



Ordinary Council

Monday 8 April 2024
6.30pm

Late Correspondence

Privacy Statement:

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Late Correspondence

Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE - 8 APRIL 2024
Author: Carolyn Nurmi, Governance Officer
File No: 24/60244
Purpose of the Report: To table late correspondence as submitted for consideration by the Mayor and Councillors relevant to the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 April 2024.
Alignment to Delivery Program: Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives and notes the late correspondence and reads late correspondence in conjunction with the relevant Agenda items.

Please find attached late correspondence relating to matters appearing on the Agenda for Council held on 8 April 2024. Correspondence received is listed below:

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LATE CORRO Item: B.1 R1p

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 4 / 2024

Carolyn Nurmi

From: hayter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 11:08 AM
To: Records; Sue O'Connor; Helen Tola; Cr Harriet Price; Isabelle Shapiro; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Mark Silcocks; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Matthew Robertson; Merrill Witt; Nicola Grieve; Peter Cavanagh; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Sean Carmichael; Susan Wynne - External Forwarding; Toni Zeltzer
Cc: Craig Swift-McNair; Scott Pedder; Anne White
Subject: Late Correspondence - Council Meeting 8 April 2024 - Item 13.1 - Item R1

Dear Records, Sue, Helen, Councillors, Craig, Scott and Anne

Apologies for this extra-late correspondence!

We only became aware by chance very late this morning that this item was to be on tonight's Council Agenda. I hope that protocol will allow this very brief letter to be included in your deliberations tonight.

Item 13.1 - R1 - Planning Proposal to List Eight Local Heritage Items and One Heritage Conservation Area in and around the Edgecliff Commercial Centre - Advice of the Local Planning Panel

On behalf of the Paddington Society, I confirm that we ***strongly support the Recommendation*** and endorse the advice of the WLPP of 20 October 2023.

We support Items A and B, and agree with the proposal to list all eight items plus the five buildings in the Brantwood Heritage Conservation Area.

We trust that Councillors will not be swayed by this morning's Sydney Morning Herald article, and that Items C and D of the Staff Recommendation will also be endorsed to proceed.

Your sincerely

Esther Hayter
President, The Paddington Society

[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 L7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Comp.</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

8 April 2024

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Mr Stephen Day

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Mr. Stephen Day's application to the Cooper Park Tennis Complex tender. As a lifelong resident of Woollahra, I have had the pleasure of knowing Stephen, his wife Anne, and their three adult children through the Wentworth Tennis Centre for several years. Their dedication to the tennis community, coupled with their exemplary management of the centre, makes them invaluable assets to our neighborhood.

Stephen's engaging demeanor and his ability to infuse fun into every competition are qualities that are truly appreciated by the members at Wentworth.

I have personally benefited from Stephen's commitment to excellence in tennis as a participant in the Thursday night intermediate/advanced social round robin, which has become a highlight of my week. Prior to that, I enjoyed playing in the daytime round robins on Wednesdays or Fridays. I have also been receiving coaching from Stephen's son Kingston for several years. Kingston's expertise and guidance have greatly improved my skills on the court. I am also pleased to be representing the Wentworth Tennis Centre at the ESTA tournament next term.

Another aspect that sets Wentworth Tennis Centre apart is its seamless online court and competition booking system, which streamlines the process for members and ensures smooth operations.

Cooper Park Tennis Complex holds a special place in my heart, as I have been playing tennis there since childhood. Now, I am thrilled to see my own children following in my footsteps, enjoying the facilities and programs offered by the centre. Under Stephen's leadership, Cooper Park Tennis Complex will flourish into a hub of activity and camaraderie for tennis players of all ages.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Stephen Day for the Cooper Park Tennis Complex tender. His commitment to excellence, coupled with his passion for tennis and dedication to the community, make him the ideal candidate for this role. I am confident that under his leadership, Cooper Park Tennis Complex will continue to thrive and serve as a destination for tennis enthusiasts in our area.

Thank you for considering my endorsement of Stephen Day's application. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Wenderoth

[Redacted Signature]

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2R**Carolyn Nurmi**Meeting: Conc.Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Evelyn & Mash <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:58 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: RE: Late correspondence for Cooper Park tennis

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your willingness to engage with your local community, and for listening to the many voices who have spoken so passionately about Cooper Park Tennis. Prior to these meetings, it is possible that many of you were unaware of the importance many community members place on this unique facility.

The reactions to the second tender outcome reflect a concern that awarding the tender to a larger organization, which is not necessarily invested in this community, undermines the inclusion of community engagement in the tender itself. Awarding only 5% to this very important element, seemed to be paying lip service to its inclusion, rather than a genuine attempt to assess each tenderer for their commitment to this community.

I believe that a small/medium enterprise committed to local residents and the broader tennis community will serve the community better than a large organization. From experience, the incumbent has certainly demonstrated a sustained commitment to the local community, and honoring the arrangements for Friday night social tennis from the previous leaseholder reflects this. Young Aces has also provided verbal assurance that they would continue both the Friday night and Monday morning socials and reiterated their commitment to supporting this community.

I would respectfully request that the community needs be prioritised, and I support Councillors' decision made at the meeting on 2 April 2024 not to award to the preferred tenderer.

