

Outrim Park

Community Meeting 16th September 2011 at 10:30am

Venue: Meeting Room 'A' – Blaxland Community Centre

Council Attendees: Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow and Patrick Williams

Apologies: Cllr Howard McCallum

Where Outrim Park is at now

Outrim Park is the small park that is bounded by the IGA supermarket to the north and west, Hope Street to the South and Businesses to the East. An access pathway exists to the east to Station Street.

In 2010, due to safety concerns following BMCC's Annual Playground Inspection Audit, the play equipment was removed. \$75 000 has been allocated in this years Operational Plan to renew the park. This money is required to cover all design, equipment, project management and contingencies for the project.

This project is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2012. It is hoped that works can be completed prior to this date.

What we have heard from the community so far

Council engaged the community through a survey. Over 100 surveys were received, both online and in hard copy.

From the survey, three major themes were evident:

1. Respondents wanted play equipment returned to Outrim Park.
2. Respondents wanted seating opportunities in the park.
3. Outrim Park fulfils the needs of many residents and visitors to Blaxland for play opportunities, as a place to rest, as a place to eat and as a place to meet others.

Respondents also commented on the suitability of Outrim park for tourists.

A more detailed analysis of the survey results is available on the Blue Mountains: Have Your Say website.

Who are we catering for?

Meeting attendees discussed uses of Outrim Park. While the provision of play opportunities for children was identified, many other uses of Outrim Park were also discussed. These uses included a place for workers to eat lunch, a place for residents to meet and a place for residents to socialise. This means that the plan for Outrim Park needs to consider a wide range of age groups and functions in order to meet the needs of the community.

What do they need?

Attendees at the meeting were in favour of play equipment being returned to Outrim Park. This play equipment if possible was to:

- Have an area for children under 5;
- Have an area for children between the ages of 5 and 12;
- Provide a barrier between the play equipment and the IGA carpark and Hope Street;
- If the equipment was to be fenced, providing seats inside the fence for adults;
- Provide soft-fall to the relevant Australian Standard

Other items that were identified and discussed for possible inclusion in the park were:

- Barbeque – leads to issues having it cleaned and hygiene issues;
- Additional Bins;
- Incorporating the slope towards Hope Street into the park
- Shade – BMCC does not provide shade structures in parks, shade would be required from the trees on the site;
- Lighting – this generally works when people will be seen and can be identified, it does not work in circumstances where there is low levels of passive surveillance;
- Seating – having seats and tables clumped to accommodate groups;
- Seating – having multi-use structures in the park which for example might provide a barrier fence to the car park and a seat for adults;
- Art Installations in the park – the themes for Blaxland were discussed in order to provide a feature like the cows in Benoit Park, Warrimoo (old dairy site).
- The merits of a graffiti wall were discussed; this idea divided opinion amongst attendees and was not well supported. It will not be considered in the draft plan for Outrim Park.
- Interpretive Signage about the history of Outrim Park (How did it get its name), the history of Blaxland and the crossing of the Blue Mountains.

How could that all fit on site?

Considering the desired features of the park, the following ideas were developed for consideration of the draft plan for Outrim Park:

- The ideal location for play equipment in the park was in the area where play equipment was previously provided;
- That inclusion or development of the slope leading through to Hope Street was not considered beneficial;
- That a walkthrough from the IGA car park was not considered necessary;
- That seating opportunities should be provided in a range of locations in the park; and
- Appropriate fences or barriers need to be installed considering the proximity of the park to the car park and Hope Street.

Where to from here?

The information gathered from both the survey and the community meeting will be used to develop the draft plan. It is expected that the draft plan for Outrim Park will be developed by mid to late October. Once completed, the draft plan will be emailed to those who expressed interest and made available on the Blue Mountains Have Your Say website.

Once feedback on the draft plan has been received from the community, Council will be in a position to finalise the design and commence the procurement process.