

Hockey Club talks with residents on Willsmere Park

The Secretary of Kew Hockey Club, Dr. C. S. Beed, said today that two meetings had been held with representatives of Willsmere Action Group last week regarding the proposed development of Willsmere Park.

He said that both sides agreed that the area required regrading and re-sowing and that while hockey grounds would be provided in the area, there was no intention for Kew Hockey Club to have exclusive use or control of the park. The upgraded area will be suitable for hockey, cricket, athletics and other structured field games as well as kite and glider flying and other informal recreation activities.

There was definitely no intention, he said, of harming the unique environmental quality of the area. Kew Hockey Club believes the billabong and Yarra River frontages should be preserved in their natural state. The club favors the maintenance of public access to all Yarra River frontage. Both sides had agreed that no trees should be removed in work on the park and that no permanent fences should be built.

The club has suggested a unique form of control over the upgraded park whereby a management committee of representatives of local residents, council and hockey club should control use of the area. This aimed to involve local residents in

helping to maintain the area. In addition, the club had suggested to council a scheme whereby ratepayers would save \$175,000 over 15 years. The club would undertake to maintain the area to prescribed standards which the council would control. Thus ratepayers would be relieved of the cost of maintenance which council has estimated to cost \$175,000 over 15 years.

Kew Hockey Club is a community minded organisation which seeks to provide organised recreation for children and adults. Every Saturday in the winter season it fields five junior, five women's and six men's teams. It seeks to provide opportunities for residents to communicate in a sporting environment and it emphasises family participation, believing that a greater sense of community is generated by its activities.

Friendly discussions are proceeding with local residents and Dr. Beed said he felt sure a harmonious agreement would be worked out. If any resident would like information about the scheme, ring Mr. Ian Walker on 821040 or Dr. Beed on 826218.