



## BEECROFT VILLAGE GREEN

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT



**April 2023**

Parks, Trees & Recreation Branch

Hornsby Shire Council

296 Peats Ferry Road

Hornsby NSW 2077



## INTRODUCTION

Council is planning renewal opportunities for the Beecroft Village Green. Prior to design work commencing, consultation with the community was undertaken to guide development of a Master Plan for the park.

The resulting Master Plan provides an overall vision for the park and guidance on the types of uses and facilities that occur there.

## LOCATION

Beecroft Village Green is a parkland located at 111X Beecroft Road, Beecroft. The park is bounded by Beecroft Road to the west, the Northern Railway Line to the east, the Beecroft Community Centre to the north and Beecroft Lawn Tennis Club to the south.



Image 1 - Beecroft Village Green Existing Site Plan

## BACKGROUND

Beecroft Village Green is a linear park of approximately 1.4 hectares. The park conserves a stand of remnant indigenous forest trees from the Sydney-Turpentine-Ironbark-Forest (STIF) vegetation community

and features open lawn areas, a playspace, picnic shelters and seating, public toilets, a barbeque and pedestrian paths. The site generally slopes from the west to east.

Beecroft Village Green is of local heritage significance for its historical, aesthetic and social values. It historically formed part of the Field of Mars subdivision in 1886 and was officially opened in 1903. The park has continued to function as a recreational space since that time.

Beecroft Village Green exists to serve the local community and while it is used primarily as an access corridor the community also use the park for active and passive recreation, gatherings, exercise and community events.

The Hornsby Play Plan identifies the playspace as a *Local Level* playspace and lists renewal of the playspace as a high priority.

Council has recently constructed a new 3 metre wide shared path through the Beecroft Village Green to improve provision for cycling between Beecroft and Cheltenham railway stations.

## **CONSULTATION METHODOLOGIES**

Community consultation is critical to the success of the Master Plan process. Two rounds of consultation were undertaken to provide the community the opportunity to contribute their ideas, as outlined below.

### ***Community Consultation – Round 1***

The community is invited to provide feedback on changes, if any, they would like to see at the Beecroft Village Green.

### ***Develop Draft Master Plan***

A Draft Master Plan was developed based on feedback received from the first round of consultation.

### ***Community Consultation – Round 2***

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Draft Master Plan.

### ***Revision of Draft Plan***

The Draft Master Plan was further refined based on feedback received during Round 2 consultation.

## **ROUND 1 CONSULTATION**

Round 1 consultation was undertaken prior to design work commencing. The community was invited to provide suggestions for possible changes and future directions for Beecroft Village Green. This information was used to guide development of the Draft Master Plan.

Round 1 consultation was undertaken from 15 November to 14 December 2022 and Council engaged with the community through the following channels:

- Advertisement on Council's website – YourSay Hornsby
- Online survey
- Social Media
- Council's eNewsletter
- Direct mailout to adjoining neighbours
- Notices placed on site
- 1 x drop in session on site on Saturday 26 November 2022.
- Notification to stakeholders including:

- Beecroft Civic Trust
- Rotary Club of Beecroft
- Beecroft Lawn Tennis Club
- Arden Anglican School
- Beecroft Public School
- Beecroft Fire Station
- Beecroft Community Centre regular hirers including:
  - Ryi Martial Arts
  - Bush Music Club Inc.
  - International Shaolin Wu Chu Chaun Martial Arts
  - The Golden Kangaroos
  - The Hills Club Physie
  - Vidusha Surige Dona
- Notification to residents who had written to Council about the Beecroft Village Green within the past five years.

## Online Survey

The community were asked to complete an online survey ranking their top five preferences for the Beecroft Village Green from a selection of eleven options. Opportunity was given to provide additional comments on items not included in the list. A snapshot of the online survey is shown below and the full survey is included as Appendix A.

