

Apollo Project Centre consultation: Community views and preferences

Consultation aimed at finding out what the local community thinks about a community recreation group taking over the Apollo Project Centre opened on Thursday 22 April and closed on Thursday 13 May 2021.

More than 220 leaflets were hand delivered to properties surrounding Jellie Park, or placed in large free-standing signs at the Greers Road entrance to the park and near the entrance to the pool and recreation centre. Leaflets were also available at Fendalton Service Library, Bishopdale Community Library and Te Hononga Civic Offices. Information about the consultation was emailed to major stakeholders, including schools and churches, in the vicinity of the park.

Submitters were asked whether they had any comments about the future of the Apollo Project Centre in Jellie Park.

Of the 26 responses received:

- 11 supported use of the Apollo Centre by a community recreation group
- Five did not support its use by a community recreation group
- 10 indicated that their view on any future use of the building was dependent on how current issues would be resolved

Those who supported the Apollo Centre's lease to a community or recreation group referred to various community and sporting uses, including a centre for community groups, youth or elderly people. Two sporting groups commented on their need for facilities.

The main issues raised by those who had concerns about the Apollo's future use by a community or recreation group were:

1. Parking-related issues on Chateau Drive and Matisse Place, close to the Apollo Centre
2. The building, purpose built for the New Zealand High Performance Centre after the 2011 earthquakes, was intended to be temporary
3. More information was needed on any future users, how current issues would be addressed, and the decision-making process.

Parking along Chateau Drive and Matisse Place by athletes using the high performance centre was a key issue for those opposing ongoing use of the building, or submitters who said their view was dependent on how this concern was dealt with.

Submissions from residents commented on athletes using parking on both sides of the road from early morning. Speeding, noise and restricted visibility were ongoing issues.

The Council's project team has advised submitters that any group operating from the facility will need to clearly demonstrate the ability to manage parking and traffic flow. Traffic Management Plans must identify how parking issues will be minimised, including how this will be enforced.

There are 22 parking spaces associated with the facility and 20 bike storage spaces. Traffic plans should indicate how these will be most effectively utilised. Parking issues on Chateau Drive have also been raised with the Parking Team at Christchurch City Council. They advise that resident only parking zones are no longer being implemented.

Eight submissions referred to the temporary status of the high performance training centre which was originally intended to remain on Jellie Park for five years.

The project team says that with High Performance Sport NZ moving out of the Apollo Project Centre once Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre is open, an opportunity exists to utilise the facility to provide more community recreation space within the city. Bringing together sporting organisations to this building, including partnerships, would have many benefits.

Providing groups can meet parking, financial and permitted use criteria, there is an existing space that could be used to support and encourage participation in recreation activities.

The current request for proposal includes the removal of the facility at the conclusion of the lease.

Ten submitters requested more information on how issues like parking would be managed if the building remained, and about the current process.

Submitters have been advised that after considering community feedback and proposals to use the centre, the Waimāero/Fendalton-Waimaero-Harewood Community Board will decide whether the request for proposal process should continue. If yes, further details may be required from one or more groups or organisations which have submitted proposals.

If all Council requirements are met by a proposal, a public notice will be issued listing the name/s of potential lessees, and another round of consultation will follow. Submitters wishing to be heard can speak to a Community Board hearings panel.

The community board will then make a final decision on whether to issue a lease.

If an applicant from the Request for Proposal process is recommended to be approved by the Community Board the lease will include a condition that requires the applicant to establish a fund so they can remove the building at the conclusion of any new lease.