

JANUARY 2021

# Community Engagement - Central Park Floodlighting Proposal


## Summary:

An extensive community consultation process has been carried out for the proposal to install low spill and adjustable lights at Central Park sports ground for both active recreation and organised sport.

The City of Stonnington is committed to engaging with our community in an accessible, timely, representative, and innovative way to inform Council decision-making and forge common trust.

The community consultation process on the Central Park floodlighting proposal was carried out across September and October 2021 to ensure residents were informed, engaged with, and listened to. Council's online engagement platform, 'Connect Stonnington', was used to share project details, designs, and timelines, conduct surveys, and facilitate communication with Council Officers regarding any aspect of the project.

Community engagement methods included:

- 1,483 views on the Connect Stonnington website
  - 328 letters sent to nearby residents
  - 5 large signs erected around Central Park
  - 202 online survey completions (62% active/ passive recreational users and 37% affiliated to a sports club)
  - An online information session attended by 25 residents
  - An FAQ flyer
  - Paid social media advertising on Facebook (1,561 clicks) and Instagram (94,444 impressions)
  - A news item on Council's website
  - Phone and email correspondence with residents
- 

## How the community was informed, consulted, and engaged:

### 1. Central Park Lighting Project Online Survey:

Open for four weeks, the survey included questions regarding the current and future use of the reserve, the appropriate balance between community recreation activities and sports training use, and preferred hours of operation should the new lights be installed.

(Summary report attached from pages 7 to 11)

### 2. Online Community Information Session with Q&A:

An online information session was held with 25 residents, who were interested in finding out further information about the project and have their questions answered. Many of the residents in attendance lived within view of Central Park.

The main queries raised were in regards to potential light spill and increased noise and activity in the evenings through the winter months. The lighting consultant attended this session to help respond to these queries, and an FAQ document was sent to all attendees following the session with written responses to all of the main questions.


(FAQs document attached from page 12 to page 16)

### 3. Ongoing emails and calls:

Six residents chose to engage with Council Officers via email. Officers were able to respond to their questions and provide the relevant information about the proposal.

### 4. Previous consultations that also informed this project:

A previous Parks Survey Review conducted by Council in 2019 provided the following findings regarding lighting and Central Park:

- Central Park was the most visited and regularly used park within Stonnington.
  - 78% of survey respondents rated lighting at parks as extremely important and important item that needs more attention.
  - Lighting was the second highest item that require improvement at parks.
  - Perception of safety at night at parks was 26% compared to 93% during the day.
  - Central Park had specific quotes about low perception of safety at night due to lack of proper lighting.
- 

## Community Consultation Finding and Outcomes

Key themes raised during consultation included the height of the poles, possible light spillage in to residential properties, changes to current use of ground and extended use of the oval by sports clubs. These concerns were discussed during the online forum, follow up FAQs (attached bellow) and in follow up individual conversations to reassure the community that the impact on residents would be minimised through the design and operation of the floodlighting.

202 responses were received to the online survey, with the key feedback including:

- 69% of survey respondents either 'strongly supported' or 'supported' the floodlight proposal.
- The 6-pole design was the most preferred option, due to the lower pole height and greater flexibility to light the path surrounding the oval.
- 71% said they would use the oval more if it had lighting.
- 71% said lighting will improve the feeling of safety at Central Park.
- 63% said the lighting will increase the opportunities to use the oval for sports
- 53% said lighting will help animal management (picking up after their dogs) and will provide increased opportunities to exercise dogs.

Feedback on the preferred weekly usage schedule is provided below. This will support Council in developing a final schedule of use, providing a balance between active/ passive recreational use and use for organised sport.

Type of Use	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Community	78%	64%	73%	62%	80%
Organised Sport	50%	71%	65%	76%	52%

- 53% of respondents prefer that the lighting is not used beyond 9pm.
- A secondary round of consultation will seek further feedback on a proposed schedule of use, including whether there is support for recreational use on weekends. This will then be reported to Council for formal endorsement.
- Due to the large size of the Central Park Oval and the areas used for organised sports training, the community will still be able to use parts of the oval while sports training takes place, as per the current arrangement.

A full report of the consultation findings is attached from pages 7 to 11.

## Conclusion

A detailed community consultation process ensured all community members had the opportunity to provide feedback via survey, online information session and follow up communication with Council Officers. Given the project's intention to allow extended use of the oval for community physical activity as well as organised sport, it was important the needs of the sporting clubs were not the only consideration.

There was significant support from the general community for the installation of oval lighting and ensuring the balance between community and organised sport use is maintained. The installation of the low-spill and adjustable lights at Central Park will enable the community to participate in physical activity all year round and will support the growth of organised sport, including juniors and females.