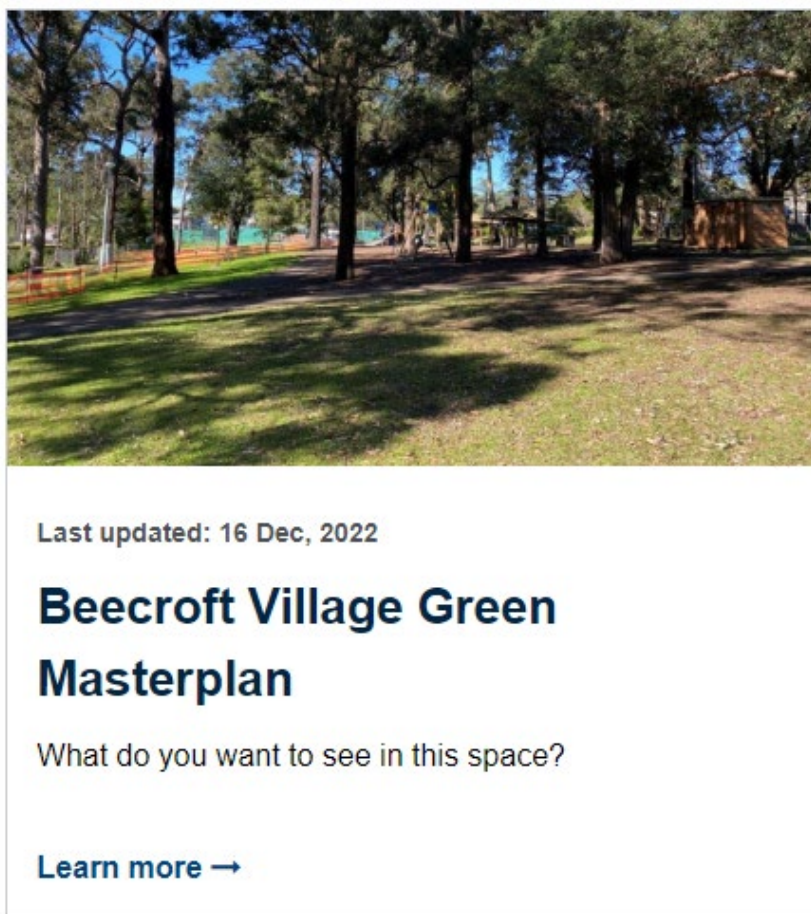


Image 2 – Screenshot of YourSay Hornsby webpage

## What would you like to see and do in Beecroft Village Green?

**Feedback closed Wednesday, 14 December 2022**

Below is a list of suggested activities or facilities. Please rank them from 1-5 (1 being the highest) indicating what you would like included in the park.

Note: Existing amenities including the toilets and barbeque will be retained in the Masterplan. New tree planting, soft landscaping and park signage will be included as part of any future works.

Click and drag your top 5 choices to the box on the right side in order of preference.

Improved walking paths through the park	☐☐☐☐☐
Large picnic shelter (2 or more tables)	☐☐☐☐☐
Outdoor exercise equipment	☐☐☐☐☐
Toilet upgrade	☐☐☐☐☐
Renewal of the children's playspace	☐☐☐☐☐
Teen/older children's hang out area (i.e hammocks, parkour etc.)	☐☐☐☐☐
Outdoor games area (i.e table tennis/boules etc.)	☐☐☐☐☐
Artworks	☐☐☐☐☐
Heritage Interpretation - trail signage/markers	☐☐☐☐☐
Band stand/rotunda	☐☐☐☐☐
Improved lawn amphitheatre/events space (regrading of lawn area)	☐☐☐☐☐

Image 3 – Screenshot of online survey



## Drop in Session

Council staff hosted a two hour drop-in session on site on Saturday 26 November 2022. The session was attended by seven community members and two Councillors. Attendees were directed to complete the online survey.



*Image 4 – Drop in session at Beecroft Village Green*

## ROUND 1 CONSULTATION RESULTS

During Round 1 consultation the community was requested to complete an online survey.

141 contributions were recorded.

The most common age of respondents came from the 31-40 year old age bracket (31 respondents), followed by the 41-50 year old age group (29 respondents) as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 - Age of Respondents**

Age Group	Percent	Count
Under 10	0.72%	1
10-20	19.75%	27
21-30	2.17%	3
31-40	22.46%	31
41-50	21.01%	29
51-60	13.77%	19
61-70	15.94%	22
71-80	2.17%	3
81-90	0%	0
91-100	0%	0
Over 100	2.17%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>138*</b>

\* Did not answer - 3

137 people answered the online survey. Table 2 shows the total number of respondents who included an item in their top five priorities, regardless of its ranked position.

**Table 2 - Survey Results**

Item	Total No. of Responses
Toilet upgrade	98
Renewal of children's play space	87
Teen/older children's activity area	85
Large picnic shelter	83
Outdoor exercise equipment	73
Improved lawn/amphitheatre space (re-grading of lawn area)	69
Outdoor games area (i.e. table tennis, boules)	60
Improved walking paths	53
Band stand/rotunda	28
Heritage interpretation signage	26
Artworks	23

The community's highest priorities for the Beecroft Village Green are ranked below. The number 1 ranking indicates the number of respondents who selected a particular item as their top ranked priority.

