

1 November 2010

Dear SMBI resident/group,

Thank you for your recent comments regarding the Concept Landscape Master Plan for the Russell Island Sport & Recreation Park (also known as Kennedy's Farm).

A good number of comments and suggestions for improvements to the concept Landscape Master Plan were received. All comments/suggestions were carefully considered by officers in development of a draft Landscape Master Plan for the site. A summary of community comments and officer responses is attached for your information.

The next step in the process is to finalise the Landscape Master Plan and present it to Council for its consideration and implementation.

This project is staged over a 10 year timeframe and is anticipated to be implemented through the following program:

| Year | Comment |
|-----------|--|
| 2009/2010 | Development of Concept Plan |
| 2010/2011 | Development and finalisation of Landscape Master Plan |
| 2011/2012 | Detailed design of Sportsfields, Courts, Car Parks, Pathways, Community Gardens (full engineered drawings) |
| 2011/2012 | Apply for funding from State Government Seek Permits and Approvals/Tender |
| 2012/2013 | Construction Completed on Sportsfields, Courts etc. |
| 2013-2020 | Ongoing implementation of Master Plan and development of the site |

This program is realistic and achievable and is currently on track to be realised within expectation. However, it is subject to funding availability and processes from State Government and this may influence the anticipated project timeframes.

Council looks forward to working with the community to achieve these project milestones and the best possible outcomes for island residents.

If you would like to discuss any of this information further, please contact **Kristina Dickman**, Senior Adviser Sport and Recreation on 3829 8647 or **Frank Pearce**, Senior Adviser Community Development on 3829 8775.

Regards,



Judy Spokes
Acting Manager
Community and Social Planning

**RUSSELL ISLAND SPORT AND RECREATION PARK
CONCEPT PLAN
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS
October 2010**

THEMES

| OPEN SPACE/FIELDS (10 responses) | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
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| The open space could even be the long overdue field (promised for 2008) | This land was purchased by Council with the intention of developing a Sport and Recreation Park. The tennis courts and soccer fields are the priorities of this project. Funding for this project would be made under the Major Facilities Funding Grant from Dept of Communities Sport and Recreation Services. It is expected that the opportunity to apply for this funding will come from the State Government in the first half of 2011. |
| Prioritise tennis courts and soccer field as both are popular sports on Russell Island | |
| We cannot operate multiple teams and service our large membership base spread over the Bay Islands without a full size field. The sports field (now missing a junior field) needs to be completed. Just get the thing, with soccer goals in place, done. | |
| Stop talking about it and build our promised soccer field | |
| Please make sure the so called open space of 80x120m is 90x120m. As 90 meters is the minimum size for Junior Soccer Pitches this means can have 2 Junior Pitches across. | Running the fields east west will make for difficult playing conditions but there are no issues with accommodating this request. The tennis / multiuse courts will need to be moved further east of the concept location. |
| Locate tennis/multiuse courts nearer Education Dept. property and car-parking area (southern side) to enable future high school student hire/use. | Not supported: This will require the removal of the significant mature cluster of mango trees and moves multiuse/tennis courts away from shared clubhouse/ storage facilities. The courts are accessible on the site. There are no current plans for Education Queensland to build on this site that Council is aware of. |
| A large area has been designated 'open space' which we understand has always been intended to be sporting fields. Why is it not designated as such? | The 'open space' is designated for a sports field |
| The area for the soccer field is prone to bogging down vehicles and will require extensive drainage. | Drainage issues will be addressed through the detailed design and management of storm water. Vehicle access will be restricted to service and emergency vehicles only. |
| The spot designated ' future storage/club amenities' could hardly be placed further from any vehicular access. This location will only encourage people to drive across the playing fields or along the fitness trail/pedestrian and cycle path/emergency access pathway | The club amenities and storage space will service both the fields and the courts and is located to maximise the viewing and ability to service both spaces. Vehicular connection to ' future storage/club amenities' will be considered for service and emergency access. Other vehicle access will be restricted to the site to the car parks and all ability pedestrian access will be provided. |

