

ITEM NO: 15

SUBJECT: Dog Off-Leash Area for the Blackheath Community

FILE NO:

By Crs Terri Hamilton and Kevin Frappell
Council Meeting 11/12/07

1. That Council notes the petition signed by 45 residents requesting the provision of a user-friendly dog off-leash area within walking distance of Blackheath village.
2. That a report comes to the first Council Meeting in 2008 concerning the possibility of establishing a user-friendly dog off-leash area at the bottom of Whitley Park on the corner of Prince Edward and Wentworth Streets, Blackheath, as a pilot scheme.
3. That, if Council agrees to the pilot scheme, Council agrees to an advance draw down on contracted income to be received from Sydney Water's use of the old Aerodrome, Hat Hill Road, Blackheath, to fund the implementation of the user-friendly dog off-leash area at Whitley Park.
4. That the pilot be trialled for three months and, if successful, it becomes a permanent facility and the results be used to develop a model for the provision of other user-friendly dog off-leash areas in the Blue Mountains.
5. That the Community and Facilities Working Party continues to be involved in the assessment and development of user-friendly dog off-leash areas for the community and regular reports come to Council.

Background

On 29 November, an on-site meeting took place with four dog owners, including the resident who organised the petition, three Council officers and Cr Hamilton to assess the suitability of the lower portion of Whitley Park as a user-friendly dog off-leash area.

After a thorough inspection, it was unanimously agreed that this site met the following requirements, presented by the dog owners, for a user-friendly dog off-leash area:

- Large enough for all size dogs to run at length to chase a ball
- Level ground with ideally grass or soft even surface
- Some shade cover – trees, etc.
- Rubbish bin
- Sitting bench
- Some street lighting
- Close by water tap
- Public toilets
- Central location within a village

- Street parking nearby
- Away from sporting facilities and major roads
- Easy access for people of all ages

Other requirements needed would be:

- Fence with 150 to 180 cm height and close to the ground
- Another rubbish bin and dog tidy bag dispenser
- Wide access gates for lawn mowing
- Appropriate signage

There is an increasing requirement by our community to be able to access user-friendly dog off-leash areas in appropriate places and it is felt that the proposed trial at Whitley Park will assist in this regard.

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ITEM NO: 16

SUBJECT: Power Failures at BMCC HQ

FILE NO:

That the Community Facilities WP be provided with information regarding options for increasing the capacity of electricity generation within the BMCC Katoomba Admin HQ.

Note by Councillor Myles:

Recently there have been a number of power failures at the BMCC Katoomba HQ due to the impact of weather events on the Katoomba sub-station. There is currently no means of lighting the actual Chamber should a blackout occur during a BMCC Meeting. Such a blackout would cause the meeting to be suspended and possibly lead to the Chamber having to be cleared on OH & S grounds. Given that the lift doesn't work during power outages, there is a serious issue in relation to evacuating people with a disability.

This motion seeks to engender discussion at the appropriate working party about ways that this lamentable situation might be improved.

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