**Table 3 – Top Ranked Priorities**

<b>Item</b>	<b>No. 1 ranking</b>	<b>%</b>
Teen/older children's activity area	23	16.79%
Renewal of children's play space	21	15.33%
Toilet upgrade	20	14.6%
Outdoor exercise equipment	20	14.60%
Improved walking paths	16	11.68%
Improved lawn/amphitheatre space (re-grading of lawn area)	14	10.22%
Outdoor games area (i.e. table tennis, boules)	8	5.84%
Band stand/rotunda	8	5.84%
Large picnic shelter	7	5.11%
Artworks	0	0%
Heritage interpretation signage	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100%</b>

In addition to the survey options presented, the community offered the following other comments and suggestions for consideration. Verbal responses received from community members attending the drop in session are also included in this data. These comments are summarised in Table 4 below.

**Table 4 – Additional Comments**

<b>Community Comment</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Basketball hoop/half court	13
Improved fencing along Beecroft Road and continuation of the lilly pilly hedge	12
Space for community events such as markets, performances and the Rotary Carols by Candlelight	10
Development of the Village Green as a community hub. Comments were generally supportive of park renewal but did not offer specific suggestions.	9
Skate park or skating facilities	7
Community garden	6
Improved drainage, turf, lighting, and maintenance	6
Additional seating	6
Bike track/pump track	4
Ninja warrior course/parkour	4



Improved connection and activation between the Beecroft Community Centre and the Village Green (i.e. café or veranda)	4
Removal of some trees to improve solar access and enhance lawn areas	3
Preserve existing trees	3
No/minimal change	3
Water play area	2
Additional parking and improved safety for pedestrians crossing at Kirkham Street. Consider timed parking on Beecroft Road.	2
Bike racks	1
Off leash dog park	1
Tree planting to honour Queen Elizabeth II	1
Fenced playground	1

## OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION – ROUND 1

The community's interest in the Beecroft Village Green was evident with 137 people responding to the online survey. The community expressed their desire to see the site develop as a community open space with opportunities for play, exercise, recreation and social gatherings.

Whilst there is great affection for the Beecroft Village Green as a treed park comments received from the community indicate that sensitively considered changes have the potential to improve and enhance people's experience of the park.

The results of the consultation tell us that provision of activity opportunities for teens and older children and renewal of the playspace were considered high priorities. Opportunities for outdoor games and fitness were also ranked highly.

The existing toilet block is ageing and does not meet current requirements for accessibility. An upgrade was considered to be a high priority, receiving the highest number of top five responses in the survey.

Improved walking paths were included in the top five ranked priorities as the park is a well used pedestrian corridor.

The survey results indicate the community value the Village Green as a gathering space but consider there is scope to improve the lawn area for events, picnics and outdoor fitness.

The linear and constrained nature of the site was recognised and additional screen planting along both the railway line and Beecroft Road were priorities for improving visual and acoustic amenity. Improved fencing along Beecroft Road was identified as an important safety feature.

Other suggestions from the survey included requests for items such as a skate park, water play area, community garden and a ninja warrior course. Most of these are considered unsuitable for the site given the constraints of mapped threaten species bushland, existing trees, sloping topography and heritage significance. The site is not identified as an off-leash dog park in Council's Off-Leash Dog Park Strategy.

Further requests raised in the consultation for additional parking, a pedestrian crossing on Beecroft Road and extensions to the Beecroft Community Centre are beyond the scope of the Draft Master Plan.

## DESIGN BRIEF

Based on the results of Round 1 community consultation the key priorities for the Beecroft Village Green were identified and are listed below. These priorities provided guidance on what should be considered when developing the draft Master Plan for changes at the Village Green.

- Provision of activity opportunities and play equipment for teens and older children.
- Renewal of the playspace in accordance with the Hornsby Play Plan.
- Provision of a basketball half court and informal seating opportunities.
- Upgrade the toilet block to include two unisex accessible cubicles.
- Create opportunities for unstructured recreation and provide outdoor exercise equipment.
- Provide new park furniture including a large picnic shelter, additional seating and site signage. The existing BBQ is to be retained.
- Improve circulation through the park by providing new footpaths and articulate entry points into the park. Provide an accessible path to key facilities.
- Retain and enhance the open lawn area for events, exercise and gatherings.
- Provide screen planting alongside the railway line to improve visual and acoustic amenity.
- Provide a fence and hedge planting along Beecroft Road to improve safety and acoustic amenity.
- Utilise materials and finishes that reflect the heritage character of the site.
- Retain and protect existing trees.

