

## DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARTIFICIAL TURF IN KARORI

This submission is presented on behalf of Waterside Karori Association Football Club (WKAFC) Incorporated.

### **The need for an artificial pitch in Wellington's biggest suburb**

The western suburbs need an artificial pitch. In 2006 the area had 28,399 residents, comprising Karori, Northland, Aro Valley and Kelburn. Of those suburbs, Karori was by far the largest with 14671 residents.

### **Our plans for an artificial pitch**

A key goal in our strategic plan is to gain all weather lighted outdoor training within Karori suburb by mid 2015 winter season. WKAFC executive committee unanimously resolved to support in cash and in kind, the construction and installation of a floodlit artificial turf training pitch in Karori.

### **Council documented Western Suburbs Artificial Sportsfield Discussion Paper – NOV 2012**

Long Term Plan for turf 2016 / 2017. Allocation \$1.45m. Too far away.

Main sporting clubs in immediate area are Football, Rugby, Cricket and Athletics.

All codes support the site of the Terawhiti Bowling Club should that site become available.

Total Juniors = 1600 approx. Total Seniors = 800 approx

### **The need for an artificial turf is urgent**

Training facilities are at a premium. Such facilities do not require a full size pitch. This need dovetails in neatly with the bowling club site given it would be unlikely to be able to be "stretched" to a full sized football pitch.

We would back ourselves to raise the finance for the full development of a training turf in Karori. Early informal discussion with a turf installer suggested to allow some \$130m<sup>2</sup> for supply and installation including fencing. 35m x 75m site = \$340k approx + lighting, consents etc.

In addition to a training and junior football / rugby competition venue the WKAFC Executive considered a broader usage range than simply football and rugby.

We envisage potential uses for the wider Western Suburbs community from a facility on the Bowling Club site. The Bowling Club building would have strong potential as a Sports academy building for meetings, white board sessions, gym facilities, eg treadmill, stationary bikes, darts club, 5 a side summer tournaments, local schools participation, service club meetings, assembly point for Makara Peak mountain biking, and many forms of coaching clinics.

In essence the Terawhiti Bowling Club site appears to us to be the ideal development site. There have been criticisms of the site with regard to parking, and possible disturbance due to floodlighting. There is considerable rough ground near the site which could be developed for parking. Floodlighting is now very sophisticated with respect to its facility for directional focus, and in any case, our Club would not envisage using lights past 9 pm in winter, and never in summer.

The current community usage of this council site is very low. Bowling club membership we believe is under 40. It is well documented that bowling clubs around the country are merging.

### **A partnership with Wellington City Council**

In a partnership situation we would see Council providing the land and buildings, undertaking any of the consent processes as landowner, and undertaking the ongoing maintenance of the site. Care and maintenance of the buildings as a Council provided amenity would also need to be considered.

WKAFC would undertake a capital raising project to fund the construction.