union could also use the field. League season was reduced to 7 months. Use of the field once began on 1 March and now commences on 16th March. Baseball mound not removed until 17th March. Requested the gates are locked so that people can not access field – problem when game is in progress. Baseball was not able to use the ground until October so they missed 4 rounds

of the baseball season.

Baseball

- The baseball mound only takes one day to remove.
- There are safety issues with pedestrians and dogs running through games.
- Issue with dog faeces on field that clubs need to clean up before games.
- Current rubbish on ground is not associated with club sporting games because clubs have not used the ground since December.
- Baseball would like to make pedestrian access safer and signage implemented to discourage public access to field when games are in progress/ dog access.
- Fence around playing field is one solution to conflicts of use.

SES

- The SES occupy the old caretakers cottage where there is an office and they store equipment, vehicles etc. If there is a major emergency (eg. storms) then the park is a assembly point ("Emergency Response Area"). This means they require access to the facility at short notice for eg. Field for vehicles, helicopter landing, etc. Area can be secured with police tape (secure fencing not essential) and they bring their own emergency lighting.

Residents

- Support for general public use of park including responsible dog access across the park
- If replace storage building it should be built closer to the boundary.

General discussion

- Across the Municipality, sporting clubs have had to curb playing times because of a lack of facilities (Councillor). The handover of Callan Park to Council for its use and maintenance has highlighted significant funding gaps in terms of State Government support for infrastructure improvements and ongoing maintenance.
- SES raised the issue of parking – issue for them when parking doubles-up and blocks off their access. Suggest signage to prevent this.
- Lighting along road is lacking which is a safety issue for people accessing cars. Possibility that new lighting turns off after a certain time.
- Traffic management plan will be recommended as part of the Plan of Management – to resolve conflicts with pedestrians, cars, and dogs.
- Could increase capacity of parking spaces by delineating parking spaces.
- Problem that some club users currently park under trees next to playing field.
- Concerns were also expressed in relation to pedestrian safety about the narrowness of the footpath which runs alongside the stormwater detention basin. Pedestrian perceptions centred around feeling "caged in" along this route.

A full summary of the issues raised in the community consultation session can be found at Appendix 2.

In addition to the preliminary consultation with the public, a briefing session was held prior to the draft plan of

management being submitted to Council for consideration prior to its exhibition.

Exhibition Consultation Period

The Draft Plan of Management was placed on formal exhibition for a period of 42 days. During the exhibition period a third community consultation session was held. This was attended by Councillor Hannaford, nine members of the public (including representatives of sporting groups), Council staff and the consultant.

The key issues from that meeting are summarised below:

- It does not make sense to have circuitous path to the southern boundary as well as an expanded path to the northern boundary.
- If existing fencing to Canal Road is to be removed then replacement fencing is needed to prevent children running from the playing field into traffic.
- Potential conflict between traffic and pedestrians. It was suggested that the traffic management plan should occur at the same time and be resolved prior to finalisation of the plan of management.
- Concern that there is a lack of a junior pitch for baseball.
- The cricket nets could be locked when the oval is in use for games, and reopened following each game, so as to prevent conflict between uses.
- Baseball said they would provide a revised list of improvements required to the park for their needs.

A full summary of the issues raised via written submissions and consultation sessions can be found at Appendices 1 and 2.



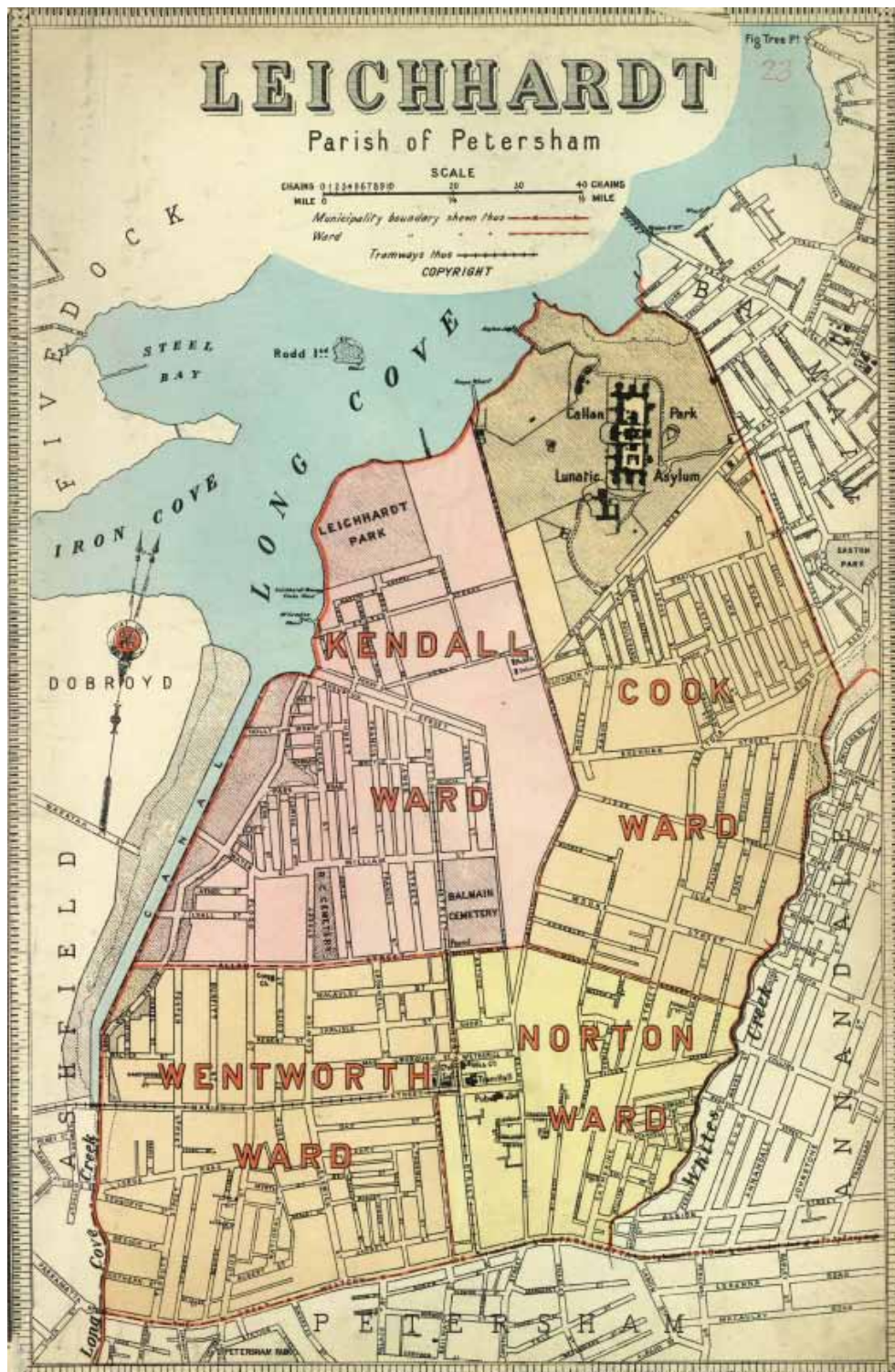
Community consultation session held at Blackmore Oval on 5 December 2009