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# Attachment 1

## ONLINE SURVEY REPORT

# Central Park Oval Lighting Proposal – Community Consultation Results

202

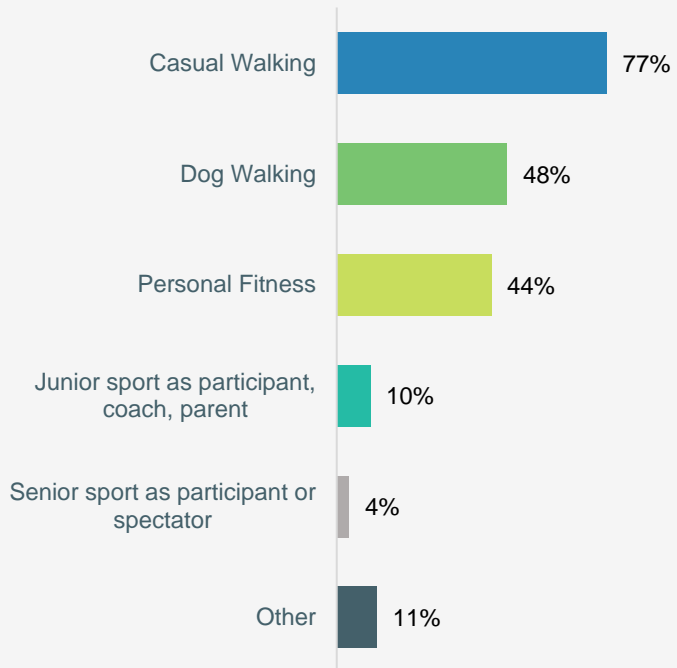
Online responses



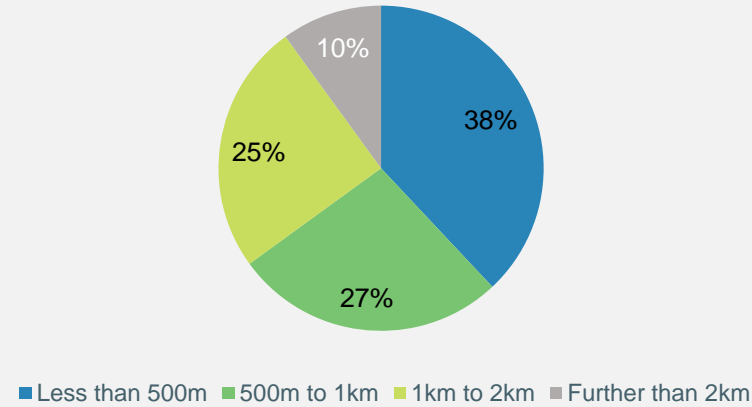
25

Registrations to the online  
community session

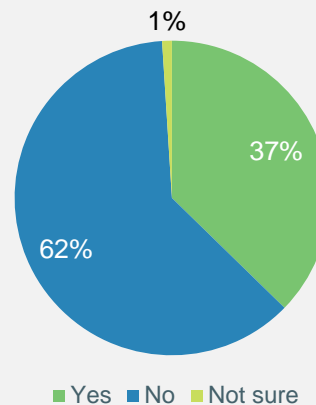
## Main reasons to visit Central Park (Multiple choices)



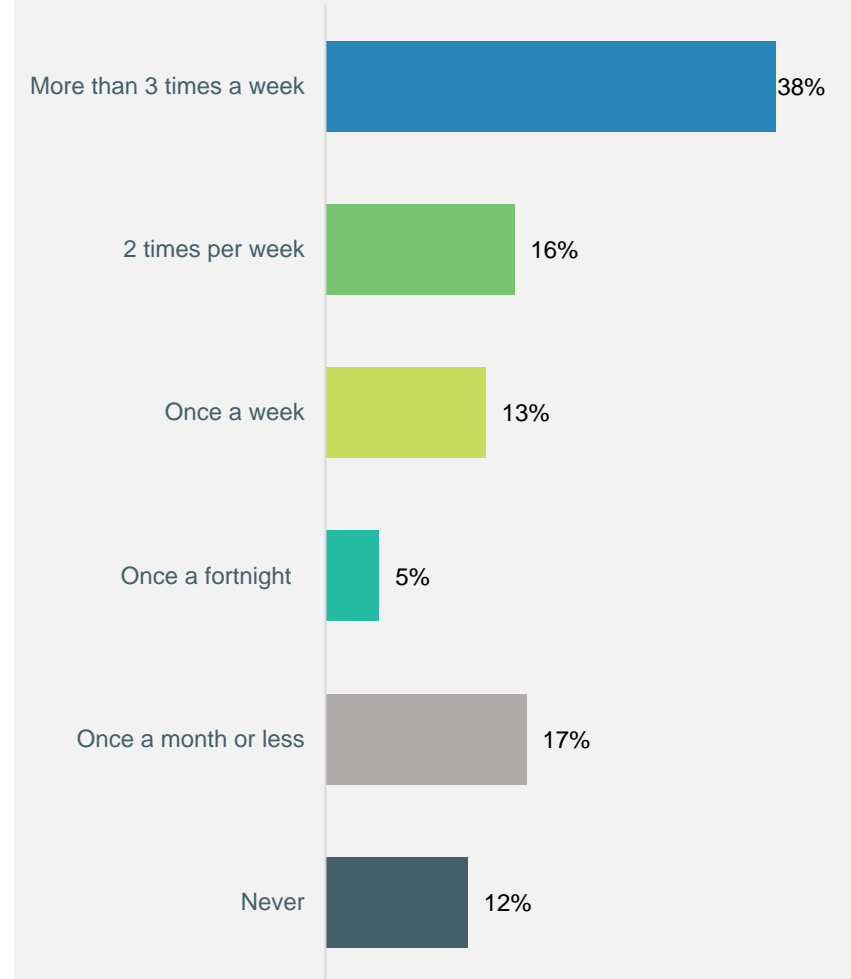
## How far respondents live from Central Park