## ROUND 2 CONSULTATION

Following Round 1 consultation and in response to community feedback a Draft Master Plan was developed for the Beecroft Village Green.

The community was asked to provide feedback on the Draft Beecroft Village Green Master Plan during Round 2 which was undertaken between 20 March and 17 April, 2023.

Council engaged with the community through the following channels.

- Advertisement on Council's website – YourSay Hornsby
- Social Media
- Council's eNewsletter
- Direct mailout to adjoining neighbours
- Notices placed on site
- Notification to stakeholders
- Direct email to community members who provided a submission during Round 1

A snapshot of the online feedback page is shown below.



Home / Beecroft Village Green Master Plan

## What we heard from the community

Thank you to those people who let us know what improvements they would like to see in the Beecroft Village Green.

The initial round of consultation was undertaken from 15 November to 14 December, 2022. During that time, 137 people completed the interactive online survey, ranking suggested improvements or facilities for the Village Green.

People expressed their desire to see the site develop as a community open space with opportunities for play, exercise, recreation and social gatherings.

The results told us that the provision of activity opportunities for teens and older children and the renewal of the play space were considered high priorities. Opportunities for outdoor games and fitness also ranked highly.

The existing toilet block is ageing and does not meet current requirements for accessibility. An upgrade was considered to be a high priority, receiving the highest number of top five responses in the survey.

The results also indicated that the community value the Village Green as a gathering space, but consider there is scope to improve the lawn area for events, picnics and outdoor fitness.

View the full [Community Consultation Report](#).

## Draft Master Plan ready

The information received from the community during the initial round of consultation was used to develop a design brief and overall vision for the park and guided development of the draft Master Plan.

Key elements of the draft Master Plan include:

- renewal of the children's play space
- activity area for teens and older children including a basketball half court and informal seating area
- new park furniture including a picnic shelter, additional seating, bike racks and site signage
- regrading of lawn area to facilitate events, gatherings and exercise
- provision of outdoor fitness equipment
- improved walking paths to the toilets, play space and picnic area
- public toilets upgraded to include two unisex accessible cubicles
- new fence and hedge plantings along Beecroft Road
- buffer planting alongside railway corridor.

View the full [Beecroft Village Green Draft Master Plan](#).

## Draft Landscape Master Plan Concept



Click on the image to enlarge.

## Have your say

We welcome any comments on the Beecroft Village Green Draft Master Plan by:

- completing the form below
- emailing [hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)
- writing to the General Manager, Hornsby Shire Council, PO Box 37, Hornsby 1630 marked 'Beecroft Village Green Master Plan'.

Submissions closed: Monday, 17 April 2023.

## Document Library

### Stage 2 - Draft Master Plan

- [Beecroft Village Green Draft Master Plan](#)  
(PDF 13.63 MB)
- [Community Consultation Report \(Stage 1\) - Feb 2023](#)  
(PDF 1.07 MB)

### Stage 1 - Concept development

- [Site Survey](#)  
(PDF 207.46 KB)
- [Site Photos](#)  
(PDF 5.06 MB)

[See more](#)

## Stages of the project

- ☒ **Community Consultation - Round 1**  
Council invited the community to provide suggestions on improvements they would like to see in Beecroft Village Green.
- ☒ **Develop Draft Master Plan**  
A draft Master Plan developed based on feedback received from the first round of consultation.
- ☒ **Community Consultation - Round 2**  
The community is invited to provide feedback on the draft Master Plan.
- ☒ **Revision of draft Master Plan**  
The draft Master Plan will be revised based on feedback received during Round 2 consultation.
- ☒ **Adoption of Master Plan**  
The revised Master Plan will be considered at Council for adoption.

[See more](#)

## Links

- [Hornsby Shire Council Play Plan](#)

## Contact us

Have questions or want to learn more about this project, contact:

- Name** Zoe Cooke
- Phone** 9847 6885
- Email** [zcooke@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:zcooke@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)




## Submission form

Closed

Please provide your comments on the Beecroft Village Green Draft Master Plan below.

Alternatively, upload your submission here.

 Choose file...