Kind regards,

Evelyn



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Carolyn NurmiLATE CORRO Item: 13-2 R7

From: Jake [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:59 AM
To: Records
Subject: Recommendation for Cooper Park Tennis Court

Meeting: contDate: 8 / 4 / 24

Hi there

I just wanted to send an email thanking the council for reversing the initial recommendation to award the license to operate Cooper Park to SSMG. I don't think they are the right fit for our community tennis court. Appreciate the effort to date and hope you come to the right decision tonight.

Many thanks

Jake (long time resident in bellevue hill)

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2 R7 P5

Meeting: Council
Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Fleur Lazarus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:55 AM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda Item R7 Council Meeting 8/4/24 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Dear Woollahra Council,

I am writing to stress my support for the Wentworth Tennis as the best choice for a positive impact on the community.

My family and I have played tennis there for two years and have been witness to the wonderful multi generational nature of the community there. Steve and his team creates a positive environment for people to come together over tennis and the outdoors. All parts of society are included at the club. I've often seen buses pull up with groups of intellectually disabled members who play on a particular day each week. My children also play at the tennis camps during the holidays and with coaches during the week. I have also played there in competition days organised by Wentworth Tennis for my children's school, thereby encouraging the whole school community to meet, play and connect.

Wentworth Tennis is inclusive and a very positive force building community in the area.

I am very happy to take calls on the number below should you like to discuss my recommendation further.

Kind regards,
Fleur Lazarus

[REDACTED]
Darling Point 2027

--
Fleur Lazarus

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi**Subject:**

FW: Late correspondence Cooper Park tennis

E-CORRO

Item: 13.2.23Meeting: Coor.Date: 8 / 4 / 24

>

Subject: Re: Late correspondence Cooper Park tennis;

To whom it may concern,

I wish to offer my support for the current operators of cooper park tennis.

As a rate payer of woollahra council and regular user of cooper park I express my disappointment of the change of operator.

The existing operator is community focused with all ages playing at cooper park and no major competition except for social tennis.

This community focus has been forgotten.

For 17 years the existing operator has run cooper park.

I'm very disappointed at the way the whole tender process has been run.

I will not be voting for any councillor at the next council elections who have supported this change.

Kind regards

Kieran. Newton

[REDACTED]
Paddington
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Nicki Waldner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 3:19 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Woollahra Council,

My family and I have grown up at Cooper Park Tennis Courts. In this perpetually changing world it has remained a constant. A constant that has nevertheless evolved and moved with the times. The excellence, inclusion and care that the current management of Cooper Park (Dieter, Sarah and their incredible team) have shown has never wavered in their 17 years. Their knowledge of the grounds, the community and how best to respond to both the environment and those who share it are second to none. Change for the sake of change is pointless. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, as they say.

Let's support people in our community who are already doing outstanding work, and help them continue to serve our community into the future. A little bit of continuity in an ocean of constant change and uncertainty benefits us all.

Yours sincerely,
Nicki Waldner

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Nick O'Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 3:45 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tender

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2R
Meeting: COND.
Date: 8/4/24

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nick O'Sullivan and I spoke at the last FC&S meeting on the 2nd April. It was my first visit to council chambers and I think the Cooper Park agenda item was handled diligently, thoroughly and carefully. It was interesting to watch a local council committee meeting in operation.

One of the speakers mentioned the dilapidated state of the SSMG operated venue at Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre. This piqued my interest and so I decided to visit the venue on my way back home. I was genuinely shocked by what I found - multiple holes in the fence, tennis nets that have bottom tape falling off and dragging on the floor, squeaky and unsafe floorboards, benches that have broken slats and hazardous submerged drains in the corners of the courts. I have included some photos in this email which I think councillors need to be aware of.

You will receive videos from me in separate emails as they are too big a file to send together.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Nick O'Sullivan

LATE CORRO Item: 13-287 P9

Meeting: 6000.

Date: 8 / 4 / 24.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 3:19 PM
To: Records
Cc: Merrill Witt; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Peter Cavanagh; Mark Silcocks; Sarah Swan; Luise Elsing
Subject: Management of Cooper Park tennis courts

As a property owner in the Woollahra Council area I would like to ask the Council to allow the existing Cooper Park management team to continue as the operators of the Council's Cooper Park tennis complex. I have been playing tennis there for over 30 years and the existing management have been responsible for providing excellent service both in catering and sports support. I hope the great community work undertaken by the existing team is not ignored just because someone else has thrown in a few more dollars for the Council's use.

Alan Schliemann

Meeting: CondDate: 8 / 4 / 24**Carolyn Nurmi**

From: Inken Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 3:24 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Council,

I am writing to support the current managers of Cooper Park Tennis in their bid to remain responsible for running the facility and am disappointed that an alternative bid is being considered.

For the past 17 years, the Cooper Park tennis courts and café have been operated by a long-standing team who are dedicated to a hands-on, service-oriented approach. This team possesses incomparable understanding of the local community and Cooper Park tennis courts. They have built relationships that span generations of Cooper Park patrons, like myself and my kids, who enjoy a constancy and trust in the operation of their cherished park and tennis courts.

I sincerely hope Council will take the views of the local community into account and changer their decision to switch operators. Please allow the current operators to remain.

Thank you, sincerely

Inken Martin

[REDACTED]
North Bondi, NSW [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO

Item:

13-2 R7

P11

Meeting:

Comm

Date:

8 / 4 / 21

Carolyn Nurmi

From: neil midalia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 3:46 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Tender for Cooper Park Tennis courts

Dear counsellors,

I live across the road from Cooper Park Tennis Courts and have been a regular player for the past 30 years approximately - playing each weekend and also having a weekly tennis lesson. Its a community there and the current operators are very much part of that.

