

Report by Jocelyn Palmer, Manager Community Lands and Service

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council note previous resolutions and actions undertaken regarding the development of a Korean themed garden and community facility within the Strathfield LGA.**
- 2. That Council invite representatives of the Member for Strathfield's subcommittee to participate in the planning and implementation of a Korean Gardens and Cultural Centre.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide Council with the result of ongoing discussions with community groups regarding establishment of a Korean themed garden and community facility in Strathfield.
2. To note the previous resolutions and actions taken by Council, towards the development of a Korean themed garden and community facility within the Strathfield LGA.

REPORT

Council previously resolved to investigate the possibility of a Korean themed garden at Bressington Park in Homebush. Council's planning studies and community consultation over recent years have also identified a strong need and demand for multi-purpose community facilities within Strathfield.

The Strathfield Recreation Plan 1999, identified needs for additional community facilities (pg 23). *The Cultural Facilities and Community Needs Study 2007* stated that "There is evidence of demand for indoor sporting facilities and community facilities (p118)". *Community surveys 2009*, showed strong desire to access community facilities and a need for additional facilities. The recent community engagement process undertaken as part of the development of *Strathfield 2025 Community Strategic Plan* identified a need for additional community facilities, to conduct a range of programs and services.

Council has previously resolved to:

- *Investigate the feasibility of the creation of a Korean Themed Garden within Bressington Park open space.*
- *Consult with the Korean-Strathfield Business Association to make representations to the Korean Consulate-General in Sydney to approach the Korean Government to fund the project.*
- *Agree in principle to support the establishment of multi-purpose community facilities within the municipality, by means of joint development with community groups.*

- *Identify suitable sites for multi-purpose community facilities, taking into account areas of high demand, as well as the location of existing community facilities in the municipality.*
- *Funding of \$50,000 to be allocated in the 2012/13 Budget to assist with the investigation and joint development of multipurpose community facilities.*

Council should note that the Operations Department has a Concept Plan and costing estimate for a Korean themed garden. Council has had numerous meetings with and provided detailed options and costings to members of a working committee during 2011 and 2012. The working committee included representatives of the Korean-Strathfield Business Association and representatives of the Korean Consul General.

To date Council has not received any funding or firm commitment from the working committee or its constituent members to assist in the progression of this project.

Council has recently received correspondence from Member for Strathfield, Mr Charles Casuscelli indicating that members of the Korean community have also raised the concept with him and were seeking to form a subcommittee (Attachment 1).

On 5 December 2012 a letter was sent to Mr Casuscelli indicating that Council has had an established Korean Gardens' Committee for a number of years. This committee has been progressing towards the establishment of a Korean Gardens and Cultural Centre. Council invited his electorate's sub-committee members to join with Council's committee to contribute to the integrated master plan and implementation of a Korean Gardens and Cultural Centre.

To date Council has not received any representations or enquiries from his electorate sub committee constituents nor any commitment from the Consul General in relation to funding the project.

REFERRAL FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT

No referral was required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

Report approved by:

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| Rob Bourke |
| Director Operations |