

## WELLINGTON BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

### TOWN BELT LEGISLATIVE & POLICY REVIEW ORAL SUBMISSION

DATE: 22 February, 2013

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#### WCC REVIEW COMMITTEE - COUNCILORS

Helene Ritchie (Chair)

Andy Foster

Paul Eagle

Iona Pannett John Morrison

#### SUBMISSION

**Nick White - Submission on behalf of Badminton. The submission is also endorsed by Tennis Central**

- Badminton acknowledges the significance of the Town Belt to the inhabitants of the city of Wellington and as a long term user welcomes the review of the Town Belt Management Plan.

Badminton has made a detailed written submission on the Review but takes the opportunity today to emphasize 3 points from that submission.

#### 3 Main Points

- *Firstly, the plan does not achieve a balance between retaining natural areas for informal recreation and the demands from organized sports.*
- *Secondly, the plan should encourage the development of sporting facilities, not limit it.*
- *Thirdly, the plan should promote the provision of indoor facilities for organized sports.*

#### 1. Balance between natural areas and organized sports

- The original Town Belt Deed conveyed the Town Belt land upon trust to the City Council to administer the town belt land for the purpose of

*“a public Recreation ground for the inhabitants of the City of Wellington”*

# Tabled Information - Reference 010/13PT(c)

- The emphasis is on “a public recreation ground”. There is no special emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreation activities. Nor should there be.
- Such wording only promotes a bias in favour of informal recreation and does not promote the balance intended between “natural areas for informal recreation with the demands from organized sports”

## 2. Development of sporting facilities

- Badminton urges the Council to set policy that promotes organized sport within the Town Belt and specifically within the Hataitai Park Precinct. A long term plan should include the development of Sports Facilities to an international standard. Such an approach is consistent with the creation of Hataitai Park for sports use between 1929 and 1936.
- Badminton disagrees with a preference for the ‘Sportsville’ model. It is agreed that there are potential benefits of sharing facilities such as carparks, changing rooms and meeting rooms. However a “one size fits all” facility does not suit everyone and is not necessarily economical for everyone. All sports, especially at the elite levels, have their own specific requirements. These include specialist playing surface, lighting, and indoor/outdoor facilities. Some sports are more flexible than others and thus shared facilities suit some more than others. All positions must be considered.
- Sporting organizations requirements change over time. To recognize this it should be open to both existing Lessees and new Lessees to develop their facilities without being limited to the existing footprint and current leased areas. The focus should be on providing the best facilities for the people of Wellington.
- We note that the current criteria for the development of facilities are too restrictive. Given Wellington’s hilly topography, the reality is that land suitable for developing world class recreational facilities close to town is likely to be in the Town Belt.

## 3. Indoor facilities

- Badminton urges the Council to set policy that promotes the provision of indoor facilities. The Wellington climate is characterised by cool temperatures, high winds and rain. Such conditions as you are aware provide a challenge to outdoor recreation activities for a large part of the year. It should be open for sports organizations to develop and / or improve current indoor facilities and specialist surfaces.
- If Wellington is looking to attract world class talent to the Capital we need world class recreational facilities close to the centre of town and such facilities are likely to be Indoor in the future. Such facilities can be in keeping with the natural environment and complement the likes of Zealandia, the Otaro Bush and Botanical Gardens as reasons to live in Wellington.