4. Historical Context

There is very little information available on the history of Blackmore Oval. The site as shown in the aerial photograph below shows the site of the reserve in the year 1943, clearly prior to it becoming part of the open space assets of the Municipality. Extant buildings on the site and a number of the public domain elements indicate the park was previously used as part of an army facility, but a search for evidence of this part of the site's history has provided, again, little detail.



Aerial Photograph of Blackmore Oval in 1943. (Source: NSW Department of Lands, Spatial Information Exchange: SKM 2007 from RTA photography)






5. Present Use and Future Opportunities






5.1 Condition and Use of the Land and Existing Structures


The tables below outline the key site elements of Blackmore Oval, their condition and present use. A brief description and summary outline of the condition of the elements is provided in the table below, incorporating a summary outline of the priority for improvements (having regard for their suitability and condition, and the draft masterplan incorporated in Section 8).

The priorities for improvements as set out in the table further below have been categorised in accordance with the following:

Priority	Timeframe
High (H)	Short (0 - 5 Years)
Medium (M)	Medium term (5 - 15 Years)
Low (L)	Long term (15+ Years)
Regular Maintenance	Ongoing
Not Applicable (N/a)	-

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Buildings 	Amenities building comprising toilets, change rooms and general use room.	Fair/poor – change rooms are too small	M
	Former park caretakers cottage, and main SES facilities and clubrooms.	Fair	L
	Storage shed	Poor – this storage shed is in a poor location as it prevents visual connection of the treed area with the playing field. Demolition recommended to enhance open space qualities of the park.	H

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Fences			
	Fencing to perimeter of park.	Boundary fence to south-east needs replacing. Recommend replacement with low permeable fence that will stop children running on to Canal Road from the park and cars parking on the grass.	H
Signage			
	Commemorative signage.	Fair	M
	Regulatory signage relating to dog access. Additional signage which is clearly visible required.	Poor	M
	Identification signage	Fair	L
Park furniture			
	Bubbler	Poor – poorly sited and does not operate. Install new accessible bubbler in better location.	H

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Lighting 	4 light poles for rugby training and presently one large lighting pole for baseball mound and diamond lighting.	Fair/Poor Lighting is adequate for rugby and rugby league training however for baseball condition it is poor, particularly on the outer field areas. An upgrade to the current lighting provision should however only be undertaken if baseball is to remain at Blackmore Oval in the long term.	M

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Other Structures			
	Senior baseball fence and mounded diamond.	Fair	L
Footpaths			
	Junction of footpaths from oval heading to Darley Road.	Poor/Fair – pedestrian and dog access around the oval to the southern boundary should be restricted during baseball games to enable full use of oval. Pedestrian access along the northern boundary should be improved.	M
	Public footpath to northern edge of playing field.	Poor – potential footpath widening and fence removal to oval supported to improve pedestrian safety and promote open space characteristics of the park.	M
	Public footpath around southern edge of playing field.	Poor/Fair - Retention of path but restriction of its use during baseball games as it restricts open space available for sporting use and there remain safety issues. The baseball club is permitted to use portable signage to prevent pedestrian access at these times.	M

5.2 Description of Proposed Future Development and Permissible Uses

The table below describes the purposes for which land at Blackmore Oval may be used; the purpose as relates to future development of the land; and the scale and intensity of the development.

Area/Item	Purposes for which land or buildings are permitted to be used	Purpose for which further development of land will be permitted (lease or licence)	Scale and intensity of permitted use or development
Open Space	Continue use for formal and informal recreation, children's play. Maintain open space and access for use as a coordinating facility for SES.	General park furniture and landscape improvements including new paths. Improvement and expansion of the facilities associated with formal sports including storage, change facilities and lighting. Minor car parking use at the Canal Road frontage.	Refer to Masterplan
Amenities Building and maintenance shed	Continue use for toilet block and park maintenance shed.	Improvements to building for public toilets and park maintenance storage, and redevelop part of the facility to enable use as a dedicated club room for West Boomers Baseball.	Refer to Masterplan
Former caretakers cottage.	Utilise for SES operations and use.		Refer to Masterplan
Clubrooms	Continue use for public toilets, change rooms, and storage.	Rationalise facility for storage and use for rugby union and rugby league.	Refer to Masterplan
Storage shed	Storage shed to be demolished.		Refer to Masterplan

5.3 Principles for Redevelopment and Landscape Improvements

The proposed landscape improvements to Blackmore Oval include the widening of the footpath to the northern boundary and the removal of the fence fronting the oval. It is proposed this footpath will become the primary means of pedestrian connection to the parkland along the canal and the future pedestrian footbridge over the canal. A planter bed is proposed between the canal and the footpath to provide green visual relief to the concrete canal. This could be planted with *Dianella* or *Lomandra longifolia* or other groundcover planting. These improvements will significantly improve the pedestrian experience along the pathway and provide open views across the park.

All existing trees in the study area will be retained except in the south-western corner of the site where car parking bays and cricket nets are proposed and in the north-western corner where a pedestrian footpath connection to the future pedestrian footbridge over the canal is proposed.

Options for water harvesting, from the large film studio site adjacent, should be explored as a means to irrigate the playing fields (subject to commencement and ongoing negotiations and discussions).

5.4 New Fencing to Canal Road

New fencing is proposed to Canal Road to improve the appearance of the oval. The principles and design details for the new fencing is set out below.