## Are you or a family member part of a local sports club?

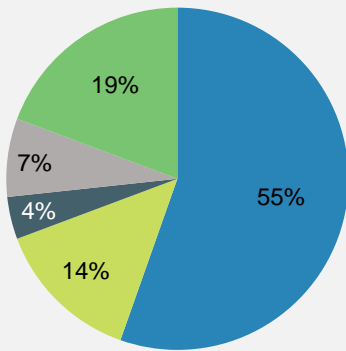


## How often respondents use Central Park in the evening



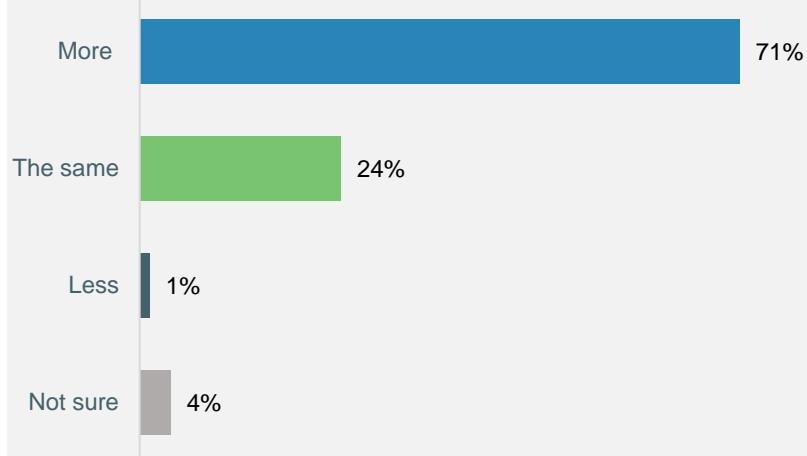
# Central Park Oval Lighting Proposal – Community Consultation Results

How do you feel about the low-spill and adjustable lighting proposal?