I heard with disappointment that the Tender for running the Cooper Park Tennis courts has been awarded to a partnership of untested ability - primarily based on the extra \$40k rent that Woollahra Council would collect.

This to me is a travesty based on the wrong guidelines.

I would have preferred a more professional approach where all credentials were considered - the ability to run a unique tennis facility as this successfully, the extent of local community engagement, and intentions to retain all the courts and maintain them at the same or better standard.

The incumbents have a proven track record which appears to have been undermined in its significance.

I am horrified to read that the successful tenderer will be running the courts for up to 14 years before the position will be up for tender again. Are you unable to end the tender if your outcome is based more on revenue than any of these other important considerations, particularly if the new operator turns out to be much worse than what we have enjoyed for so long to date?

No one will ever get rich by running these courts. Their hourly commitment would have to be costed at sub \$20 per hour to make the numbers stack up profitably. Its a marginal business and the new operators are destined to financially fail if they have to pay an extra \$40k on top of the current rate.

I urge you to leave well enough alone unless you are utterly convinced that the new operators will not cut back on all the other cost factors in order to trade successfully.

Kind regards,
Neil Midalia

[REDACTED]
Bellevue Hill.

Attend in person

Join the Cooper Park Tennis community in the public gallery at the meeting

When: Monday, April at 6.30pm

Where: Woollahra Council

536 New South Head Rd, Double Bay

NAME: CORRO	Item: 13.2 R7
Meeting: <i>Condo</i>	
Date: 8 / 4 / 24	

Once again, we thank each and every one of you for being valued members of the Cooper Park Tennis community, and for the many years of support and friendship. It has been a true pleasure to be a part of this community and serve it for the past 17 years. We hope we can continue to do so.

Kind regards,

The Cooper Park Tennis team.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Amanda Richardson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 4:24 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis

Item:	13.2 R
Meeting:	6.00
Date:	8 / 4 / 24

To Whom it may concern

I would like to make known my support for the current operators to maintain their contract for Cooper Park tennis. They have been providing a great service to us the residents for many years and although it seems their offer for tender has come in less than its contender, their 17 year operation has embedded them into the local community and proved that they are more than capable to running the area. Surely that must mean more than a bit more extra money?

Please vote as we, the neighbouring locals would want. Keep things as they are. Change is not always for the better.

Sincerely
 Amanda Richardson

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2 R7</u>	P 4
Meeting: <u>6:00pm</u>		
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>		

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Sally Goodchild [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 4:58 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis

Dear Councillors,

We were delighted when the decision was made to overturn the tender from Sydney Sports Management Group as I'm sure you understood from the reaction of those able to stay until the very end of the meeting last Monday.

Our top priority is to have a local operator and our top preference would be to have the incumbents, Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante, who have operated Cooper Park for the past 17 years. Under their management, the courts have become the centre of community where everyone is made welcome and all are encouraged to play no matter your standard. Sarah and her coaching team provide the most supportive assistance to any who want to take advantage of their services.

Many of us have been playing there for 20, 30 or 40 years and look forward to the warm spirit of inclusion provided there; the comfortable and relaxed atmosphere and the familiarity of a place where everyone knows who you are and remembers your name.

I strongly recommend you look again at their proposal, remembering their record of on time payments and their constant refurbishments over the period of their management. Who else, I ask, would have hosted a party to celebrate the 100 years of operation of the courts?

It seems that financial matters are the crux of being appointed, rather than community preferences. I ask you again, please look at their tender one more time and remember their reliability and their popularity when making your decision.

Kind regards
Sally

Sally Goodchild
[REDACTED]
North Bondi 2026
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO Item: B-287 P15

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Marianne Lacey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 4:59 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis

Dear Councillors

Please reconsider your thoughts on the Copper Park Tender. The current owners have got an amazing sympatico with the local and tennis community. The warm and welcoming attitude they have towards all ages is to be admired. I have attended over the years with my family, travelling from the Inner West as the hospitality shown there was worth the effort.

kind regards
Marianne Lacey

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2.87 P16

Meeting: Bondi

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Andrew Parsons [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 5:10 PM
To: Records
Cc: Peter Cavanagh; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Harriet Price; Susan Wynne; Matthew Robertson; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

To Woollahra Council members:

As a longstanding user of the Cooper Park courts, I would like to try and persuade the council to stick with the current operator of the courts and cafe, Dieter Wilhelmi and his assistant Sarah Morante. They are both locals who love the park and have run the courts very successfully for 17 years. They provide a friendly, happy community based service for everyone on a first name basis. They have maintained and upgraded the facilities over the years. They have employed friendly, helpful knowledgeable staff and provided excellent food and beverage.

I fear that if it goes to Young Aces/Bondi Tennis, it will no longer be a community facility. I have had coaching from Brian at Bondi Tennis, but that's all he offers. There really is no community court hire. It is a coaching business, which is fine. He took an under utilised asset and turned it into a money making venture for himself. However, I don't want to see Cooper Park go the same way. These courts are well utilised assets, there for the community to enjoy, at a fair price and be available for social tennis and not have eight courts booked out seven days a week for lessons.