Principles

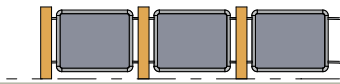
The fence / barrier should be:

- a simple form.
- low in height.
- be aligned with the street boundary; the canal and the main pavilion. This is to help ensure that the fence reinforces the site; the canal and the topography so that the fence does not become a “feature” but a complementary element.
- constructed of robust materials and with simple detailing.
- compatible with the building forms and typology.
- provide flexibility to be able to join with both the fence on the film centre site and the amenities building.

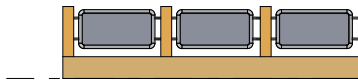
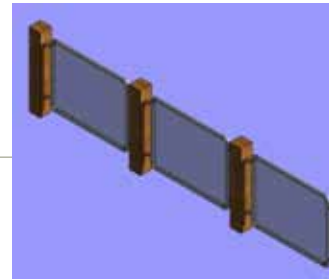
The sketches below provide four alternatives for new fencing to Canal Road. The fencing options comprise:

1. Timber vertical supports approx 150mm sq with galvanised wire mesh in panels framed with galvanised iron.
2. Gabion wall base with timber vertical supports approx 150mm sq with galvanised wire mesh in panels framed with galvanised iron.
3. Gabion wall base with galvanised iron vertical supports and galvanised wire mesh in panels framed with galvanised iron.
4. Gabion wall base with galvanised iron vertical supports in pairs and galvanised wire mesh in panels framed with galvanised iron.

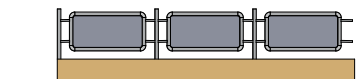
Further details on objectives and criteria for new fencing to Canal Road is at Appendix 4.



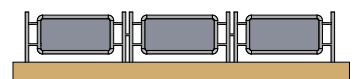
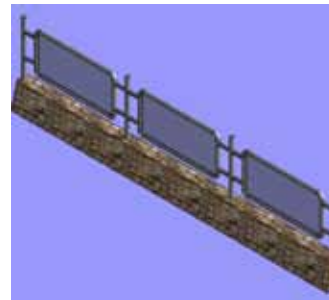
Timber/Gal Iron/Mesh infil
1:100



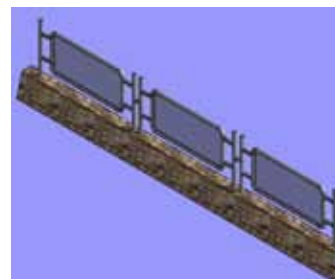
Timber/Gal Iron/Mesh Infil on Gabion Wall
1:100



Gal Iron/Mesh Infil on Gabion Wall
1:100



Gal Iron/Mesh infil double post/Gabion Wall
1:100



5.5 Site Accessibility and Operation

Public Transport

Primary public transport to and from the location is provided by buses but at best can be considered as remote. The nearest bus stop to/from Blackmore Park is approximately 1km east of the park on Norton Street.

Bus Route No.	Description
L39	(Limited Stop Service) Haberfield Shops to Wynyard via Leichhardt and Rozelle.
L40	(Limited Stop Service) Rozelle to Wynyard via Leichhardt and Railway Square.
440 (accessible)	Rozelle to Circular Quay via Leichhardt Town Hall, Annandale and Railway Square.
370 (accessible)	Leichhardt to Coogee via Annandale Post Office, Glebe, Sydney Park Road, Green Square and University of NSW.
445	Balmain East Wharf (Darling Street) to Canterbury Station via Rozelle, Leichhardt, Petersham, Dulwich Hill and Hurlstone Park.

The nearest train station is Lilyfield Light Rail which is located approximately 2.5km east of the park. This service provides links between Lilyfield and Central station in the city centre.

The State Government currently has plans for extension to the light rail along the existing disused rail line which forms the south eastern boundary of the park. There may be an opportunity to seek a light rail stop near the park and enable better accessibility from that point should the extension proceed.

Parking

Car parking is located on Canal Road comprising unmarked on-street parallel parking along the park side of the road, and a car park on the canal side of the road accommodating front-on parking. Canal Road is a "shared zone" for cars and pedestrians and the maximum speed limit is 10 km / hour.

Car spaces are used by sporting groups, spectators, and dog owners who take their dogs to the nearby off-leash dog area further south along the canal.

Car parking is proposed to be formalised, with rear to curb parking to improve driver visibility and increase cyclist and pedestrian safety.

Pedestrian

The site survey at Appendix 3 shows the location of two existing public footpaths in the study area. These footpaths commence near the junction of Canal Road and Darley Road in the east. One footpath travels from this location along the drainage canal that runs along the northern edge of the oval, to Hawthorne Canal. The other footpath enters the oval area and runs around the oval's southern edge adjacent to the film studios, and exits near Hawthorne Canal.

There are opportunities to improve the pedestrian connectivity of the park to surrounding areas by installing a pedestrian bridge over Hawthorne Canal in front of the park to the suburb of Haberfield. This would also provide for a circuitous pedestrian route around Iron Cove which forms the popular "Bay Run".

Bicycle

Leichhardt Bicycle Strategy identifies existing bicycle routes along Hawthorne Canal and through the study area along the existing footpaths noted above. The footpath along the northern edge of the study area is identified as a Strategic Bicycle Route that connects to Norton Street. The path next to the canal is identified as a “scenic (recreational) bicycle route”. Bicycle parking is proposed adjacent to the public amenities building.

5.6 Trees and Vegetation

Existing Trees and Vegetation

Leichhardt Council does not currently have a Significant Trees Register. Some trees are listed in Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan due to heritage significance, although there are no trees at Blackmore Park that are listed of such significance.

Leichhardt Significant Heritage Tree Management Plan

The Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council’s Heritage and Significant Trees 2008 sets out that Blackmore Park receives a weekly maintenance service by Leichhardt Council in order to meet user demands for high quality playing surfaces.

5.7 Current and Projected Recreational and Open Space Needs

Leichhardt Recreational and Open Space Needs Study (Stratcorp Consulting 2005)

Deficiencies in Open Space

The NSW benchmark for open space provision has historically been 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people (2006 Census data). When this is applied to the Leichhardt LGA, no suburb in the LGA is in excess of this standard. The average provision of open space in Leichhardt LGA is 1.77 ha /1,000 people.