Allowed file types: pdf, doc, docx, txt, xls, xlsx, rtf, png, gif, jpg, jpeg. Size limit: 1.00 MB

First Name

Last Name

Email

Address

Submit

Image 5 - Snapshot of YourSay Hornsby webpage



Hornsby Shire Council

March 24 · 🌐



YOUR SAY 🗣️💬 | From 15 November to 14 December 2022, we consulted with the community to find out what improvements you would like to see in the Beecroft Village Green. During that time, 137 people completed the interactive online survey, ranking suggested improvements or facilities. The information received from those submissions was used to develop a design brief and overall vision for the park and guided development of the draft Beecroft Village Green Master Plan. You can take a look at key elements as well as the details of the Draft Master Plan at the project webpage (link below 📄) and let us know your thoughts by:

- 📄 Completing the feedback form
- ✉️ Emailing us
- ✍️ Writing to us

📅 Have your say on this project before 17 April 2023

🔗 <https://yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/beecroft-village-green...>



Have Your Say  
Beecroft Village Green Draft Master Plan

👍❤️ 5

1 share

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Write a comment...



Image 6: Snapshot of social media post

## ROUND 2 CONSULTATION RESULTS

A total of 30 submissions were received. A summary of comments is included below.

**Table 5 – Summary of Round 2 Consultation Comments**

Comment	Number of Responses
Support for vegetation screening alongside railway to improve visual and acoustic amenity. Requests for weeding this area are also included in this comment.	6
Support for half court including suggestions to move to an alternate location.	5
Support for exercise equipment. Should include equipment that is suitable for all age groups and provide a whole of body workout.	4
Retain the feel and character of the village green. Large areas of lawn and trees are to be retained.	4
Support to upgrade the amenities building. Requests for changing places style facilities and baby change table.	4
Request to include an artwork. Suggestions included recognition of local First Nations people.	3
Request for an off leash dog park.	3
Park renewal to be sympathetic to the park's heritage.	2
Support for continuation of the hedge along Beecroft Road.	2
Request for additional car parking	2
Support for the upgrade of play equipment and inclusion of equipment for older children.	2
Opposed to half court facility.	1
Request for shade sails over the play space.	1
Request for gutters on picnic shelters.	1
Request to consider possible uses of the area between the park and the Beecroft Community Centre.	1
Request for additional lighting to enable night use of half court.	1
Request for keep the new fence along Beecroft Road low to maintain visibility into the park.	1
Request for new deciduous tree plantings.	1
Support for improved paths.	1
Request for little or no change.	1



## **OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION – ROUND 2**

Feedback received from the community was generally supportive of the draft Beecroft Village Green Master Plan and the key elements proposed. The community value the Beecroft Village Green as a community hub and gathering space and wish to see the heritage character of the park preserved and the feel of a 'Village Green' retained and enhanced.

Whilst one respondent expressed a preference for no or minimal change the majority of submissions believe the master Plan represents a positive change to the space and will encourage ongoing use of this valued community asset.

### **Issue: Upgrade to Amenities Building**

The community were supportive of the proposal to upgrade the amenities block and suggested the inclusion of a baby change table and changing places type toilet facilities.

#### **Response:**

Changing Places type toilet facilities provide best practice accessibility features however due to the cost associated with these facilities they are best suited to district and regional parks which receive high levels of visitation. The Master Plan includes two unisex accessible cubicles which is considered appropriate for a park of this scale.

### **Issue: Location of proposed half court**

Respondents were generally supportive of the inclusion of a half court however representation was made to move the half court further away from Beecroft Road or to the area behind the tennis courts.

#### **Response:**

These requests were investigated, however due to the sloped topography, additional earthworks and retaining walls would be required to achieve a level area behind the tennis courts. In addition, the close proximity to the new shared path and the tennis courts would result in the space feeling constrained. The preferred location for the half court is on the relatively level and open area indicated in the draft Master Plan and it is recommended that no changes are made to the Master Plan. The basketball hoop will be orientated away from Beecroft Road for safety.

### **Issue: Provisioning of play space and teen activity area**

The proposal to upgrade the children's playground and provide an activity area for teens and older children was supported. One respondent requested the inclusion of shade sails over the play space area.

#### **Response:**

Play equipment that is suitable for a range of ages and abilities will be incorporated into the final design of the children's play space. Existing canopy trees provide natural shade over the play space which is deemed suitable provision for a local level playground and is in accordance with Council's Play Plan.

### **Issue: Visual and acoustic screening of railway**

Screen planting alongside the railway to improve visual and acoustic amenity was supported. The community wish to see weed management activities undertaken in this area.

