

The General Manager
Ku-ring-gai Council
818 Pacific Highway
GORDON NSW 2072

kmc@kmc.nsw.gov.au

22 September 2020

Attention: Guy Thomas
Strategic recreation Planner

Dear Mr McKee

RE: Norman Griffith Oval proposal to synthetic turf the surface

We have only just been made aware of the proposal to replace the Norman Griffith Oval's natural grass surface with synthetic turf. We similarly objected to Rofe Park being proposed for a synthetic turfing last year. Thankfully, Council rejected the proposal.

We are writing to support the retention and upgrade of the natural grass surface on the Norman Griffith oval and oppose Council's proposal to install a non-biodegradable synthetic grass surface for the reasons stated below:

1. The proposal is not ecologically sustainable or environmentally sound and is inconsistent with the management objectives of the area and therefore not in the public interest.
2. Synthetic turf is made of plastic and is an artificial surface which over time can be known to break down into smaller particles allowing run-off and plastic pollution to be emitted into the surrounding rare and protected critically endangered ecological community (Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest -STIF) which council has a responsibility to protect and preserve. It is irresponsible for council to add more plastic and the waste it generates into the environment.
3. Recycled non-biodegradable tyre crumb rubber is used in the infill used as a base and which be topped up regularly to the base. There are concerns that over time that particles eroded from the base will we understand will leach lead and zinc through wind and rain into the environmentally sensitive bushland environment which borders the oval.
4. Synthetic turf being a plastic is a fire risk which should not be permitted in a fire buffer zone.
5. It is confusing and staggering hat council would plan and permit a synthetic artificial surface to be laid knowing that the surrounding critically endangered classified bushland which border directly the oval will be impacted by pollution and toxic run-off and potentially the water quality flowing to Lane Cove National Park downstream.
6. Synthetic surfaces are impacted by heat in the hot months of the year whereas natural grass surfaces absorb the heat and do not need regular replacement as do synthetic surfaces.

7. The proposal will limit the variety of sports and activities that are currently played and enjoyed on the natural grass surface. The oval green space should remain available to all in the community not a single user group.
8. The proposal will also have a negative impact on the natural waterflow and on the microclimate of the Bicentennial Park.
9. The proposal is not in the public interest.

Yours faithfully

Kathy Cowley
PRESIDENT

cc Mayor and councillors