A community facility is for everyone, and should not be based on a 'business model' that excludes the general community.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards
Andrew Parsons

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>P17 13.2.R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Colleen</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Ric and Colleen Kent [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 5:20 PM
To: Records
Subject: RE: Late Correspondence re Cooper Park Tennis Courts

To Whom It concerns;
I wish for the management of Cooper Park Tennis Courts to remain under the current management Team and do not want it to change.
Sincerely
Colleen Kent
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: William Painter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 5:20 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; toni.zelter@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Peter Cavanagh; Mark Silcocks; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDANCE RE:COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

To whom it may concern.

My name is William Painter, and I would like to voice my complete support for the continued operation of the Cooper Park tennis courts and café by the incumbent Cooper Park Tennis team.

We as a family have been using the Cooper Park tennis facilities regularly since 2007, most memorably in the early days with my young daughters, Louisa, and Elizabeth, especially as they prepared for the annual father-daughter tennis tournament each year at Ascham.

Subsequently, our family moved to Warren road in 2011, within walking distance of the courts and café, and continued to build our relationship with the courts, café and the local park. Our daughters are now adults, but nothing had changed, it was only last Sunday that we enjoyed a doubles match in the sun, followed by a well-earned coffee and muffin for all. My wife Lisa and myself often walk the dog and stop at the café for refreshments.

Further, I have been having tennis lessons with Dr.Sarah Morante for months now and learned about her dedication and leadership in helping build the wonderful 'culture' and "charm" that has been cultivated over the years, and wanted to offer my support to Sarah and the team as they hopefully continue operate and grow the Cooper park tennis facilities. We would all find it very disturbing to lose what we have grown to love over the years, and we would see it as 'complete progress' if the current Cooper Park Tennis team continued with their wonderful knowledge and understanding of Cooper Park Tennis.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if necessary.

Sincerely,
William Painter.

[REDACTED]
Bellevue Hill NSW 2023
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>comp</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

From: Rudi Setiabakti <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 6:03 PM
To: Records
Subject: Petition

Hey there.

My name is Rudi and I'm a regular user or customer of Cooper Park TC.

I would like to ask you kindly for reconsidering the current management of CPTC to stay and to continue to provide services for us.

We love to play at CPTC. And we have been playing and visiting the Cafe very regularly and we are very happy and comfortable with the management. It's very relaxing place to be.

Please, don't let us down the people who love Cooper Park TC

My sincerely
RUDI BAKTI

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Judith Schulz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 6:41 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2R7
 Meeting: 6.00.0
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Councillors,

The residents of Woollahra and regular users of Cooper Park Tennis Courts are passionate about retaining the dedicated managers who have looked after us for nearly 30 years. As a weekly tennis player at Cooper Park for 50 years, since the 1970's, I have known all of the managers over this time and Dieter and Sarah have served us well with their exceptional dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge.

I and others can assure you that the care and consideration of the managers to the Cooper Park users, far outweigh any perceived benefits of large commercial organisations who are required to place financial and commercial interests and their shareholders interests above residents in the community.

As Councillors, I would hope that each of you pride yourself on looking after the interests of the local community. Retaining the personalised and professional management of Cooper Park is in the interest of the local community.

You have this last opportunity to Vote on Cooper Park management and to respect the voice of those who use the facilities and its unique environment.

Please stand with us and for us,
 Judith Schulz

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.247	P21
Meeting:	Comp.	
Date:	8 / 4 / 24	

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 7:13 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

The General Manager
Woollahra Council

Dear Sir,

We would like to let you know that we have lived in the Woollahra Municipality for over 43 years and have been frequent users of the tennis courts at Cooper Park.
In the past 4 years, we have used the courts every Saturday when the Sydney Football Stadium courts were shut down prior to their relocation.

We have enjoyed the Cooper Park location, the courts, the café, and the welcoming attitude of the current management. We would like to commend the current owners for their management of the courts in the past and hope that their tender for continuation of management of Cooper Park Tennis Courts will be successful with Council.

Regards,

Michael and Mary Ann Buhagiar
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO Item: 13-287 P22
Meeting: Conti
Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Titto Chu [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 7:18 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Woollahra Council,

I am writing to express my gratitude of what a wonderful job the Cooper Park Tennis club management is doing managing the club under Mr Dieter Wilhelmi, and would kindly ask you to reconsider the decision of awarding the contract to a new group.

I moved to the area in 2022 and have since played tennis there 1-2 times a week, the club and the staffs were always kind, helpful, and friendly, the club feels more like part of the community rather than simply being a sports club. People of all ages hang out at the cafe for a coffee, snack or meal, Dieter and his staffs always chat with them making everyone feel welcome. This is especially true for many seniors, non-tennis players during morning and lunch time, they will certainly be sad watching Dieter go.

I have no doubt a new team will bring changes, certainly more revenue for the Council. I however quote Bert Lance "Why fix it if it ain't broke", the residents love Cooper Park, they love Cooper Park Tennis, they love the people running the club. Why change it if it's going fine.

Best regards,
Titto Chu
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Ami Gale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 7:28 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-227</u>
Meeting:	<u>Coind.</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Dear Madam / Sir

I am writing to you again to express my support for the amazing Cooper Park Tennis team headed by Dieter and Sara, in the hope council will take into consideration the following:

As a local resident and Cooper Park Tennis grounds user for the last 48 years, I compare the past management of both the tennis courts and the coffee shop, to the present team and it's clear to me it will be impossible for any new management to beat the dedication, care and the enthusiasm Dieter and Sara have managed within this amazing tennis complex, over the past 17 years.