| USE OF HOUSE/SHED (2 responses) | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
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| <p>The community building is mostly kitchen - why not extend the balcony and have organic café? It would be possible to run certified cooking/retail courses from there too. There was a huge shed behind the community building which could have been a nursery or piggery, organic chickens etc. which would support the cafe with excess being sold to the public at weekly markets</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous consultations have identified the house to be a multi-purpose community facility and accommodation for sporting groups. Existing management structure of the house can support this position • Funding priority will initially be for delivering sport & recreation facilities on the site • Opportunity to join the Voluntary Committee of Management has been made available to all clubs on the Island |
| <p>Encourage use of Farm House by sporting (Karate etc.) and clubs aligned with outdoors/nature (health/well-being/respice/family services providers should convene at BICS which was built for such).</p> | |
| FLORA & FAUNA ASPECT OF THE PLAN | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
| <p>****Concept Plan does not identify which trees are for removal/retaining (especially fruit trees)</p> | <p>Detailed plan will identify trees for removal. It is intended to retain many of the existing fruit trees; however the rows of slash pines will be progressively removed to develop the park. Significant planting will also be incorporated</p> |
| <p>Identify areas suitable for 'exotic' garden beds under existing, and future trees. Kennedy Farm could become a mini 'Botanic Garden' giving pleasure to all residents and visitors. Work could be done by locals (a 'friends of the gardens' group) and plants donated (I am quite willing to work on like this, and have suitable plants to donate).</p> | |
| <p>Encourage wider interest by not limiting flora to Natives only; tropicals have an important place in Queensland gardens and should be utilised and promoted to enhance Kennedy Farm and attract families, not just 'tree-huggers'.</p> | |
| <p>Retain some fruit trees</p> | |
| <p>Remove all slash pine trees</p> | |
| <p>Plans should be implemented for protection of existing bird life on Kennedy Farm with some roosting trees retained. Recently sighted: kites, sea-eagles, curlews, pheasant-coucal, crested pigeons, kookaburras, butcherbirds, drongos, Channel-billed cuckoo, to name but a few</p> | <p>A fauna study will be completed to identify significant species and strategies to mitigate any negative impacts will be implemented</p> |
| <p>The plan appears to be environmentally and eco friendly. Plenty of trees and open space and minimal sporting facilities</p> | <p>The major purpose and objective of the purchase of this land is for Sports and Recreation, however the development needs to have a balanced approach to the environmental considerations and existing strengths of the site.</p> |
| <p>Why can we not have a koala enclosure which could be run and looked after by the school children of Russell Island. This is how to get a great community spirit</p> | <p>There are no koalas on Bay Islands and Koala enclosures are not encouraged, but we would be looking to work with the community to develop programs at the site that would encourage great community spirit.</p> |

| COMMUNITY GARDENS | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
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| <p>The garden really needs to have the cleared area to the north west of the farm house included in its area this would avoid cutting too many trees, the area shown in brown would suit the garden as an orchard, storage, potting and eating area. There also needs to be an area with easy vehicle access for residents to drop off compost materials, with a worm farm and compost bins.</p> | <p>It is the intention to retain some open space in front of the house. To be discussed with Community Gardening group</p> |
| <p>Community Garden should be sited in cleared area, (NE of current position) leaving shaded area for Men's shed and Museum.</p> | |
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| FITNESS TRACK/ (2 responses) | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
| <p>The layout in one corner of the farm as shown on the plan is a potential hazard. The entry from Robert St. has a good loop around for vehicles but it is crossed by a fitness trail, shared pedestrian/cycle path. At this point cycles and cars could meet and accidents would happen. Lets save the possibility of accidents and move the fitness trail so that it does not cross any vehicle access road or car parking bays.</p> | <p>Changes to path – roadway interaction can be accommodated</p> |
| <p>why would you put traffic, cyclists and pedestrians in conflict with each other?. Move the fitness/cycle track inside the car park area. I hope most of the magnificent and old trees are to remain along with the custard apple and avocado trees. The area for the soccer field is prone to bogging down vehicles and will require extensive drainage.</p> | |
| PARKING AND ROAD ACCESS (8 responses) | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
| <p>PS Please make sure we have adequate parking for Kennedy's Farm allowing for the future growth of the island.</p> | <p>Carpark design caters for intended general use of the site and the provision of spaces is adequate. The park is designed to maximise the green space and pedestrian access and links. Vehicle access (other than emergency and service vehicles) will be restricted to the site to the formed designated drop-off and car park areas.</p> |
| <p>Vehicle access and parking would need to be updated</p> | |
| <p>More car parking required at Robert Street entrance.</p> | <p>Parking design provides support for the whole site. In addition, the fitness trail circuit encourages cycling and pedestrian access to the site.</p> |
| <p>Disabled access from eastern car parking area to house is required.</p> | <p>To be provided.</p> |
| <p>Improve road access via Union Street (continue it to Kings Road) and Nicholas St., as well as Robert St</p> | <p>Union and Robert Streets to be upgraded to cater for the proposed facilities</p> |
| <p>We think the concept is great. However in the interest of dust is the street (Union) being tarred?</p> | |
| <p>Bordering this 'open space' are a number of car parking areas, half of which have no road access</p> | |