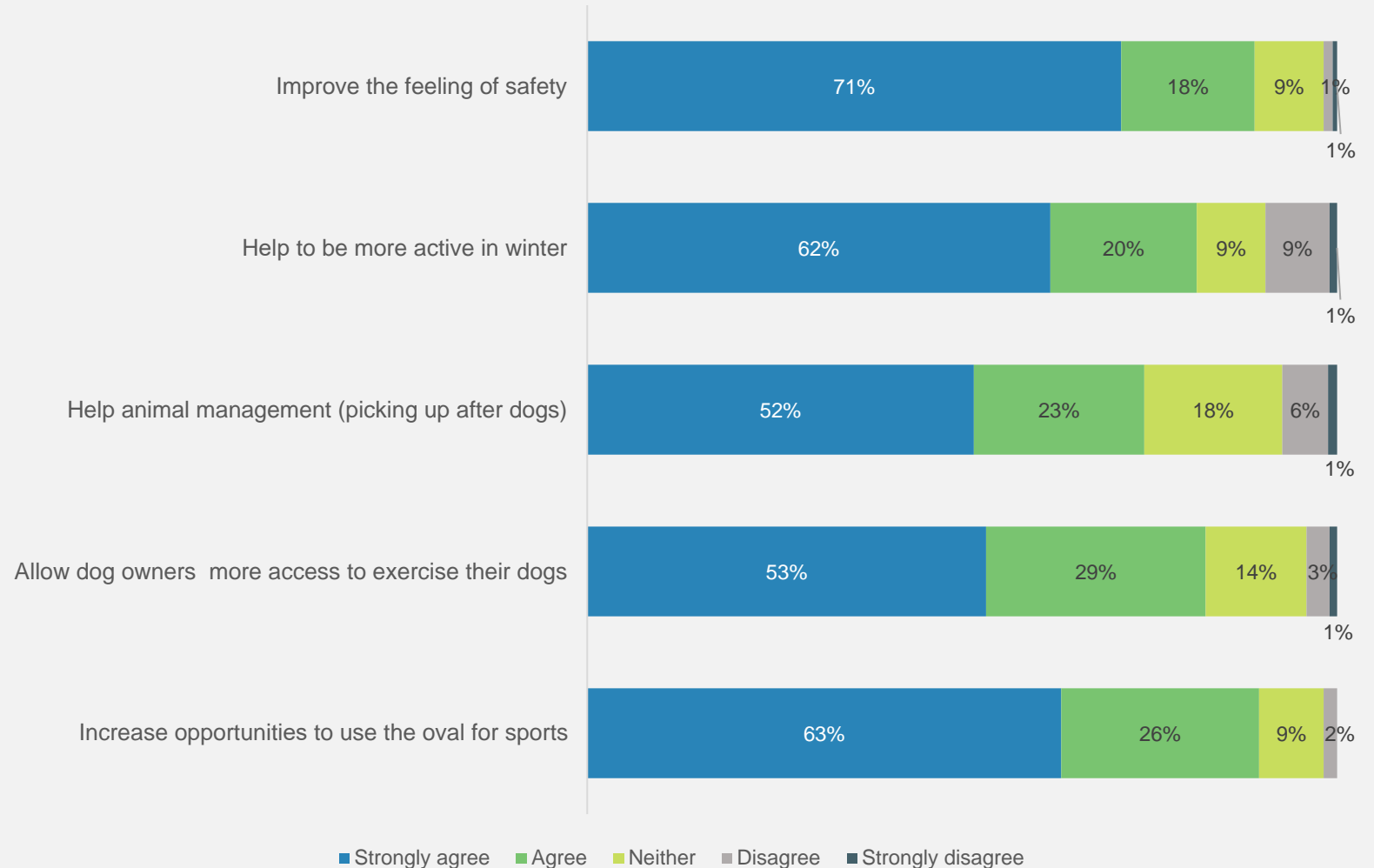


■ Strongly support ■ Support ■ Neutral ■ Opposed ■ Strongly Opposed

If lighting was introduced, would you use the oval



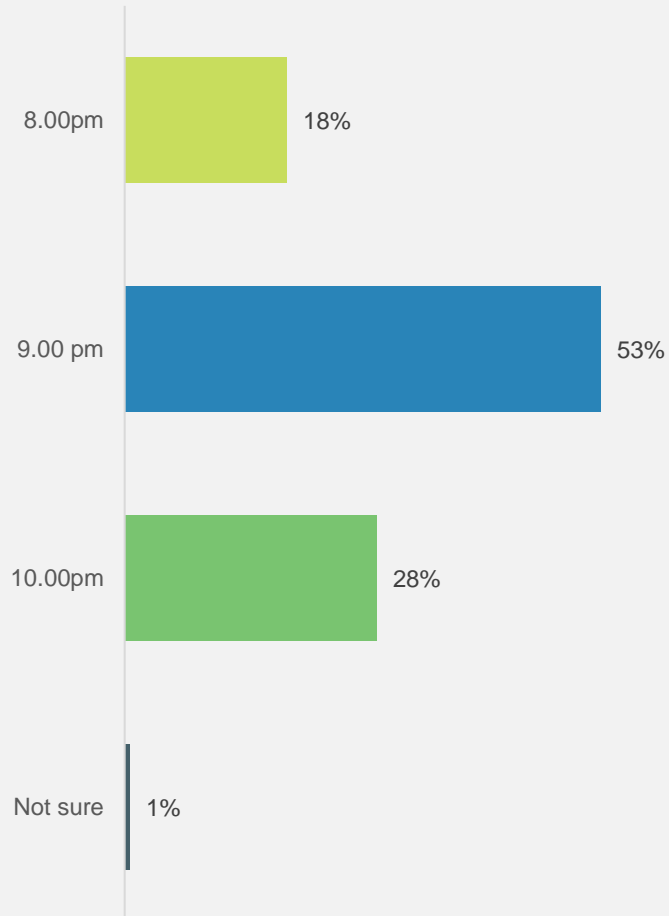
To what extent do you agree or disagree that lighting on the oval would