The suburb of Leichhardt, where Blackmore Oval is located, has an open space provision of 1.39 ha/1,000 people, lower than the Leichhardt LGA average. The report mentions that there are a large number of pocket parks in the LGA that are highly valued by residents. However it was noted that they are limited in their flexibility and should be promoted for ‘multi-use’.

Open Space Provision in Leichhardt LGA

2008/9	
Open space Acquisition (ha)	0
Total open space (ha)	85.57
Total open space (m2)	855700
Population	53,217
Open space per person (m2)	16.08

Source: State of the Environment (SoE) report 2008-09

The Recreational and Open Space Needs Study states:

Council's sports reserves which comprise only formal sporting facilities (such as Lambert Park and Blackmore Oval) should be assessed as to how they might be "de-sportised" as the need to provide quality open space areas for unstructured recreation activities continues. This direction does not mean the rationalisation of the sporting facilities, rather utilising those open space areas which immediately surround sports areas (but have no direct sports use) for other compatible non-sporting recreational uses, e.g. family recreation areas, shade provision, walking paths, revegetation, etc.

Recreational Facilities

The Study states that the West Boomers and Balmain Rugby clubs are the only baseball and rugby union clubs in the LGA. Leichhardt Wanderers are one of two rugby league clubs based in the LGA.

Provision of outdoor recreational areas/facilities for young people (aged 14 to 24 years) is lacking across the LGA and is limited to five informal basketball courts and 1 skate facility.

The Study identifies there is currently an adequate provision of facilities for rugby league and rugby union.

It recommends relocation of baseball to Callan Park where there is the potential to have more permanent baseball facilities.

Sports Club Specific Feedback - West Boomers Baseball Club

The Study states that the Club currently has 4 senior and 9 junior teams. The Club has capped growth due to a shortage of fields, and sends additional players to other neighbouring clubs. The Club is unable to host finals at Blackmore Oval due to the need for the ground to be available for rugby league pre-season use.

There is currently no winter baseball competition in Leichhardt LGA due to Blackmore Oval having to be allocated for rugby league use, and the current lack of an alternative venue. As a result, the Club plays all of its winter season games 'away'.

Future opportunity may exist to schedule a Seniors competition on a Friday evening at Blackmore Oval.

Demand Assessment by Sport - Balmain Rugby

The Study states that co-location [with Leichhardt Wanderers Junior Rugby League at Blackmore Oval] appears sustainable as each code is played on different days of the weekend in winter (Union – Saturday; League – Sunday).

6. Classification of Land

6.1 Categorisation and Objectives for Land

Clause 36(4) of the Local Government Act requires that land subject of a plan of management be categorised as one or more of:

- a natural area
- a sportsground
- a park
- an area of cultural significance
- general community use

According to these classifications, Blackmore Oval can be categorised as “a sportsground”.

6.2 Core Objectives

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground (Clause 36F) are:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

7. Strategy and Action Plan

The following strategies and actions aim to address key ongoing management issues relating to Blackmore Oval and also to outline a long term vision (as incorporated in the Masterplan - Refer Section 8) for the park. That vision seeks to address accessibility, useability and amenity issues identified through the consultation phases.

7.1 Specific Objectives

The figure below sets out the objectives and performance targets for Blackmore Oval; strategies to achieve the objectives and performance targets; ranks their priority; and provides performance monitoring criteria.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Context			
<p>Maintain Blackmore Oval as a key sporting venue for the local community.</p> <p>Make improvements that would allow the oval and other facilities to be shared between clubs more effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackmore Oval will continue to be maintained as a park with minor facility improvements. Promote general community access to the oval when the field is not in use by sporting clubs. Improve amenities provided at the park. 	Ongoing	Maintenance and management of access and use.
Ownership			
In accordance with Council ownership, promote broad community access to facilities and open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support use by West Boomers, Balmain Rugby and the Leichhardt Wanderers of the sportsground and encourage general public access to sportsground when not in use by these clubs. Continue use by the SES to buildings and facilities. Encourage the sporting clubs and the SES to make improvements and carry out management practices in accordance with their lease. 	Ongoing	Greater range of people using the park of all access abilities, providing a range of quality recreational experiences and opportunities for park users.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Sustainability and Biodiversity			
<p>Promote the use of native indigenous plant species that would contribute to biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote plant species that are drought tolerant.</p> <p>To maintain existing mature trees in the park.</p> <p>Reuse existing materials where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain mature native trees species. New soft landscaping to comprise predominately native species. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>Regular monitoring and maintenance of trees and soft landscape areas.</p>
Management and Maintenance			
<p>Promote design improvements and management practices that would reduce maintenance costs and promote cost efficiencies.</p> <p>Ensure there is equitable access to facilities for all sporting club use.</p> <p>To provide dog access to park but not at the expense of human needs and safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards amending Wanderers lease to ensure the West Boomers also have access to club rooms during the summer months. Ensure all clubs have equitable, accessible and adequately sized storage space for equipment. Any new amenities' building is to incorporate space for storage. The removal of the southern footpath to park and access will prevent dog access to most of park. Erect signage between the northern pathway and the oval to make clear that dog access to the oval is prohibited. Council resolution required as to the status of companion access in the park - recommend on leash provision only. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Council does not increase annual maintenance costs/budget.</p> <p>Council receives positive comments.</p>