During challenging times like the floods of 2016, and other disturbances like Covid during 2020-2022, I have little doubt in my mind that any other management could not even come close in providing continuity and quality of running the court bookings, the tennis coaching and the coffee shop.

Please reconsider keeping them on so they could continue looking after our "tennis jewel in the park".

I am also very concerned to learn that council Finance committee (at the meeting on the 2nd of April) took into consideration only 5% of citizens opinions into their financial decisions. I am hopeful this is not true for the upcoming revue for Monday the 8th of April.

Thank you,
 Amnon Gale
 [REDACTED]

Sent from Outlook

Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.2.87
Meeting: <u>Cond.</u>	
Date: <u>8</u> / <u>7</u> / <u>24</u>	

From: Brian Haddock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 9:13 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Club

Dear Sir,

Cooper Park has provided a fantastic service over the years and it is a pleasure to use their facilities. Also the quality of the food especially the coffee is excellent. Any bigger organization is likely to skimp and save in their own corporate interest and is unlikely to maintain the quality that we are used to. This will detract from the general amenity of the park.

In the circumstances, please reconsider your decision making re the leasing of the tennis club beyond just the rental dollar.

Thanking you.

Brian Haddock
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2K25

Meeting: Loui.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Jeremy Resnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 9:21 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

I wish to add my name to the supporters of the current management team at Cooper Park Tennis Club where I have been a regular at least weekly player since I arrived in Sydney in 2017.

I play tennis all over Sydney and can testify to the unique qualities of this club which make it special. The coaching and behind-the-counter teams exemplify a personal and homely service that makes playing in this amazing location extra special.

I would hate to see these qualities overtaken by a large impersonal conglomerate and hope the council will see the sense of retaining the status quo.

Kind regards
Jeremy Resnick

Meeting. COOPDate: 8 / 4 / 24**Carolyn Nurmi**

From: Philip Palmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 10:11 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Late Correspondence: RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Sir/Madam

We cannot understand why the preferred tender for wonderfully run Cooper Park tennis courts and cafe should be bypassed for an unknown operator.

The only reason would be for financial gain for Woollahra Council. We believe the difference in the tender amounts was quite small -where is loyalty in our Council?

The current team have worked tirelessly and efficiently for 17 years. Everyone who plays there (my husband twice a week and I used to) cannot praise them enough for all they do.

Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante, greet and are always welcoming to the players and those who come to the coffee shop - it is like a large family.

Why destroy this and all the goodwill that has been created over many years for an unknown quantity who don't know the clientele, nor have an interest in Cooper Park, the most beautiful park and tennis setting in Australia, except for financial gain!!

Re think your decision and for once listen to the residents rather than the financial bottom line.

Kind regards

Philip and Evelyn Palmer

Meeting: Cond.Date: 8 / 4 / 24**Carolyn Nurmi**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 10:35 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Councillors

Cooper Park Tennis Courts are a unique haven with much history and charm.

For the past 17 years, they have been operated by a team who are dedicated to a hands-on, service-oriented approach. Leading the team is local resident Dieter Wilhelmi. Dieter is a professional tennis coach of 46 years, of which 27 years have been spent at Cooper Park (even living in the upstairs premises). Dieter has also served as an advisor to Tennis Australia, an Olympic program director and university lecturer. Very few in the industry are as experienced and passionate as Dieter, with none as attuned to the unique and special character of Cooper Park.

Sarah Morante has supported Dieter in the management of the centre over the past 17 years. She is also a local resident and professional tennis coach of 28 years who only increases her love of coaching and the Cooper Park community with each day spent there. Sarah has a PhD in sport science and has previously worked as a university lecturer and researcher in that field.

The Cooper Park Tennis team has displayed a similar unique longevity with a number of coaches serving the for past 17 years and various pro-shop/café staff being both local residents and patrons of Cooper Park. There are coaches of all ages, genders, nationalities and backgrounds, catering to every age and stage of tennis. This team possesses incomparable understanding of the local community and Cooper Park tennis courts. They have built relationships that span generations of Cooper Park patrons who enjoy a constancy and trust in the operation of their cherished park and tennis courts.

The team is highly driven and committed to extend this proven track record of successful operation into the future and believes it is best positioned to do so. We will continue to build valued relationships with the Cooper Park community. We will preserve the heritage of the facility beyond its 100th year. We will invest considerable capital expenditure for the upgrade of courts, fences and the cafe, along with the installation of solar power to align with Council's 2030 net zero target.

Please do not hand our beloved community asset over to just another sports management company which will not value all the things which make this facility unique.

Kind regards

Larissa Cook

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO Item: 13-287

From:**Sent:**

Saturday, 6 April 2024 7:07 AM

To:

Records

Subject:

LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Meeting: *Concl.*Date: *8 / 4 / 24*

My name is Barbara Tindale.

I have been playing tennis socially at Cooper Park for 16 years. Prior to that my children played there and my husband regularly plays.

I am biased, but I think they are the most beautiful tennis courts in the world.

There is always a mix of people playing and socialising in the cafe.

The dog walkers and children enjoying the natural wonder of an urban forest.

Dieter Wilhelmi and his team have fostered a marvellous , friendly atmosphere that would be difficult to replicate, particularly if it is a big corporate or even someone who comes from a long way from Woollahra and unlikely to provide hands on service to the community.

I don't think that 5% loading should be given to community engagement. As a council, serving the community should be at least 50% weighting otherwise it appears that Woollahra council wants to make money and not serve the community.

I strongly recommend you endorse Dieter Wilhelmina for the new lease.

