

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY HUB

The development of a civic space is supported in the Penguin Urban Design Guidelines and also in the early engagement activities. The Guidelines suggest that the use of the club house and grandstand should be reviewed to incorporate civic and commercial functions.

The development of a civic space with a village green for community use would be beneficial for the area. The Guidelines indicate “major enhancement of this area using a more civic landscape treatment which promotes the use of the site for passive recreational activities is required.”



<http://architectureau.com/articles/a-new-public-space-for-lane-cove/>

The preliminary consultation included a suggestion that they could be redeveloped into community halls or community centres. Also, an aquatic centre was mentioned by a number of participants in the initial engagement activities. The proportion of young people and young families in the Central Coast is declining and developing services and facilities to attract these cohorts into the community is important for diversity and community renewal.

CURRENT AND UNMET NEED FOR CIVIC/COMMUNITY SPACES IN PENGUIN

The Central Coast Open Space & Recreation Plan 2012-2022 found that “the Penguin precinct has a number of open spaces which are used for civic gatherings, community gardens and visual amenity. The Penguin Railway Station plays an important community gathering and aesthetic role at the western entrance to the Penguin CBD.”

The Penguin District School provides significant social infrastructure with the Community Learning Centre that includes meeting rooms and activity spaces available for community hire. The Function Centre as part of the soon to be constructed Dial Regional Sports Complex will add more opportunity for community meeting and function room space.

Overall there will be adequate provision for community spaces in Penguin by the end of 2017. The provision for civic space is reasonable however it is disjointed and some aspects lack amenity. The Penguin Urban Design Guidelines suggested the relocation of the Visitor Information Centre to the old Railway Station (now community space/history exhibition space).

Concept plans had been developed with extra function community meeting space attached however nothing more has progressed since these were prepared.

Maps of civic spaces, library, halls, community centres, and cultural spaces accompany this Summary Information sheet.