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| <p>An access way should be included from Cavendish Street, to facilitate pedestrian access from the jetty. Pedestrian access from High Street along Robert Street is impossible as the road is unsealed, unit and generally unsafe. Robert Street is not even marked with a street sign.</p> | <p>Detailed carpark and access planning will be undertaken. The park is designed to maximise the green space and pedestrian access and links.</p> |
| <p>SECURITY FENCES</p> | <p>OFFICER'S COMMENTS</p> |
| <p>For the safety of residents in houses adjoining the path I would like to see a high security fence</p> | |
| <p>Boundary fences are needed between Kennedy Farm and residential properties on Cavendish Street, (North), Nicholas Street and Robert Streets (East) to prevent illegal public access/trespass particularly via vacant blocks (as is now evident through No. 32 Cavendish Street).</p> | <p>Normal Council practice does not involve fencing community sites, however bollards can be employed to control / discourage traffic flow.</p> |
| <p>MUSEUM/HERITAGE FACILITY (5 responses)</p> | <p>OFFICER'S COMMENTS</p> |
| <p>We refer to the Draft Concept Plan just release and would like to add our support to our SMBI Museum Branch to have a presence at this site. in accordance with the SMBI Museum Vision Plan 2011 released in June, the old farm machinery shed is of real interest to the island's museum for a storage and work shed in the short term. We recommend that a footprint be assigned within the Kennedy Farm Site for future potential development of an island heritage community facility as community support and funding becomes available.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding priority will initially be for delivering sport & recreation facilities on the site • A number of community uses can also be accommodated on site without significant additional resource requirements which include the community garden and broad community use of the existing house. To avoid conflicting site priorities these uses will be the initial site priorities • Issues about Museum occupying two Russell Island sites needs resolution • Machinery storage on the site is not preferred • Existing shed has no building or development permits. Assessment indicates significant issues with construction and a decision has been made to remove shed. Options for the establishment of a new shed on the site will be explored. • A needs analysis for Russell Island Arts / Culture / Heritage needs is recommended • Settler / Indigenous Heritage value of the site needs to be further investigated and taken into account in planning. Heritage Place markers could be incorporated • Previous consultations have identified the house to be a multi-purpose community facility • Museum group may form part of the user group for the house |
| <p>Also I am curious as to the fate of the farmhouse shed. It is well known that the Russell Island history group need a location to store numerous pieces of large machinery with historic significance. i would have thought that this shed would be ideal for that purpose.</p> | |
| <p>Kennedy's Farm property has historical heritage interest being typical of farms from early days in the islands. There ought to be a reflection in the planned community precinct footprint to showcase this and the SMBI Museum is in a position to do this.</p> | |
| <p>In the Strategic Leisure Group study of 2008, the Farm showed two existing buildings: the farmhouse and the old machinery shed. The machinery shed was identified to be used for storage and/or other uses. the machinery shed is missing from the latest concept plan, nor is space allocated for the SMBI Museum or a proposed Men's Group. The Museum needs space to expand, preferably located closer to the jetty to enable easier access for visitors from other islands and the mainland. There is a potential synergy between the Museum and the Men's Group to advance both these organisations and through them benefit the entire community, and the machinery shed is the obvious facility; we cannot understand why it has disappeared from the plan.</p> | |
| <p>A heritage space should also be considered in future planning in this area, either in conjunction with the Museum or as a separate facility.</p> | |