Yours Sincerely

Barbara and Mark Tindale.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Ralph Hilmer - [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 7:22 AM
To: Records
Subject: Late correspondence re Cooper Park tennis courts

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2 R7
 Meeting: Conc
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Councillors

I would like to recommend that Council allow the current management of the courts to continue in that role rather than appointing the Voyager group.

I feel the current management has done an excellent job.

Kind regards
 Ralph Hilmer

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.2R/30
Paul	
Meeting:	
Date:	8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: R [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 10:16 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Nicola Grieve; Toni Zeltzer
Subject: Tender Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Tender Cooper Park Tennis Courts

I am 85 years old and have been a regular at Cooper Park Tennis Courts for over 40 years.

My current focus is Thursday's 30 minutes of volleying-at-the-net with Dieter Wilhelmi. This provides concentrated reflex and movement training.

I have known Dieter since 1978 and have always found him totally professional in his approach to me, the local tennis community and to Cooper Park itself.

Likewise Sarah Morante is a highly intelligent tennis professional and both are significant assets to the Woollahra Community.

I recommend that their unique experience and community engagement be strongly recognised.

Roger Sebel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Woollahra, 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Liberty Waldner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 12:09 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; lucinda.regan@wollahra.nsw.gov.au; luise.elsing@woollaha.nsw.gov.au; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE: RE COOPER PARK

LATE CORRO	Item: 13-2 R7 P3
Meeting: Covert	
Date: 8 / 7 / 24	

To whom this may concern,

My name is Liberty, I am 16 years old, and I have been coming to Cooper Park Tennis since I was four. Over the years I have enjoyed many school holiday tennis camps, participated in numerous squads and Friday afternoon competitions as well as lessons.

My three brothers and I have been going to tennis lessons at Cooper Park since we were five and continue to do so every Wednesday afternoon. For me, Cooper Park Tennis is the relationships I have built with the people there. The coaches, especially Sarah and Deiter, have known me since I was a toddler and they have formed a fundamental part in my life.

They say, 'It takes a village to raise a child', and Cooper Park is part of my 'village'. The adults there are people who have supported and helped shaped me into the person I am today. I feel so lucky to be able to play in such a beautiful space with people whom I have built life-long relationships with.

The Cooper Park Tennis coaches' knowledge is unmatched and I am forever learning and improving my skills. The coaches operate with a level of expertise that comes from having done this for so many years and work with unparalleled professionalism.

I really hope that Cooper Park can stay the way it is today – because the way it is, is amazing.

Liberty

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item:

13257 P32

From: Michael MacMahon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 12:45 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne
Subject: Late correspondence re Cooper park tennis courts

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been advised that the full council will vote next Monday on the future of Cooper Park tennis courts for the next 14 years.

I have been playing tennis at Cooper Park for nearly 20 years. Previously, I played at Rose Bay and Moore Park. No tennis complex provides the uniqueness and wonderful atmosphere that Cooper Park provides. The current operators have provided an atmosphere of serenity, inclusiveness and friendship that has continued to today. I strongly urge you not to change a winning formula and remind you of the old saying "when you are on a good thing stick to it". Please don't let an offer of some more money from other applicants be the dominant factor. The uniqueness of this complex must be maintained. The current operators have a proven track record and in my opinion this should be the main deciding factor.

I am 73 years of age. I have been swimming at Nelson Park all my life. Woolahra council is rectifying the retaining wall but this has been problematic. I have great concerns that this repair work will not be finished in my life time. I would be mortified if that was repeated at Cooper park.

Please offer the current operators of Cooper Park an ongoing agreement.

Yours sincerely

Michael MacMahon

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2 R7 P33

Meeting: Contd.

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 1:50 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

To Woollahra Council

As a local resident and user of the Cooper Park Tennis courts for over 55 years, and regular attendee of Friday night social tennis, I would like to register my support for the current management team of the courts/café. Dieter and his team have shown a long standing commitment to this heritage tennis facility and the local community that uses it.

I see no practical reason why the Council would want to change the operator of the courts to someone else.

Yours sincerely
Alexander Bereny

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-273A</u>
<u>6440</u>	
Meeting: _____	
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

From: Michael Scarf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 2:23 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

Re: Tender for operation of Cooper Park Tennis courts

I'm writing to support the current management's application to continue running the Cooper Park tennis courts.

I am a long-standing resident and owner in the Woollahra Council area.

I have been using the tennis courts regularly every Saturday and find the current management has for the past 17 years, operated the courts with a team who are dedicated to a hands-on, service-oriented approach.

I am concerned that another operator will commercialise this idyllic ancient volcanic valley and not preserve the 100 year old heritage of the area.

I fully support the current management to remain the operators of the Cooper park tennis courts.

Kind regards
Michael Scarf
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2R7

P 35

comp

Meeting: _____

Date: _____

8 / 4 / 24

From:

Merrill du Boisee [REDACTED] il.c [REDACTED]

Sent:

Saturday, 6 April 2024 2:50 PM

To:

Records

Subject:

LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

I have been playing tennis twice a week Saturday & Tuesday afternoons for many years with my local tennis friends. I find the present operators of the tennis courts plus the shop/cafe staff excellent people to deal with.

