

NATURE PLAY GROUND AND SKILLS PARK SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The sub-committee members (Colleen Sing, Harley Hanstrum, Janet Smith and Chris Portlock) met on Monday the 1st of April on the proposed site of the Skills Park; corner Del Park Road and Banksiadale Road.

Also in attendance was John Cusack, invited by Chris Portlock.

Chris Portlock invited John Cusack to the meeting in order that he brief us on the project to date. Prior to the meeting John Cusack forwarded correspondence between a number of parties and himself on the subject, as the then Chair of the DCC. Most, if not all of that correspondence was two years old and effectively obsolete.

John Cusack provided no significant additional information to add to what was already contained in the Emails provided with the exception that the Shire of Murray stated that their preferred location for the Skills Park was the corner of Del Park and Banksiadale Road.

There was no written correspondence to support the agreement, however Colleen Sing and Chris Portlock confirmed that Murray Shire did verbally agree to the location at a meeting attended by John Cusack, Chris Portlock and herself on the 27th of July 2023.

A copy of **the only correspondence** in respect to the Skills Park and the Nature Playground is attached in the event that the new Committee does not have access to same.

John Cusack was invited to leave the meeting after his brief oral hand over/briefing.

Shortly thereafter the members of the sub-committee decided that the combining of the Skills Park and the Nature Playground was not ideal mainly due to the separate locations of the Skills Park (corner of Del Park Road and Banksiadale Road) and Nature Playground (Moore Steet between Waypoints Café and structured playground).

The committee has now been split into two ie Skills Park – Chris Portlock and Harley Hanstrum, Nature Playground - Colleen Sing and Janet Smith. It was felt that by separating we could each work on the individual projects and obtain a more expedient result.

Chris Portlock advised that the Skills Park plan is already well advanced and it is anticipated that a separate report from that sub-committee will be provided.

In the first instance, it is the intention of the Nature Playground sub-committee to:

Seek approval from the Shire of Murray for the playground to be located on the underutilised area next to the existing playground on Moore St. between the structured playground and Waypoints Café.

We believe that this site is ideal because:

- It is of suitable size.
- It offers parents a vantage point to watch their children from the Waypoints Café or the picnic area nearby.
- The area has relatively little traffic and allows the children to move between nature play, structured play and the pump track. This allows children of different ages from the same family to play in the same general area.

- There is shade from existing mature trees.
- Toilet facilities are close.
- Parking is available.

ACTION PLAN

This project was proposed in mid 2021 and we would like to see it advance and completed within six months. In order to achieve this, we believe we need to carry out the following steps:

Consultation

- We believe that early consultation with the residents of Dwellingup is imperative. If there is an objection to the site then we can explore other options.
- Shire of Murray have previously asked that the project be locally driven. To ensure that we have the support of the town we propose circulating an information sheet on which we will call for signatures from those in support.

Funding

Should approval be granted we will then address the issue of funding.

A previous committee rejected a funding offer of \$20,000 from Alcoa. We propose approaching Alcoa to determine whether this grant is still available. If there is any objection to obtaining funding (all or in part) from Alcoa we would appreciate the Committees early advice. In any event we do not anticipate difficulties with the funding of the project.

Concept drawings and plans

Once we have established the likely funding available to the town we can draw up plans, provide details of how we aim to source materials and arrange costings.

We envisage utilising local support in terms of sourcing materials and labour. Art installations incorporating local themes will enhance the project.

You will receive updates of the progress of this project prior to each meeting.

We are excited to see this project reach fruition.

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1st April 2024