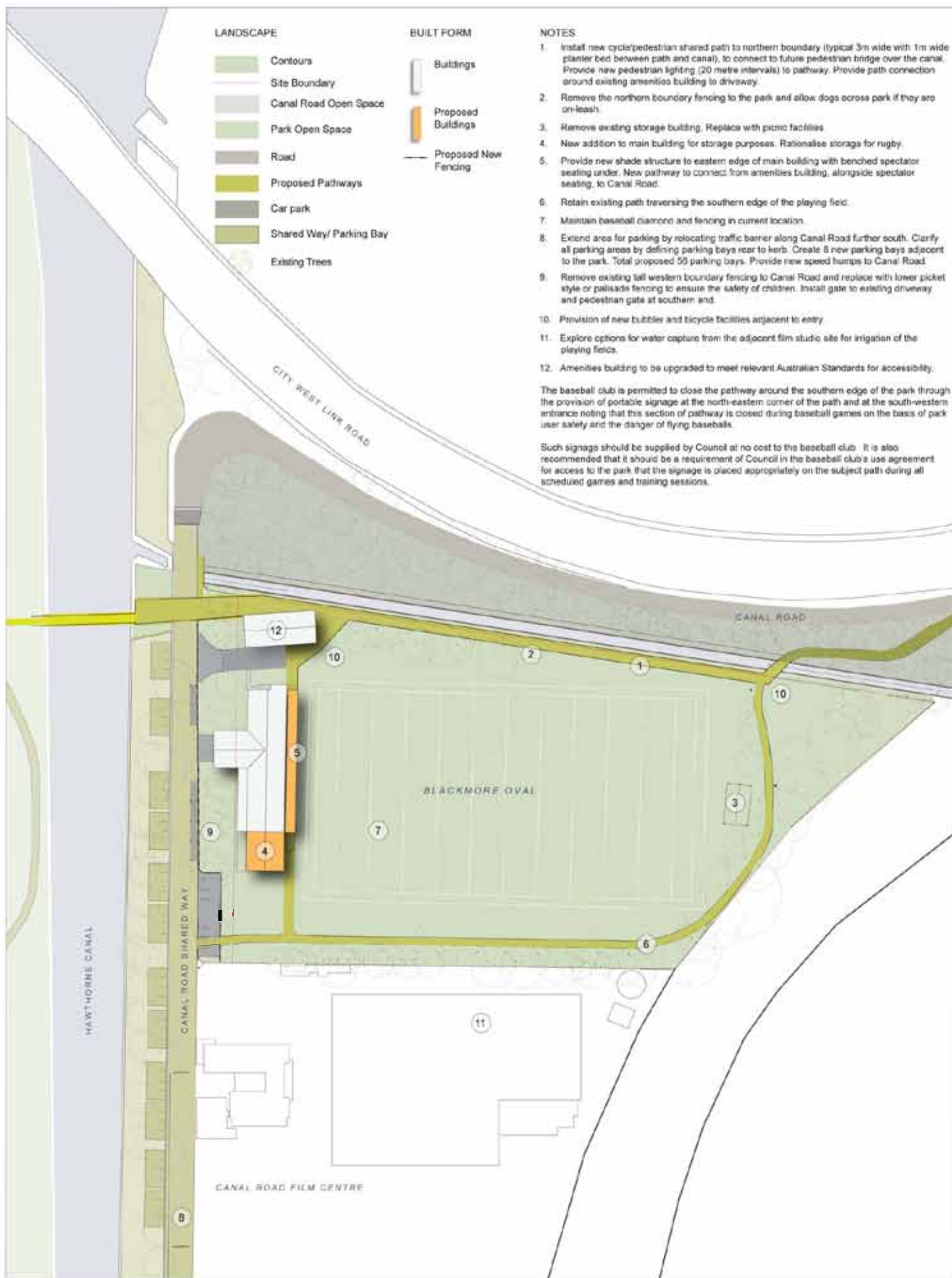
Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Safety			
<p>Maintain clear sight lines to permit surveillance from Canal Road to people and property.</p> <p>Install new lighting to play areas.</p> <p>Continue to provide emergency access to oval.</p> <p>Prevent dog access to playing field areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new/relocate oval lighting appropriate to new play configuration. • Ensure there are appropriate light levels to the play areas. • Provide new lighting to car parking. • Provide for emergency services access to the park to discourage anti-social behaviour. 	Short - Medium term	<p>Completion of redevelopment works.</p> <p>Recorded decrease in conflicts/accidents between pedestrians and sporting games.</p>
Sporting Facilities and Amenities			
Upgrade sporting facilities and associated amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install new high fence along drainage canal to prevent balls entering the canal. • Refurbish or develop existing amenities building adjacent to the canal with toilets, change rooms, and storage. • Subject to relocation of baseball to Callan Park, remove baseball diamond and baseball fencing. • Provide bench seating and other amenities around the park, and picnic facilities in the eastern corner of the park. 	Medium term	Completion of redevelopment works.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
<p>Access and Circulation</p> <p>Provide for improved pedestrian access between Leichhardt, the park and the canal.</p> <p>Conflicts between sporting activity and pedestrians are minimised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open up the existing pedestrian path along the northern edge of the oval in terms of widening the path and removing fencing adjacent to the oval, to improve the relationship to the oval and for improved general pedestrian experience. • Pedestrian access along path on southern boundary should be restricted during baseball games to eliminate conflicts and improve safety within the park. The baseball club is permitted to use portable signage to discourage pedestrian access during games. • Cycle paths to be linked to Hawthorne Canal crossing. • Install new bicycle parking adjacent to the amenities facilities shed. 	Medium term	Completion of redevelopment works
<p>Access and Circulation</p> <p>Provide for improved pedestrian access between Leichhardt, the park and the canal.</p> <p>Conflicts between sporting activity and pedestrians are minimised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open up the existing pedestrian path along the northern edge of the oval in terms of widening the path and removing fencing adjacent to the oval, to improve the relationship to the oval and for improved general pedestrian experience. • Pedestrian access along path on southern boundary should be restricted during baseball games to eliminate conflicts and improve safety within the park. The baseball club is permitted to use portable signage to discourage pedestrian access during games. • Cycle paths to be linked to Hawthorne Canal crossing. • Install new bicycle parking adjacent to the amenities facilities shed. 	Medium term	Completion of redevelopment works

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Use			
Promote Blackmore Oval as a key outdoor sporting venue in the suburb of Leichhardt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable broad community use of the sports playing fields without compromising the ongoing use by the sporting clubs. 	Long term	<p>Increased patronage of park and sportsground</p> <p>Greater range of people using the park of all access abilities.</p>
Traffic and Parking			
<p>Maintain current parking spaces and investigate the potential for gaining more car spaces.</p> <p>Undertake a traffic survey with users of Blackmore Oval and the dog park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalise current parking spaces. Investigate potential for gaining additional car spaces by relocating boom gate further south. Undertake a survey of users of Blackmore Park and the dog park to examine and solve issues relating to conflicts between traffic, parking, cycling and pedestrians. Install new speed humps to regulate traffic speed. 90 degree parking to be rear to kerb to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. 	Long term	<p>Completion of redevelopment works.</p> <p>Increase in the number of car spaces.</p> <p>Recorded decrease in conflicts/accidents between traffic and pedestrians.</p>