| ARTS COMPLEX (12 responses) | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
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| It would be very much appreciated that our positive attitudes and direction be supported for the need to have an allocated area at Kennedy Farm for an Arts Complex. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding priority will initially be for delivering sport & recreation facilities on the site • A number of community uses can also be accommodated on site without significant additional resource requirements which include the community garden and broad community use of the existing house. To avoid conflicting site priorities these uses will be the initial site priorities • A needs analysis for Russell Island Arts / Culture / Heritage needs is recommended • Guidance for the need and location of an “Arts Complex” would come from this study • Previous consultations have identified the house to be a multi-purpose community facility • Arts group may form part of the user group for the house |
| Russell Island Community Arts) wish to support our request, for a section of the Kennedy Farm Project, for an Art Studio and an Art Gallery for Sales. | |
| My vision is to have an Open Gallery to sell only those works of art created here on our Island. | |
| To have a art studio/work & display for craft eg pottery, mosaic sculptures to create | |
| an easily accessible area to be allocated for the construction of a building for the specific use as an Art Gallery, Studio Workshop, Pottery Kiln and wheels, an large storage area for relevant art materials & display boards | |
| would like to have somewhere to exhibit my art in a specially designed centre for artists where visitors can come and see us at work. | |
| an artist workshop of our own where we could work and exhibit our works. | |
| A permanent home to display our work and workshop that could be attended on an often basis would be ideal as we are restricted to only Fridays | |
| An area should be allocated for future arts and crafts studio/gallery/workshop | |
| The Island appears to have a large Art and Craft community. For that community to thrive and expand it needs its own facility to work, display, exhibit and store. | |
| it would be possible to spend a good part of the day wondering around the Museum, art gallery and garden with a picnic lunch, what a wonderful community asset, this site is probably the only one with the required size and ease of access available for such an idea. | |
| The Arts Group has expressed interest in using either the existing shed or a purpose-built facility, but no space has been designated for such a purpose. | |

| MENSHED (2 responses) | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
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| <p>The Men's shed is a much needed activity for the islands; it is amazing to me the number of residents women included, who have expressed an interest in seeing the Men's shed started.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's shed is a potentially compatible usage with community gardens although not an immediate priority. Existing shed has no building or development permits. Assessment indicates significant issues with construction and a decision has been made to remove shed. Options for the establishment of a new shed on the site will be explored. |
| <p>Community Garden re-positioned in cleared area, leaving shaded area for Men's shed & Museum.</p> | |
| OTHERS | OFFICER'S COMMENTS |
| <p>Permaculture courses could be run raising revenue. Child gardening/arboretum courses could be run to raise revenue. Sports events would benefit from the proximity of the café</p> | <p>Courses run on site will be the responsibility of the Community Garden Group</p> |
| <p>Kennedy Farm had a number of wells producing irrigation water. Will these wells be used to maintain the garden areas of Kennedy Farm or will extra burden be placed on the expensive treated water supplied to Russell Island owners.</p> | <p>Usefulness of wells is being investigated</p> |
| <p>An indoor sports pavilion was discussed at a community meeting in 2009, but is missing on the current concept plan. A footprint for this facility ought to be included at the concept stage.</p> | <p>No plans for an indoor facility at this stage</p> |
| <p>There is a potential for an amphitheatre given the slope of the land. This doesn't appear to have been considered</p> | <p>No plans for an amphitheatre facility at this stage – may be more suitable on another site</p> |