

Hornby Rugby Football Club

PO Box 16 036
Hornby
Christchurch 8042
Phone 3497 013



Yes Hornby Rugby Football would like to see a new Leisure Centre in the South West area. Whether it is a joint Library Service Swimming pool project we can't decide without a clearer plan for such a facility from the Council. The location of such a facility is the key. It could be such a positive facility for our area for all ages in the community.

We feel it is so important to get the location correct for this facility to be an important asset for our area without it impinging on the congested traffic & available space we already have.

'Denton Park is the Hagley Park of Hornby'

This is why the Club feels so strongly about protecting Denton Park for generations to come so they can enjoy the suburb as we have. The community was gifted the park land for recreation. The Oval and grandstand were built to accommodate the cycling for the Commonwealth games and it has become a great asset to our Club and the Cycling community.

Denton Park is not the right location for many reasons.

- Our sports fields would be taken. We would lose the grandeur of the open space before our clubrooms.
- We would lose our great clubrooms in time.
- The cricket would lose their fields and clubrooms.
- The community would lose their wide open space that is enjoyed for all sorts of reasons.
- Traffic problems would increase tenfold if such a facility was put in. Dangerous manoeuvres would be done on the Main Road trying to access such a facility. It is horrendous now without a Leisure Centre. Every day there are near misses and accidents.
- There is no parking for our club now as the Hub workers use it all day and night for work parking. Where are the quoted 200 new parks going to be placed?
- Denton Park is an access way from surrounding streets to access The Hub by foot or cycle.
- Denton Oval & Denton Park are used by Canterbury Rugby, Canterbury League, Ellesmere Rugby and Country Rugby for the progress and development of sport in their fields. Just where are they to be placed in the future for their sports to be enjoyed and promoted.
- To take this open space and put a big building on it would be criminal.
- It would provide another alley way for the not so nice people to graffiti and loiter causing trouble.
- Percentages given in the Council Document do not give a true usage of Denton Park. The water tank area and water run off land is dead land. The shape of the Park also makes some unusable for sports.

Our preferred option of the 3 parks offered is Kyle Park.

Reasons for this is

- Its location to the Hub of Hornby without being on top of it.
- It's location to public transport and ease of access.
- It would not affect sporting clubs as it would if it was at Denton.
- It would add value to the BMX track as it would give them sealed community parking.
- It would be a great opportunity to cleanse Kyle Park of its 'Asbestos' problem.
- Location to several schools making access for them easy for a pool complex and beneficial for the youth of Hornby and surrounding area.
- There would be a different training opportunities for our club with a pool complex.
- Traffic congestion would not be as great as if it was at Denton. Access in and out of Waterloo Road would be much easier than the Main South Rd.

Library:

The current Library site is perfect for the Library and big enough to build a new state of the future building with Library, community centre, meeting rooms and suitable parking. A better designed building would be very effective meeting the communities needs into the future. Why move or make it a co-joined situation with a pool?

Warren Park is too far out of the loop. Too far from Public transport but suppose new routing could be changed to suit if this was the option. Multi sports clubs would also be affected if this ground was to be used. Once again lose the sports fields and where would they be replaced. No options have been offered by the Council in the proposal to date for loss of fields and facilities. This leaves a lot of uncertainty for the Sporting Clubs involved.

If the Clubs had to move their home grounds & clubrooms this would add severe additional costs to the clubs in re-setting up their operations. This is a cost that Clubs cannot afford as funding and fundraising is so difficult now. The available support base could not manage such a move and maintain the continuity of their clubs continued operation. The Council have offered up no proposals to the sporting groups as alternatives which leaves them extremely protective of what they already have in place.

All the good land options have been snapped up or given away to social housing. Council owned the land behind the current library and used it for another purpose. Why was this when planning for this complex was on the table? Surveying was going on back in 2013 at the parks. Why is planning so far behind the eight ball for this progressive area? Most people could see post-earthquakes what was going to happen as far as where the people were going to go to live and work.

Other suggested sites:

Any other Council land that the public does not know they own

South Hornby School

Sockburn School

Wycola Park

Waterloo Business Park

Riccarton Racecourse

Some Club history tying its roots to Denton Park.

Hornby Rugby Football Club began in 1956 with some donated land and a tin shed for storage of gear in Amyes Rd Hornby. Fundraising and membership drive over the next decade enabled them to move to Denton Park and with Christchurch holding the Commonwealth games in 1974 the Club was able to build the present Clubrooms in its existing place. The Clubrooms was used for the Cycling during the games and there after the Club started their building of team numbers.

Competing in the Metro competition for years the Club chose to play their Senior men's teams in the Ellesmere Competition leaving the Juniors and Women's in the Metro Competition and it has continued this way from early 1990's until present. At the end of the 1990's Hornby was very strong in the Senior Sides enjoying winning the Coleman shield for the Ellesmere Competition. Junior numbers have always been fairly strong but have increased to 11 teams. The Div 1 team returned to the Division 1 status in 2015 and the flow off effect will go down to the other grades. This is an exciting time for the Club. Building growth is very important to the Rugby Club.

The Club has had the lease on Denton Oval for a number of years and this has enabled many games to be played there and the big draw card is that it has a Grandstand. Leases were long term (5x5 years) but this was changed a few years ago to year by year. We knew then that something was up. Added to this the reluctance of the Council to repair the Earthquake damage to the Grandstand when we needed the facility so bad.

The Aims and objectives of the Rugby Club are to foster and make available the game of Rugby to all ages of both Male and Female. We pride ourselves on being a family orientated Club so our membership ranges from 4 to 84 years old. We aim to also provide confident Coaches to teach the game of rugby to our members.

We have a voluntary Management Team of 10 who work all year to manage the running of the Club. We have a paid Bar Manager and a paid Cleaner. The Coaches, Managers and ground staff are all volunteers who give year after year. Without them we would not survive.

Each year Hornby Rugby Football Club since the late 1990's has had an Academy running during the off season and this is to upskill and guide younger players as they progress through the grades. Mostly aimed from 16 to 20 something age group. They attend the gym and have workshops run for them. Advice on diet and health is also encouraged and of course allowing them to be making the informed decisions they need to continue in sport.

The Academy is supported by the Hornby Workingmen's Club by way of a funding grant. The results we see from running these programmes is the on field skills improvement and being able to retain these players associated to the Club for future years.

We share our Clubrooms with the Hornby Netball Club. They had no venue when they first begun and it made sense to share the space as a lot of families have members playing in both codes. Last year they had 226 members. The Rugby membership was around 250 last year and this includes Junior's, Seniors, and many Social members. We have a very varied ethnic group but the majority would be European followed by Pacific Island & Maori members all who bring a happy family atmosphere to the club and Community. All these people need somewhere to come together.

The Clubrooms is used for Housie each Wednesday night with about 50-70 people attending. It is also hired out to Businesses who use it for training workshops and seminars. Some weddings and 21st are held there and in the summer Touch Rugby and Softball also use the Clubrooms and grounds. This venue is so useful to the community because of its size.

We have strong ties with the Canterbury Cycling Club and Hornby Cricket Club who also use the park. Softball hold their Easter tournament and use our Clubrooms weekly in summer.

We value this piece of land and what it means to the sporting people of Hornby. Not only sporting people but the whole community. Take away Denton Park as it is now and you will ruin many, many lives in the community.

‘Denton Park is the Hagley Park of Hornby’
Please leave it as it is for all to enjoy!