In this month’s Proudly Napier, you’ll find information on the proposed Multi-Use Sports Facility.

You will recall that Napier City Council began considering the need for, and benefits of, a covered velodrome back in early 2015. The velodrome was a key consultation project in the 2015 - 2025 Long Term Plan (LTP), with Council proposing $5 million of funding subject to the outcome of a Detailed Business Case (DBC) and a commitment from commercial sponsors. It was also proposed that some sports outside of cycling could use the interior of the velodrome building as indoor court space.

However it quickly became clear that there was much more Council could do to ensure that any new facility would have wide appeal, incorporating a larger number of sporting codes than initially thought.

A project group was appointed to assist with preparing the DBC with a deadline of June 2016. Subsequently, a decision to postpone the deadline was made by Mayor Bill Dalton in mid June due to the volume of information and insights the group continued to unearth. Also, in election year, it was felt that a more prudent way forward would be to leave the review of the DBC and decision on whether or not to proceed to the incoming Council.

One major finding of the group was that Hawke’s Bay’s need for useable indoor court space is now deemed critical. Sporting codes such as basketball, volleyball, netball and futsal are in dire need of facilities to handle their exponential growth. With this in mind, the project was renamed the Multi-Use Sports Facility (MUSF) in June, which reflects the change in emphasis from a velodrome with indoor court space, to a true multi-use sports arena, incorporating a velodrome.

For more detailed information and regular updates on the MUSF please see the project page:  www.napier.govt.nz/napier/projects/musf/
Hawke’s Bay needs more court space, and that space was needed yesterday.

With sporting participation in the region on the rise, many sports are suffering due to the challenges of demand outstripping supply when it comes to suitable facilities, particularly at peak times. During the preparation of the DBC the project group heard many stories of children, teens and adults travelling long distances at inconvenient hours - including late at night – in order to have the opportunity to play sport at existing indoor courts.

Existing facilities lack the size and flexibility to cope with regional and national tournaments and a number of sporting codes have expressed interest in making use of additional space and capabilities, including cycling, netball, futsal, volleyball and basketball.

The development of a proposed MUSF would give Napier:

- Multiple state of the art indoor courts suitable for regional and national competition;
- A raised velodrome track running around the periphery of the courts;
- Raised spectator seating;
- Supporting administrative and storage facilities underneath the track space.

The design is intended to address the needs of the wider Hawke’s Bay’s sporting community whilst retaining a high degree of flexibility - who knows what sporting and recreational activities will evolve in the future?

Following a thorough investigation of multiple options, it is being proposed that the Multi-Use Sports Facility would be sited adjacent to the Pettigrew.Green Arena.

Pettigrew.Green Arena (PGA) is not a Council facility – rather, the RISEC Trust owns the building which is located on land designated as recreational reserve and owned by the Council.

Napier City Council proposes that the new facility is built adjacent to PGA based on its proximity to Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) and its site approximately half way between Napier and Hastings. The venue is easily reached from a transport perspective.
Did you know that Hawke’s Bay residents have some of the worst health outcomes in New Zealand? As a region, we lag behind the rest of the country when it comes to sustained physical activity and healthy lifestyles. One of the major benefits of the proposed MUSF is that it would provide an all-weather facility at a location accessible to a large number of Hawke’s Bay residents.

Lifting sporting and recreational participation rates in Hawke’s Bay is an important objective of this proposal. There is a growing body of evidence that simply being more active results in immediate and significant health improvement, plus sporting and recreational participation improves individual mental health and community cohesion.

Other benefits anticipated in the development of this facility include:

- The establishment of a cycling performance “hub” in Napier – in partnership with Cycling NZ – to support existing cyclists in the region. This hub would increase the quantity and improve the quality of riders able to step up to an elite and/or Olympic level without the necessity of a move away from Hawke’s Bay, as well as cater to communities and schools;
- Provision of a suitable space for conferences, trade shows, concerts, and sporting tournaments;
- Affordable sporting programmes for students of all ages (27 schools have already expressed a strong desire to use the facility), groups and seniors;
- Employment opportunities;
- Growing the visitor economy, at a time when Hawke’s Bay Tourism and central government agencies are increasing their efforts to attract domestic and international visitors. The economic benefit to Hawke’s Bay is estimated at $3.6m annually.

After the local body elections on 8 October, and once the incoming Council has been inducted, Councillors will be presented with the full DBC and have an opportunity to digest and discuss it.

Should they find value in the proposal, and choose to adopt it, commercial funding will be sought to cover much of the $15m it will cost to build. Several businesses have already expressed strong interest in sponsorship opportunities. The remaining costs associated with the build would be funded from the Parklands residential development – not rates.
What’s On

National Secondary School Kapa Haka Competition, 26-29 July, Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

Napier will host thousands of students from all over the country as they compete in the Secondary Schools Kapa Haka Nationals.

The highlight of the week-long event, starting on 25 July, is the kapa haka competition, which promises to be passionate, powerful and spine tingling.

For tickets head to www.ticketek.co.nz

Tough Guy & Gal Challenge Hawke’s Bay, 31 July, Clifton Station, Cape Kidnappers

If a swamp crossing, spider’s web net climb, a crawl under barbed wire, and tonnes of mud sounds like fun to you, head over to eventpromotions.co.nz to register for this month’s Tough Guy & Gal Challenge. Funds raised this year go to Cure Kids with a goal of totting up at least $50,000 for children in need. There are spot prizes, goodie bags, and hot showers at the end of the course. You need to be aged 13 or over to enter.

Junior Get2Go Challenge, 18 August

High school kids - talk to your teacher about forming a team of eight for this junior challenge, open to Year 9 and 10 students. Get2Go is run by Hillary Outdoors and comprises a whole bunch challenges – think The Amazing Race! - designed to open your eyes to the excitement of our great outdoors. As part of this group challenge, you might try mountain biking, kayaking or orienteering, with a five-day national final locked in for Great Barrier Island later in the year. Go to www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/juniorget2go/ for more.

HB Magpies vs Wellington Lions - Mitre 10 Cup, 20 August, McLean Park

Over many years, Magpies v Wellington fixtures at McLean Park have dished up some top action and a fantastic atmosphere. Don’t pass up the opportunity to support your home team and see if the Lions can exact revenge for their crushing loss to our boys in 2015. Not to be missed. www.hbmagpies.co.nz