I have been a Woollahra Council rate payer for over 56 years and my support For the present operators should be taken into consideration when rewarding management of Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

Carolyn NurmiMeeting: Cond.Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Marcus Fantl <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 4:04 PM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda item R7 Council meeting 8/4/24 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

I am reaching out to champion Wentworth Tennis as the ideal candidate to oversee the tennis facilities at Cooper Park. Wentworth Tennis stands as a beacon of excellence and community spirit, making them perfectly aligned with our local values and aspirations.

Wentworth Tennis is renowned for its commitment to members of the community across all ages, ensuring that tennis is accessible and enjoyable for everyone in our community. Their vision extends beyond just managing facilities; they aim to create a vibrant community hub where the joy of tennis brings people together.

Their proposed programs promise to cater to a wide range of interests and skill levels, fostering an inclusive environment that welcomes every member of our community.

By choosing Wentworth Tennis, Woollahra Council are not just selecting a service provider but embracing a partner who is deeply invested in enhancing our community's well-being and sporting culture. Their expertise and passion for tennis and community engagement make them the clear choice for Cooper Park.

I believe Wentworth Tennis will bring a bright and inclusive future to Cooper Park, one where tennis and community spirit thrive together.

Best regards,

Marcus Fantl

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Friends of Cooper Park <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 4:19 PM
To: Records
Cc: Mark Sheldon; Mark Silcocks; Luise Elsing; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Nicola Grieve; Sarah Swan; Lucinda Regan; Tom O'Hanlon; isabelle.shapiro@woollahra.nsw.au; Sean Carmichael; toni.zeltser@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts
Importance: High

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.227
Meeting: <u>bound</u>	
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>	

Dear Council,

Pursuant to the meeting held on Tuesday, to which I made a submission, and subsequently attended, I wish to reiterate our long held and oft repeated objection to SSM Voyager, on the grounds that they are not local, are a large impersonal corporate and have a poor reputation. A visit to the Rushcutters Bay courts will confirm our objections and corroborate the opinions voiced at the meeting by Michael Rundle, and held, as I now know, by several Councillors who have since visited the site. And by reputation. While some of the speakers were plugging their own bid, they all made the very valid point that Council's selection process, (which I know was done with probity and independent assessment) it was flawed and missed the point. Whatever their sales pitch, Voyager is a poor fit, deeply unpopular and inappropriate for a community asset such as the Cooper Park courts.

I now have three associated whinges:

1. The selection process was held in secrecy and extreme confidentiality, and only three of the candidates were given the chance of an interview to consolidate their bid. Hence all the kerfuffle now which could have been avoided.

2. *I appear to have been taken off your mailing list as for the last 4 notices from you on this topic, I have been dependent on various of the Friends who alert me to them and forward them on.*

3. I have not even received acknowledgement of any submissions, letters or communication on the topic, let alone replies.

The email is [REDACTED]

Please could someone check this.

Yours sincerely,
 Kate Maclaren
 Friends of Cooper Park

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Zephyr Bloch-Jorgensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 4:10 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Center Tender

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2-27</u>
Meeting:	<u>Court</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

To Whom it may concern,

Having attended high school in the East in the 80s, resided for over 20 years in Bondi, and been a passionate tennis player committed to improving my technique and game I know the courts in the area very well and have played on all of them.

In my experience of tennis both in Australia and internationally, from tennis centre to centre there is always a patent feel - call it a culture - that is palpable when you first walk in and get to know more deeply with each re-visit. With this "centre culture" in mind, two managers stand out: Stephen Day of Trumper Park and a previous manager of Cooper Park (from over ten years ago) Apollo Kanakis. In my view, both demonstrate an unprecedented style, warmth, and commitment to youth tennis and tennis coaching plus ongoing improvement for adults. It would be a loss for Cooper Park and the area if neither tender succeeded.

In terms of Stephen Day, I have had the pleasure of experiencing Wentworth for the last six years having become disenchanted with another centre in the East where I previously played weekly for 8 years (for reasons outlined in the paragraph above). Stephen's management of Wentworth is first class. Fundamentals like the court surface and general quality are supreme, plus the online court booking system is excellent saving time for the customer (and demonstrating some of the fundamentals of good retail operations), but more importantly, far beyond that has been the selection of coaches and the clear criteria of the selection applied to the hiring process. I've been coached there twice a week throughout. My technique, game, and pleasure of the hit have never been better and I'm grateful to Stephen for providing such a stellar and thoughtful offering.

Too often in the East and with tennis generally, the offering becomes patently commercial and profit-driven at the expense of the feel of the game, without which deprives the community of a joy that is already rare and in jeopardy, particularly these days. I strongly encourage the decision-makers to keep this in mind when making their decision.

With Thanks,

Zephyr Bloch-Jorgensen [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Gary Donnison - [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 6:20 PM
To: Records
Subject: Woollahra Council RFT SC7818 - Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Woollahra Council RFT SC7818

Cooper Park Tennis Centre

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2.17</u>
Meeting:	<u>6.00.00</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of the recreational tennis community at Trumper Park Tennis Centre (run by Mr Stephen Day, Wentworth Tennis), I would like to write in support of the application by Mr Day to operate the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

I have been very active at the Trumper Park Centre for over a decade now, but have also played frequently at the Cooper Park facility. By comparison, Stephen Day has always provided a professionally-run facility, with a great coaching and management team.

The Centre itself is always kept in a good state of repair with regular maintenance and updating. The facilities he provides are exactly what is needed by the broad-based tennis community there.

Wentworth Tennis also works very successfully to engage the local community, running various events, social tennis, graded competitions and school holiday camps. The Centre is always well booked and lively, day or night.