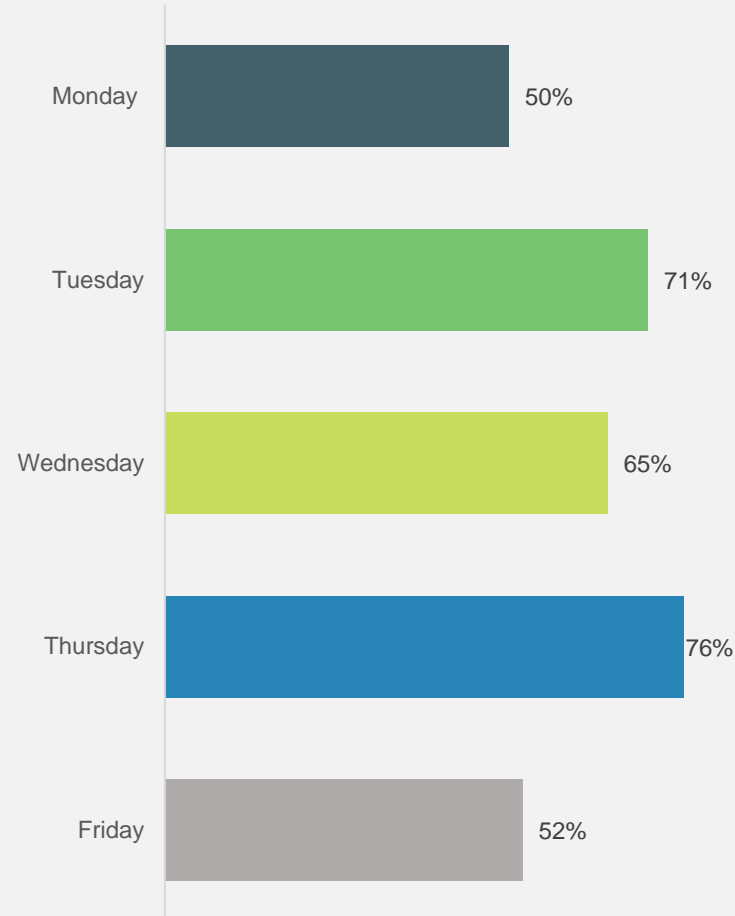


# Central Park Oval Lighting Proposal – Community Consultation Results

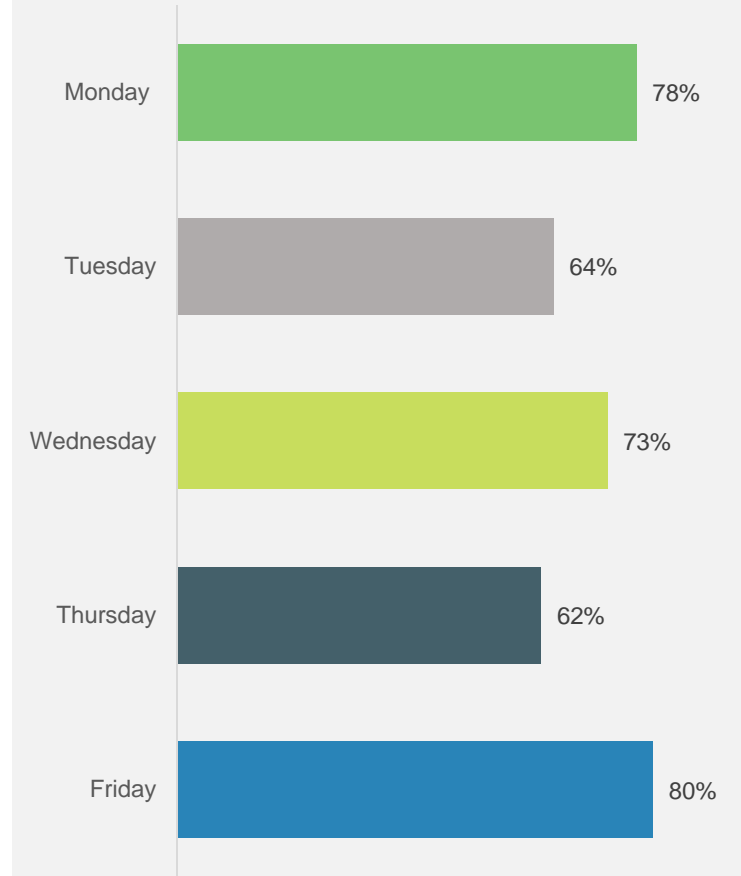
What time would it be appropriate for the light to be on until?



Which week nights should the oval be used by sporting clubs? (brighter lights)



Which week nights should the lights be used for general community recreation? (lower lighting level)



# Central Park Oval Lighting Proposal – Consultation Process

## Consultation Plan:

Connect Stonnington website  
Letters to nearby residents  
5 large signs around Central Park  
Online survey  
Online information session  
FAQ flyer  
Social media  
Council's website - news article  
Phone and email correspondence with residents

## Internal Communication

- Email to Ward Councillors
- Councillor Weekly Update
- CEO News/Just CoS
- Intranet news

## SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS



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# Attachment 2

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

# FAQs - Community Consultation - Central Park Lighting Proposal

## **1. Concerns about the spillage, where will it fall?**

Light spill calculations from the initial design are 10 lux at the edge of the park and 3-4 lux at the boundary of the properties. These calculations do not take into consideration existing structures or trees between the oval and properties, so it is expected these figures to be further reduced.

This means that residents living in close proximity to Central Park are more likely to experience more spill and glare from the existing streetlights than from the proposed sports lighting.

The designs are within standards for obtrusive lighting calculation for urbanised areas which requires light spill to be less than 10lux at property boundaries.

