

28.1.2024

Estimate number of signatures: 250

To: Mark Arnold, General Manager

Dear Mark,

A group of dog owners in Byron Hills and Baywood Chase are concerned that we no longer have a proper exercise area for dogs. Several people have been warned by rangers (myself included) of a \$300 fine. We have put together a petition requesting two options to present to council. One is a time management plan for the sports field. This is very common in other areas in NSW (Sydney in particular) The other option is to fence the area next to the community gardens.

The signatures have been collected by dog owners asking people in the park for their opinion and signature. It has been a 'grass roots' activity!

Our main concern is that apart from the dog beach area, there is no suitable exercise area for the growing number of dogs in the Suffolk park area. As the football field in Vidler Park has not been in use it has become a popular meeting place for dogs and their owners. We realise that there could be an issue with dog poo on the field, however we are hoping that with a possible trial period of time management to introduce the concept and with dog bags provided we can solve this problem. We are thinking of a before 9am and after 5 pm.

Alternatively the area next to the gardens if fenced would be another suitable area. We have also looked at the smaller area behind the tennis courts that could be considered a possibility.

We hope council will consider these options and /or look into a suitable dog exercise area in the vicinity of the park.

I also would like to refer to 'the voice of Byron' from 2016:

"The successful purchase means that Byron Shire Council will now develop a Plan of Management consultation with the Suffolk Park Community, to determine the preferred uses of the site. The land will be designated 'Community Land' and retained, in perpetuity for community use."

Dog ownership is a large part of this community and many dog owners have enjoyed meeting each other as well as the obvious benefit for dog socialising.

Please consider our request.

Peta Fitzsimmons and Suffolk dog park play group

Petafitzsi@yahoo.com.au
Phone 0414412369

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO:
REC'D 30 JAN 2024
FILE NO: F46/013
ASSIGNEE: J. Cutler
cc: A. Wilson

Petition

Residents of Baywood Chase and Byron Hills feel there is insufficient dog exercise areas for the number of dogs here. Dog socialising and exercising is important for dogs and their owners.

The dog beach area is difficult for many pet owners due to the distance as there is usually a need for car travel. There are already a significant number of dogs from beachside Suffolk who use the beach. Also some dogs are afraid of the water and are unhappy at the beach

The other leash free area is the narrow pathway around the lake this is not appropriate for exercise or socialising.

We would like to propose two options for council to consider:

>A time share management plan for the soccer field. This field has not been used as a sport venue for three years. However recent improvements to the field suggest it may be used as a venue in the future. Time management has been used in Sydney for many active sports fields.

>A fenced off area next to the community gardens. There is a good sized square field that could be fenced and could allow for dog ball play.

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