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Landscape Character and Visual Amenity			
<p>Recognise the contribution that the existing trees provide to the aesthetics and amenity of the park.</p> <p>Make landscape improvements.</p> <p>Provide a consistent landscape palette across the park that visually unifies it as one park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to maintain all trees, and in particular, the trees along the southern boundary of the park that act as a visual screen to the film studio buildings and the existing trees in eastern corner of park. • Investigate if off-site landscape improvements can be made to the lower side of the rail embankment land, by clearing undergrowth and planting new trees. • Provide a new accessible bubbler in a more accessible location. • Refurbished amenities building to incorporate visual screening of garbage bins. • Continue weekly maintenance of oval surface and surrounds. • New fencing to Canal Road is to complement the style of existing buildings and adjacent existing fencing, and fulfil functions of preventing children running on to road and cars parking on grassed areas. 	Long term	Completion of Master Plan recommended improvements.

8. Concept Plan



BLACKMORE OVAL - CONCEPT PLAN Phase 1 - 2011 - 2016

© Leichhardt Council Blackmore Oval Plan of Management



BLACKMORE OVAL - CONCEPT PLAN Phase 2 - from 2016

© Leichhardt Council Blackmore Oval Plan of Management

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Submission Number	Category	Preliminary Stakeholder Consultation - Issues Raised
1	Sports Club Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's decision-making with Callan Park should allow resource planning to occur for Blackmore. There needs to be a coordinated approach. • There is unmet demand for baseball on a year-round basis and a "mixed use" solution at Blackmore (sharing of oval with clubs) will not solve the problem. • Irrigation of the fields needs to occur year-round, particularly in summer. • Grounds should use reclaimed effluent and pipe and other fields. • The capacity of the ground for night time baseball is limited because only 5 of the 9 required lights were installed. • Safety concerns for children using oval because of uncontrolled dogs. Protestations have been put to Council orally and in writing back 8 years ago on this issue. • Support opening up the ground to general public use. • AGM was held on 12/11/2009 and consensus was that club continue co-habitation with Wanderers and Balmain Rugby. • Unrestricted access of the public when games are in progress to the field is a problem and puts them in danger from baseball balls. • Access via the north-east gate encourages people to walk across the field or walk the northern boundary inside the playing field, even when games are in progress. • Dog owners let their dogs off the leash and the dogs run over the field which puts small children at risk and leaves faeces on the field. • Sharing of the field with the other two clubs means that the club don't have a year round field. • Other major issue is the inequality of access to the facilities and fees paid. • Wanderers have access to a clubhouse facility that baseball doesn't have access to, and not sure about rugby union. • Club will receive a \$6,000 increase in fees and yet Wanderer's fees will decrease, which is not equitable. They currently pay only slightly more than baseball and baseball only has access to a brick storage shed. • The field should be designated solely as a sporting field and properly enclosed. • Playing field should be redesigned to meet needs of all the sports, and the trees and brick shed (eastern end) removed. • There should be access to all facilities provided for each club during hire times. • Move fence line inside tree line on northern side and close the gate at north-eastern end permanently and remove path down the southern side of the field. • Relocate light towers on southern side to the fence line on the southern side (and not on playing field). • Move baseball diamond to south-east corner. Then move rugby field slightly west and north. This would reduce impact of crossover of playing surfaces.

Submission Number	Category	Preliminary Stakeholder Consultation - Issues Raised
2	Sports Club Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change rooms need to be redeveloped urgently – as they are old, small and difficult to clean. A higher fence is needed adjacent to the canal – many balls enter this area. There is insufficient space for a warm up area – to create this may require removal of trees. In order to run a canteen, one needs to be set up and dismantled each time. The clubhouse cannot be used for this purpose. Ideally would like a new building comprising a canteen, mini-grandstand and change sheds. The club could provide financial support, materials design and labour to assist.
3	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plant that should be used in the park is Syringa vulgaris (European or English Lilac).
4	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should give back the cricket pitches that were lost when the freeway went in.
5	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest a shared arrangement of the grounds users with dog owners. The ground is not used in the mornings (except by personal trainers) and this is when dog owners could use this space.
6	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like to see the children's playground maintained or upgraded with new equipment, as it has become unsafe.
7	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents should be able to grow plants in the park, in the form of tubestock. Council could either provide soil, pots, seeds, and instructions and residents take care of the plants, or Council provide seed only and residents take care of the rest. The species and cultivars must be determined by Council. The result will be volunteer growers feeling a great sense of ownership of the project
8	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plant that should be used in the park is Syringa vulgaris (European or English Lilac).

Submission Number	Category	Preliminary Stakeholder Consultation - Issues Raised
9	Sports Club Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The link road saw the removal of the cricket nets and the oval was granted access to other users (rugby union, baseball). This has placed pressure on the ground. Need a ground that can be shared with the others with the erection of spectator fencing to enclose the playing arena. This would require removal of the baseball diamond which could be relocated to the Glover Street site of Callan Park, allowing two football fields to share the area and allow baseball to play in both summer and winter competitions. The Council shed could be removed so that a mini field and a netball training field could be developed. Cricket nets could be erected at the Canal Road end of the ground and a grandstand (including dressing sheds and toilets) developed between the light poles on that side that would be funded from a grant. This would require removal of some trees but compensatory planting could occur elsewhere on site.

Submission Number	Category	Exhibition Period Consultation - Issues Raised
1	Park user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The path to the boundary of the park is a shared path that will have further importance following pedestrian bridge, GreenWay and new tram stop are realised. Path should be widened to be 4m minimum. Given pending new tram stop and GreenWay trail, it is difficult to justify more car parking spaces. Delete these additional car spaces.
2	Park user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not clear if with the widening of the path to the northern boundary whether a fence will be erected between the path and park. If this is the case, the removal of the path to the southern boundary would prevent dog walkers on the park. Proposes a small circuit path for dog walkers in north-east corner of the park. Recommends path on southern side of canal in Ashfield LGA.