## **2. Have you considered the impact of changing the actual utility of the space? If so, how are you going to manage and control the various activities, particularly sports?**

It is the intention to keep the usage of Central Park balanced between community passive recreation and organised sport. The allocated club for winter is East Malvern Junior Soccer club and the priority will be to allow training for juniors, especially for this club which has an increasing female rate participation. The hours of allocation are issued by the Recreation Services team on a seasonal basis.

The lights will be available for community recreation purposes such as walking, jogging, dog walking and other social and recreational uses, which are currently well embedded by the community.

The lights would not necessarily change the actual utilisation of the park, but it will extend the hours of use of the current activities being held at the reserve.

## **3. Providing greater usage of the park would lead to a need for changing facilities, toilets, and shelter. Has Council taken into consideration the improvement of these facilities at Central Park?**

Council has had preliminary conversations about improving these facilities. However, given the nature of Central Park the facilities would be aimed to provide appropriate infrastructure for organised sports training and games.

When the project progresses further there will be extended community consultation. Officers are currently in the very early planning stage and a proposal for a feasibility study will be considered. It may take 2-3 years before any concept design is achieved to consult with the community.

#### 4. Why the whole precinct is not being planned at once (pavilion, lighting)?

City of Stonnington has the second lowest amount of open space per capita which puts a lot of pressure to optimise the existing asset pool.

With the significant increase in use of the open space experienced in the last 18 months with the COVID-19 lockdowns, there is a need to adjust the existing environment to address the current needs from the community.

The pandemic has changed the way we live so we must adjust to respond to existing and new challenges faced.

The lights will help increase of hours of use and support the momentum for residents and community members to keep using the open spaces more often.

A pavilion or changing facilities project, will require a wider consultation and given the scope, the planning and delivery phases could take more than 3-4 years.

#### 5. Will we have lights shining in our windows at night?

No, there will not be glare directing to the windows as the lights will be directing to the sports grounds.

#### 6. How tall and wide are the lights poles?

Preliminary designs have considered two options, 4 poles at 31m or 6 poles at 25m.

The width of the poles may vary depending on the final design height. It is estimated that the width for the 25m poles will be 486mm at the widest point and the width of the 31m poles will be 600mm at the widest point.

#### 7. What time will the lights turned off?

The current consultation survey is asking our community members about preferred times for the lights to be turned off.

Under the current EPA guidelines sports lights need to be off by 10.00pm. Consistently across our municipality sports lights at sports grounds are on until 9.00pm.

In terms of sport usage, this project is being proposed to give priority to community use and junior sports training, and they tend not to train beyond 8.00 pm.

The intention is that the lights can be on until the time that Council and community members considered more appropriate.

Lighting level will be adjusted depending on park user needs. I.e. 25-50 lux for walking, jogging, dog walkers and other recreational use and 100 lux for junior sports training.

#### 8. Will there be seniors' games being played until late?

No, the lights will be on during winter season and the primary tenant club at Central Park is East Malvern Junior Soccer club.

##### Service Centres

311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern  
Cnr Chapel and Greville Streets, Prahran  
293 Tooronga Road, Malvern

PO Box 21, Prahran Victoria 3181

T 8290 1333

F 9521 2255

[council@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@stonnington.vic.gov.au)

AUSDOC DX 30108

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Night games are not being considered at this site. It will mostly be junior training during weekdays and during winter season.

#### **9. Is this project just to benefit sports?**

The main purpose of this proposal is to provide greater use of the sports ground for the extended community.

In the last 18 months community members have embraced more than ever our public spaces as the constant restrictions and lockdowns linked to COVID-19. Therefore, there is an increased need to adjust our assets to address the changing needs.

The proposal is considering low spill and adjustable lights to suit the needs for all park users, whether they be joggers, dog walkers, families or sports clubs.

#### **10. Has there been considerations to protect the gum trees?**

The intent is not to damage the existing vegetation and an arborist consultant will be engaged to assess the designs and ensure the less impact possible on trees.

#### **11. Will there be late night cricket matches played at this reserve?**

No, the proposal is to serve community recreation activities and winter sport, which in this case it is soccer sport, being East Malvern Junior Soccer Club the main club to be prioritised for training.

To play cricket matches at night it is required to have at least sports lights operating at 500 lux and this proposal is to install low spill and adjustable lights to operate at 25lux, 50lux and 100 lux as the maximum capacity, which is the requirements for soccer training.

#### **12. What about the noise at nights, teams training and whistles?**

There will not be new activities or sports introduced to Central Park. There is already sport being played at the reserve and a great community usage of the oval. It is expected that the level of noise will be similar to the current noise levels.

#### **13. How many nights a week will be the lights turned on for sports?**

It will be determined during the community consultation. There is a genuine interest to keep the balance between community usage and sports usage.