#### **Response:**

Screen planting will be provided alongside the railway line and weeding undertaken for a period of maintenance.

**Issue: Fencing along Beecroft Road**

Fencing and continuation of the hedge along Beecroft Road was supported. It was requested that the proposed new fence should be a low height to retain visibility into the parkland.

**Response:**

The proposed fence along Beecroft Road will be a maximum height of 0.9m. The planting hedge will be maintained and continued.

**Issue: Park lighting**

The provision of new lighting was suggested by one respondent to enable use of the park facilities at night.

**Response:**

Lighting is provided along the shared path to facilitate night use. Other park facilities are intended for daylight use only and no additional lighting is proposed.

**Issue: Provision of exercise equipment**

The inclusion of exercise equipment was supported and the community wish to ensure it is suitable for all age groups and incorporates exercise for an 'all of body' workout.

**Response:**

A variety of appropriate exercise equipment will be included in the final selections.

**Issue: Activation of area behind Beecroft Community Centre**

Council were requested to consider options for the area between the park and the Community Centre as one respondent felt that this area is underutilised and lacks connectivity.

**Response:**

As the community wish to retain the character and feel of a village green and maintain lawn areas for picnicing and passive recreation large open lawn areas have been retained with shaping where necessary to achieve accessible grade paths.

The area between the park and Beecroft Community Centre has been retained as unstructured open space. Changes to the community centre building are beyond this scope of the Master Plan.

**Issue: Inclusion of an artwork or interpretive signage**

Inclusion of an artwork or interpretive signage that recognises the history of the Wallumeta First Nations people was requested.

**Response:**

A small artwork or interpretive sign that recognises the history of the Wallumeta First Nations people will be incorporated into the final design.

**Additional Comments:**

Three respondents requested the use of the site as an off-leash dog park however it is noted that Beecroft Village Green is not listed as an off-leash site in Council's Off-leash dog Park Strategy.

Two respondents noted the need for additional car parking close to the Village Green. It is noted that changes to car parking is beyond the scope of the Master Plan.

Two submissions requested that the Master Plan work not be funded from monies from the sale of 179 Beecroft Road. This is noted, however it is not part of the consultation relating to the Master Plan design proposal and will be covered in Council's Meeting report.

## **CONCLUSION**

Two rounds of consultation with the community were undertaken for the Beecroft Village Green. The results reflect significant interest and request for some changes to Beecroft Village Green. The community have clearly communicated their key priorities for any future works. The resulting Master Plan provides guidance on key elements that respond to the community based on the consultation outcomes.



## **Appendix A**

### **Beecroft Village Green online survey**

You are invited to have your say about improvements to the Beecroft Village Green by answering the following survey. Your suggestions for improvements and future directions for the park will be used to guide development of a Master Plan for the Beecroft Village Green. The Master Plan will be used to seek funding opportunities for implementation of the agreed park facilities.

The Beecroft Village Green exists to serve the *local* community. Please note that structured sports such as soccer and cricket will not be catered for in this park. Council's Play Plan identifies the playspace as a *Local Level* playspace and any new developments will reflect this level of service provision.

Beecroft Village Green is of local heritage significance and heritage issues will be considered during the development of the Master Plan.

The park conserves a stand of remnant forest trees from the Sydney-Turpentine-Ironbark-Forest (STIF) vegetation community and the Master Plan will consider appropriate protection measures based on arboricultural assessment.

1. What improvements or facilities would you like to see at Beecroft Village Green? Below is a list of suggested facilities. Please rank them from 1-5 (1 being the highest) indicating your preference for what should be included in the park. Existing amenities including the toilets and barbeque will be retained in the Master Plan. New tree planting, soft landscaping and park signage will be included as part of any future works.

PLACE NUMBERS 1-5 ONLY AGAINST YOUR PRIORITIES (1 being the highest)

- Improved walking paths through the park
- Large picnic shelter (2 or more tables)
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Upgrade toilets
- Renewal of the children's playspace
- Teen/older children's hang out area (i.e hammocks, parkour etc.)
- Outdoor games area (i.e table tennis/boules etc.)
- Artworks
- Heritage Interpretation Trail signage/markers
- Band stand/rotunda
- Improved lawn amphitheatre/events space (regrading of lawn area)
- Other (Please specify) .....

2. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments?

3. Name:

4. Address:

5. Email (optional if you want to receive updates on the Master Plan progress)