3	Sports Club Reps (baseball)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Suggest that categorisation of the park only as a sportsground would be “more closely aligned with current use and future use.” · Do not agree with the relocation of the baseball diamond. The cost of removal and reinstatement of the fencing and lighting would be substantial for Council. · Suggest that retention of the storage shed is contrary to Council’s integrated planning and resources strategies which is to ensure all existing assets are maintained. · Agree that path to southern boundary should be removed. · Light towers should be relocated off the playing area. · Suggest fencing to Canal Road should be retained or improved. · The bubbler must be relocated as it is poorly sited. · The amenities building is not of sufficient size to function as both an equipment store and canteen/clubroom. · Fully supportive of “Principles for Redevelopment and Landscape Improvements” except widening of the footpath to the northern boundary. · A Traffic Management Plan should be implemented in concert with the plan of management. · “The draft POM does not specifically address the challenges of shared use and they may never be fully resolved until additional open space is added through initiatives such as Callan Park.”
---	-----------------------------	---

Appendix 2

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS - KEY ISSUES

Held at Blackmore Oval on 5 December 2009 - Attended by approximately 14 people

- Balls fly from the playing field near the path adjacent to the film studios which puts pedestrians at risk. Proper fencing is needed for pedestrian safety.
- There needs to be greater enforcement of dog access to the park.
- The gate near the canal is problematic because people cut through the field, even when games are in progress.
- View that dogs should be prohibited from the park because they are a safety hazard.
- Suggestion by Council officers to Councillors that the gate to the playing field is permanently closed but this was rejected (LMC).
- The field needs to be cleared of dog faeces before games.
- The park was left as an unregulated area (not identified in LCAMP) so dogs need to be on-leash (Councillor).
- A resident's view was that clubs have taken over use of the park. Agree that dogs should be on-lead in the park and adamant that it should be a shared park that all ratepayers can use.
- Recommend that the State Emergency Services (SES) is involved in consultations.
- Suggestion for cricket nets to be located near the film studios.
- Balls frequently end up in the canal. Recommendation that the canal is caged.
- There is a current lack of parking. Tandem parking is currently employed when games are held at the playing field.
- Suggestion that the boomgate is relocated to allow for more parking spaces (LMC).
- A survey of users for parking and transport needs is required (Councillor).
- Suggestion that the pathway and trees could be removed and the baseball diamond pushed closer to the film studios.
- Suggestion that the path next to the canal could be improved so it does not feel so enclosed and to make it more pleasant to walk through. A low wall could be installed for spectators (LMC).
- Grants are being investigated by Council from Sydney Water for irrigation of the playing field (LMC).

Held at Blackmore Oval on 30 January 2010 - Attended by approximately 14 people

Rugby league

- Rugby league used to train at Blackmore on Wednesday and Friday nights. They were requested to "compress" their use of the playing field so rugby union could also use the field. League season was reduced to 7 months. Use of the field once began on 1 March and now commences on 16th March. Baseball mound not removed until 17th March. Requested the gates are locked so that people can not access field – problem when game is in progress. Baseball was not able to use the ground until October so they missed 4 rounds of the baseball season. Baseball
- The baseball mound only takes one day to remove.
- There are safety issues with pedestrians and dogs running through games.

- Issue with dog faeces on field that clubs need to clean up before games.
- Current rubbish on ground is not associated with club sporting games because clubs have not used the ground since December.
- Baseball would like to make pedestrian access safer and signage implemented to discourage public access to field when games are in progress/ dog access.
- Fence around playing field is one solution to conflicts of use.

SES

- The SES occupy the old caretakers cottage where there is an office and they store equipment, vehicles etc. If there is a major emergency (eg. storms) then the park is a assembly point ("Emergency Response Area"). This means they access to the facility at short notice for eg. Field for vehicles, helicopter landing, etc. Area can be secured with police tape (secure fencing not essential) and they bring their own emergency lighting.

Residents

- Support for general public use of park including dog access.
- If replace storage building it should be built closer to the boundary.

General discussion

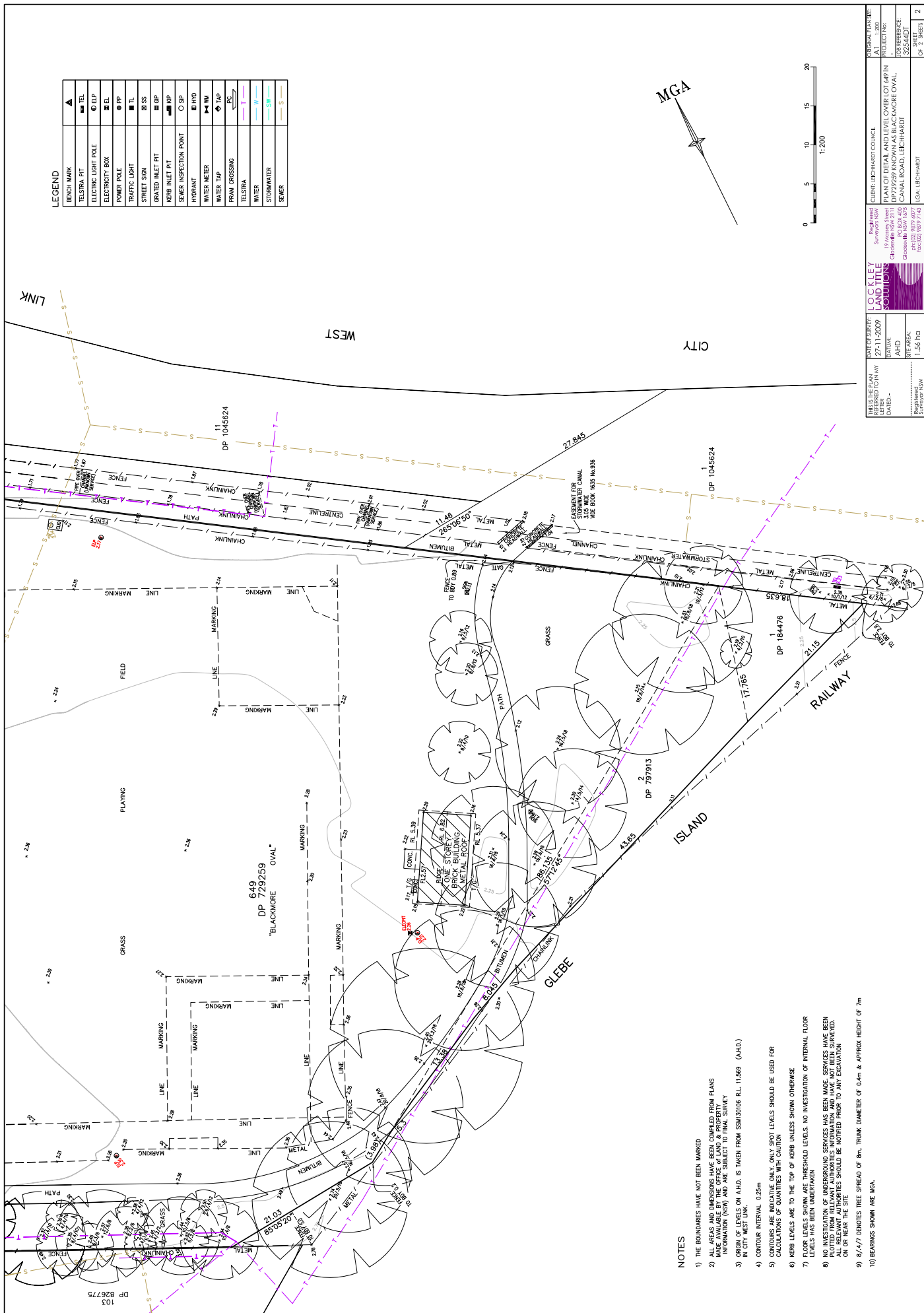
- The handover of Callan Park to Council for its use and maintenance has highlighted significant funding gaps in terms of State Government support for infrastructure improvements and ongoing maintenance.
- SES raised the issue of parking – issue for them when parking doubles-up and blocks off their access. Suggest signage to prevent this.
- Lighting along road is lacking which is a safety issue for people accessing cars. Possibility that new lighting turns off after a certain time.
- Traffic management plan will be recommended as part of the Plan of Management – to resolve conflicts with pedestrians, cars, and dogs.
- Could increase capacity of parking spaces by delineating parking spaces.
- Problem that some club users currently park under trees next to playing field.

