

## Master Facilities Planning Meeting

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Held at Lakes Hayes Pavilion**

### **In attendance:**

Wakatipu Sports Users Group - Simon Spark and Craig Ferguson

QLDC - Paul Wilson.

Lakes Leisure - Peter Faul (Board), Fiona McKissock (CEO) , Cam Sheppard (Facilities), Rachelle Greene (Comms) and Kate Storey (minute taker)

### **Facilitating:**

Strategic Leisure (NZ) Ltd. - Dave Allen

The principal objectives of Lakes Leisure were outlined to be:

- Full community participation
- Providing an effective and efficient infrastructure for the management and provision of facilities
- Providing affordable access to all

Prior to the meeting surveys were sent to all sports user groups in order to obtain their feedback on the current facilities and ascertain what their needs will be going forward.

The major points raised were:

- Access and availability of
  - Indoor courts
  - Fields
  - Pool space
  - Changing room bookings
- Cost
  - Affordability

### **Other concerns raised:**

- Lack of toilets and change rooms on the outer fields at QEC
- Ownership of goals and the Health and Safety issues of the goals
- Field 6 being in poor condition
- The need for more practice wickets for 1<sup>st</sup> class and international tournaments
- Need for a modern and more effective score board for cricket
- Limited outdoor lighting
- Not being able to use indoor courts for Hockey due to the surface damage it causes
- Roof leaks in stadium

- Sharing changing rooms
- No indoor hockey facilities

### **Future plans given by sports users:**

Cricket – Club Rooms

Athletics – All weather track

Football – Summer football ground access

Netball – Increasing numbers of teams, particularly juniors, and need for more access to courts (expand indoor facilities to 4 courts)

Squash – Club has part funding for two new courts – need approval to commence

### **Discussion Points:**

The growing trend for sports to be played all year round placing pressure on the use of LL facilities.

Games are also increasingly spread across the week and no longer limited to the weekends. This has been a progression in the larger NZ centers which typically filters down to the smaller centers such as Queenstown as we are seeing now.

Teams are also looking for greater comfort and less injury risk, resulting in a growing preference for, and demand on indoor courts.

### **Wakatipu Sports Users Group (WSUG)**

WSUG noted that the main priority identified by sports users is for more indoor court space. Ground lighting has become less of an issue than previously thought, especially during mid-winter when fields are regularly closed due to weather and ground conditions.

WSUG felt that there has been progress made with user groups better understanding and using the booking system for grounds and indoor courts.

It was mentioned with the overall increase in running costs some clubs are facing they are having difficulty making ends meet. The recent changes in the funding policy that includes a local club season rate, will not only simplify the system for sports users but offer them cost benefits.

### **Sportsville Concept**

The concept of a “Sportville” approach was discussed. Based on clustering, and economies of scale an umbrella entity can provide a core resource to manage memberships, finance and admin with several sporting codes sharing the facilities.

The need for a social hub in which sports teams can gather and use as traditional club rooms have been in the past was discussed. This is often not financially viable for clubs independently, but a shared venue could provide an innovative and cost effective solution to giving each club a sense of home. A venue of this kind would also contribute to a stronger community overall by bringing players, friends and family together in a safe and positive environment.

### **Going forward – issues and projects to be considered**

- Indoor court space will need to be a priority.
- Consideration needs to be given to a dedicated indoor sports venue that will prevent the issues currently faced by a dual purpose facility balancing events vs sports bookings.
- Look at the growth of existing and new activities and the resulting competition for space.
- Some form of community golf “patch” will be needed – pitch and putt or driving range.
- Club rooms/house/hub is needed with car parking eg mixed use club rooms.
- An interchangeable surface on the tennis courts to help ease pressure on indoor facilities.
- Additional toilet and changing facilities.
- Parking issues to be resolved from a health and safety perspective as well as giving better access to outer grounds.
- Secondary oval designated for increased community use with potential for private partnership club house or having one pavilion in the middle of 4 playing fields which could also include squash.
- Council built and owned club house leased by the umbrella company (Sportville approach) so all food and beverage takings are put back into the sports making it more community based.
- Initially utilise the mezzanine floor of QEC, Lakes Leisure running it for the clubs, until a club venue is built. Invest in creating a sporting hub culture within a multi club environment.
- The Squash Club was discussed. With the part funding to build courts and a desire to see them located within the QEC complex to give their sport better exposure, it was suggested that the courts be built either on top of the group fitness room or in the current office space. There would be risk associated with any other location then limiting the ability to expand the indoor courts.

### **In Conclusion:**

Overall there was general agreement that the plan, while still a work in progress, is currently sound in its ability to meet the evolving demands of multiple users. The Council and Lakes Leisure will continue to gather information from the community and sports user groups regarding their future needs and evolve the Master Facilities Plan accordingly.