#### **14. How much will the project cost and how this has been prioritised above other improvements at Central Park?**

There is no QS completed so far for this project. However, as a benchmarking similar projects across the city has costed about \$500,000 (i.e. Sports lights installed at Righetti oval at Sir Zelman Cowen Park)

This initiative is addressing community requests from the last park service review survey conducted in 2019 by the City of Stonnington, in which 78% of respondents considered lighting at parks as extremely important and important item that needs more attention from Council.

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Central Park had specific quotes about low perception of safety at night due to lack of proper lighting.

The project is also addressing the need to extend the hours of use of an existing open space asset as the City of Stonnington has the second lowest amount of public open space per person of any Victorian municipality.

### **15. How will the lights be managed?**

Recreation Services team manages ground allocations for sports clubs across the municipality.

There is a structured policy of ground allocations with specific criteria and directions about start and finish time at each reserve, which has been working well across several sports grounds.

The lights will be controlled by Council and they will not be controlled as discrepancy of the sports clubs.

Once sports training finishes, the oval will remain lit for community use and dimmed to the park user needs.

### **16. Will there be further restrictions for dogs at the Central Park with the lights?**

Animal management at Central Park is consistent across the 27 parks and reserves where people can exercise their dog off-leash. There are no further restrictions or considerations at Central Park associated with the proposed lights.

For further information about off-leash park and reserves please visit:

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Services/Pets/Off-lead-parks-and-reserves>

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# Attachment 3

## ONLINE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION





# Central Park Oval Lighting Proposal

Online Community Information Session  
Thursday 14 October 2021

# Agenda

1. Council representative's introduction
2. Purpose of this community consultation
3. General overview of the proposal
4. Presentation of concept designs by the consultant
5. Questions – Community Feedback



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# 1. Council Representatives

## Who is listening to you?

Jesica Cubillos

Recreation Planning and Projects Officer – City of Stonnington

Jonathan Coyne

Recreation Services Coordinator – City of Stonnington

Elisabeth Agren

Coordinator Community Engagement – City of Stonnington

Christine Burfoot

BRT Consultant

## 2. Purpose of this consultation

To better understand community appetite for this project and gauge the support for the lighting proposal, the design options and the hours of operation.

### 3. General Overview



#### Planning Context:

- City of Stonnington has the second lowest amount of public open space per person of any Victorian municipality (at 6.7 per cent, or 20sqm per person)
- This combined with high development density and a projected population increase of over 30,000 by 2036 means there is a critical need to maximise the use of the existing assets and advocate to acquire land as it becomes available.



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## Background:

- District facility – 2K catchment
- Park Survey Review 2019 findings:
  - Central Park was the most visited and regularly used park
  - 78% of participants rated lighting at parks as extremely important and important item that needs more attention
  - Lighting was the second highest item that require improvement at parks
  - Perception of safety at night at parks was 26% compared to 93% during the day.
  - Central Park had specific quotes about low perception of safety at night due to lack of proper lighting.
- Low perception of safety - Barrier for females to participate in physical activity
- Nearly two-third (61%) of Victorian women feel unsafe while walking alone at night in public spaces. *Source: Gender Impact Toolkit, Commission of gender equality in the public sector. Fact sheets*



# Central Park Profile:



- Family Park
- Balance between community recreation activities and sports training
- Heavily used by walkers, dog walkers, children, elderly, for fitness purposes and as a meeting place to socialize.
- Sports Clubs members (Junior players – increasing female rate)



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## Similar examples within Stonnington:

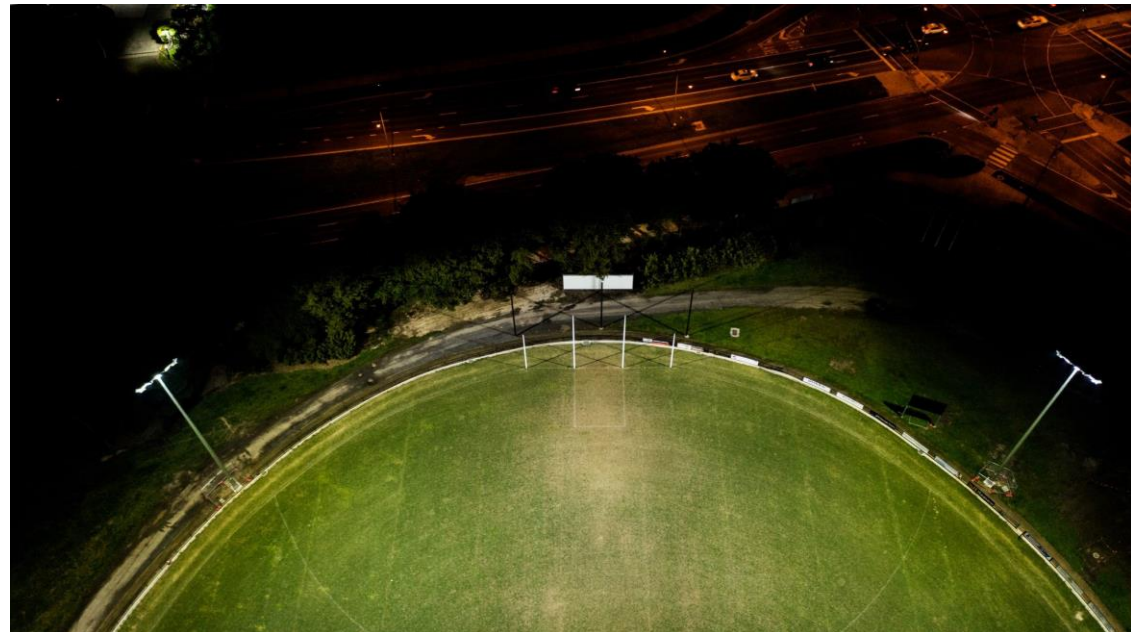


- Orrong Romanis Reserve
- Balance between community recreation activities and sports training
- Lighting being upgraded next year
- Residents keen on lighting improvements – contemporary technology



# Modern light spillage at sports grounds:

(Officer Recreation Reserve's  
Western Oval)



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# Strategic Context:

- Stonnington Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:
  - 1. **Active and Healthy Lifestyle:** Ensure the built environments support residents to lead active and healthy lives
  - 2. **Community Safety:** Provide public spaces and places where people can feel safe and enjoy
  - 3. **Vulnerable Communities:** Minimise health inequalities and commitment to providing inclusive and accessible environments
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – (CPTED)
- Gender Equality Act 2020 - Gender Impact Assessment
- Sports Facilities Guidelines
- Female Friendly Facilities Principles
- Stonnington Urban Lighting Guidelines 2019

# Proposal:

Installation of low spill and adjustable lights to operate at different lux levels depending on park users needs (*25lux, 50 lux, 100 lux*)

Designs will meet requirements of:

- *Australian Standards AS4282 guidelines – Outdoor lighting Obtrusive Effects*
- *Australian Standards AS 2560.2.3 - Sports lighting*

Preliminary Designs have recommended two options to meet requirements:

- **Option 1:** *Four poles at 31 meters each*
- **Option 2:** *Six poles at 25 meters each*



## 4. Presentation of the Concept Designs



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Option 1: Four poles (31m)



Option 2: Six poles (25m)





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## **5. Questions – Community Feedback**

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# Attachment 4-

## LETTER TO RESIDENTS



27 September 2021

Dear Resident

## **CENTRAL PARK - OVAL LIGHTING PROPOSAL**

I'm contacting you to invite you to share your views on a proposal to install lights at the Central Park sports oval.

Central Park oval is very popular with the surrounding community for exercise and dog walking and is also home to local soccer and cricket clubs. Currently the oval has no lighting which means the use of the space for community recreation activities and sports training is limited to daylight hours. This particularly affects activities during the winter months when it's generally dark by early evening.

To extend the hours the oval can be used we are investigating the option of installing lights at the oval. The lights proposed are low-spill with variable lighting levels that can be adjusted to suit community recreation activities and sports training.

Before considering this proposal further we want to test the appetite of the local community for the project. We invite you to participate in an online discussion and complete a survey to help us gauge support for the lighting proposal, the design options and the hours of operation.

### **How to share your views**

1. Hear from the lighting consultant and give feedback at an online information session from **5.30 to 6.30pm on Thursday 14 October 2021**.
2. Provide your feedback via an online survey by **Friday 22 October 2021**.

To register for the information session, view the design options or complete the survey visit [www.connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/central-park-lighting](http://www.connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/central-park-lighting)

At the close of consultation, all feedback will be considered in deciding whether to progress the park lighting proposal, and we will contact you again to advise the outcome.

Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions please contact our Recreation Planning and Projects Officer, Jesica Cubillos, at [jcubillo@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:jcubillo@stonnington.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**James Rouse**  
Manager Active Communities

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# Attachment 5

## PARK SIGNAGE



# CENTRAL PARK OVAL LIGHTING PROPOSAL

## Have your say on a proposal to install lights around the Central Park sports oval.

Central Park oval is very popular with the surrounding community for exercise and dog walking and is home to local soccer and cricket clubs. Currently unlit, we are investigating installing low-spill lights with variable lighting levels to extend the hours the oval can be used for community recreation activities and sports training.



### How to have your say

1. Hear from the lighting consultant and give your feedback at an online session from **5.30 to 6.30pm on Thursday 14 October.**
2. Complete an online survey to give your feedback on the lighting proposal by **Friday 22 October.**

Register for the online session, view the design options and complete the survey at [connectstonnington.vic.gov.au](http://connectstonnington.vic.gov.au)



**SCAN ME**  
and have  
your say



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[www.connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/central-park-lighting](http://www.connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/central-park-lighting)

A City of Stonnington community asset improvement project