Held at Blackmore Oval on 30 January 2010 - Attended by approximately 9 members of the public.

- It does not make sense to have circuitous path to the southern boundary as well as an expanded path to the northern boundary.
- If existing fencing to Canal Road is to be removed then replacement fencing is needed to prevent children running from the playing field into traffic.
- Potential conflict between traffic and pedestrians. It was suggested that the traffic management plan should occur at the same time and be resolved prior to finalisation of the plan of management.
- Concern that there is a lack of a junior pitch for baseball.
- The cricket nets could be locked when the oval is in use for games, and reopened following each game, so as to prevent conflict between uses.
- Baseball said they would provide a revised list of improvements required to the park for their needs.

Appendix 3

Site Survey



NOTES

- 1) THE BOUNDARIES HAVE NOT BEEN MARKED
- 2) ALL AREAS AND DIMENSIONS HAVE BEEN COMPILED FROM PLANS AND FIELD SURVEY. DIMENSIONS ARE GIVEN IN METERS AND ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL SURVEY INFORMATION (NSW) AND ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL SURVEY INFORMATION (NSW) AND ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL SURVEY INFORMATION (NSW)
- 3) ORIGIN OF LEVELS ON A.H.D. IS TAKEN FROM SDA/20106 RL 11.569 (A.H.D.) IN CITY WEST LINK.
- 4) CONTOUR INTERVAL 0.25m
- 5) CONTOURS ARE INDICATIVE ONLY. ONLY SPOT LEVELS SHOULD BE USED FOR CALCULATIONS OF QUANTITIES WITH CAUTION
- 6) KERB LEVELS ARE TO THE TOP OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE
- 7) FLOOD LEVELS SHOWN ARE THRESHOLD LEVELS NO INVESTIGATION OF INTERNAL FLOOR LEVELS HAS BEEN CONDUCTED
- 8) NO INVESTIGATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES HAS BEEN MADE. SERVICES HAVE BEEN PLOTTED FROM RELEVANT AUTHORITIES INFORMATION AND HAVE NOT BEEN SURVEYED. ALL RELEVANT AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE NOTIFIED PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION ON OR NEAR THE SITE
- 9) 8/4/7 DENOTES TREE SPREAD OF 8m, TRUNK DIAMETER OF 0.4m & APPROX HEIGHT OF 7m
- 10) BEARINGS SHOWN ARE MGA

DATE OF SHEET	27-11-2009	CLIENT	LEICHHARDT COUNCIL	PREPARED BY	DP 729259
THIS IS THE PLAN	DATE	27-11-2009	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
LETTER	AHD	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.
DATE	27-11-2009	1:50 TID	PROJECT NO.	DP 729259	PROJECT NO.

Appendix 4

NEW FENCING TO CANAL ROAD

Objectives / Criteria

To design a fence/ barrier that:

- provides a barrier so that children are dissuaded from running out into the road
- distinguishes between the public area of the street [24 hour access] and the public area of the sports field [limited hours of access]
- enables the gates to be locked in the evening so that cars are not able to enter the sports field
- is easy to construct. This main mean a preference for a fence which does not touch the ground other than at the vertical construction points.
- is relatively low budget.
- is easy and inexpensive to maintain
- is robust and resilient to children / climbing etc
- reflects the speed of pedestrian movement along the street rather than the speed of movement of vehicles
- provides gates for pedestrian access directly in front of the main pavilion and to the side of the main pavilion
- provides gates for vehicle and pedestrian access adjacent to the Amenities building
- can be diverted around existing trees if necessary
- is in keeping with the existing buildings in terms of scale and materials . These consist of two one storey simple pavilion buildings in light weight construction. The larger one is parallel with Canal Road and Hawthorne Canal. They are clad in timber; with low pitch roofs and timber windows. Age approximately 1950's??
- is low in scale but is not domestic in feel. Although the buildings are low scale they are not domestic buildings. The length of the frontage and the uses are also not a domestic scale
- can form a comfortable junction with:
 - the fencing on the boundary with Film Centre site
 - the Amenities building
- is compatible in look and appearance with the fence along the Canal. This consists of galvanised iron vertical supports with galvanised wire mesh in panels framed with galvanised iron.

The fence does not have to:

- provide any sound attenuation.
- be fully secure and can be able to be climbed but not easily.
- be opaque. It can be open and see through, either solid or open construction are appropriate.
- be able to open up to provide specific views or screen any views along the street in either direction.