Again, Wentworth Tennis is a proven entity in the local area and its expertise would be of great benefit to the community at Cooper Park.

If you need to discuss any of this in detail, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

LATE CORRO

Item: 132K7

P40

Meeting: cond.Date: 8 / 4 / 24**Carolyn Nurmi**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 8:39 PM
To: Records; Merrill Witt
Cc: Richard Shields; Toni Zeltzer; Mary-Lou Jarvis; 'Peter Cavanagh'; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks
Subject: Late Correspondence regarding the Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Dear Members of the Woollahra Council FS & C Committee,

On 5th November 2023 I sent a very lengthy email to you regarding the lease of the Cooper Park tennis courts. I detailed the reasons as to why there should be no changes to the current lease. All my concerns still apply.

I was very pleased that at your subsequent meeting it was decided that the tennis courts were to remain.

Should you now consider the applicants that wanted change be recommended or any other applicants other than the current lessee, I feel that the above decision could simply be overturned and we would lose our precious courts. Many tennis courts are disappearing around our area and this is not good for the game of tennis. The courts are always being used, and I play down there 3 times a week and sometimes more.

As well, the current lessees have made it a very warm and friendly environment in which to play and I do not see any reason for change just for change sake. If they have been reliable to date, then surely it is in your interest to maintain this.

Why change the existing wonderful facility that is working very satisfactorily and all participants are extremely happy.

I thoroughly enjoyed the fun day at Cooper Park for its Centenary Celebrations organised by Dieter & his staff.

Yours faithfully
Jill Jones

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Mark Ridhalgh [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 9:13 PM
To: Records
Subject: cooper park tennis

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Conio</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 9 / 24</u>

Dear Sir /Madam ,

I wish to support Mr Stephen Day's tender for cooper park tennis.

He and his team have been highly successful in their running of the Palms /Wentworth tennis.

I have been playing there twice a week for at least 10 years.

The team is professional, well motivated and caring.

I have no hesitation in recommending them for management of cooper park tennis

Yours faithfully

Mark Ridhalgh

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2R7</u>	P42
Mailing: <u>Grant</u>		
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>		

From: Anto Masiello [REDACTED] com>
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 9:19 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Woollahra Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Cooper Park Tennis team in light of recent developments regarding the management of the Cooper Park tennis courts.

The Cooper Park Tennis team, led by Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante, has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, expertise, and community engagement over the past 17 years. Their hands-on approach, extensive experience, and commitment to the local community make them invaluable assets to Cooper Park.

I urge the Council to reconsider its decision and prioritize the continuity and excellence that the Cooper Park Tennis team has consistently provided. Please take into account the overwhelming support from the community for the Cooper Park Tennis team as you make your decision.

Thank you for considering my support.

Sincerely,
Antonela Masiello

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2R7

Subject: Letter of Recommendation and Commendation for Mr Stephen Day *Conner*

Dear Sir/Madam,

8 / 4 / 24

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Stephen Day for the Cooper Park Tennis Complex tender. As soon as I became aware that Stephen was applying for this tender, I volunteered to write a letter of reference. I have had the pleasure of knowing Stephen for the past 18 months through my participation in the mixed social intermediate to advanced tennis games held on Thursday nights at Trumper Park from 8pm to 10pm.

Stephen's commitment to organizing and conducting these games has greatly contributed to the success and vibrancy of our ever-growing tennis community. His ability to manage and facilitate engaging matches showcases his leadership skills and passion for the sport. I have consistently witnessed his dedication to creating an inclusive and enjoyable environment for players of varying skill levels, consequently it is noticeable that the Trumper Park community's passion for tennis has flourished.

I have, with Stephen's assistance been included as a participant in the Tuesday ladies' competition that takes place between Cooper Park and Trumper Park tennis complexes. Stephen's involvement in encouraging and enhancing the competitiveness of these events has been instrumental in fostering a sense of camaraderie among the participants, making this a highlight of the tennis calendar.

Furthermore, in the most recent ESTA (Eastern Suburbs Tennis Association) mixed competition, Stephen formed 12 teams to represent Wentworth providing many players, including myself, an opportunity to pursue their passion for tennis and play mixed singles and doubles games on Sundays. Stephen proactively organises reserves when teams have a shortfall of players and has been courtside to offer support and encouragement.

I live closer to the Cooper Park Tennis Courts and hire tennis courts during the week and weekends for social games with friends at both Cooper Park and Trumper Park.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Mr Stephen Day for the Cooper Park Tennis Complex tender. His unwavering commitment to promoting tennis excellence and community engagement makes him an ideal candidate for this role. I am confident that his enthusiastic leadership will further elevate the tennis experience at Cooper Park, allowing the two tennis complexes of Cooper Park and Trumper Park to unite and work as a cohesive cutting-edge facility in the Eastern Suburbs, that will further grow the local tennis community.

Yours Sincerely,

Nimali Silva

Woollahra



Carolyn Nurmi

From: Giuliana Testa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 10:16 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

RECORDED Item: 13287
 Meeting: Council

8 / 4 / 24

Dear Woollahra Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Cooper Park Tennis team in light of recent developments regarding the management of the Cooper Park tennis courts.

The Cooper Park Tennis team, led by Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante, has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, expertise, and community engagement over the past 17 years. Their hands-on approach, extensive experience, and commitment to the local community make them invaluable assets to Cooper Park.

I urge the Council to reconsider its decision and prioritize the continuity and excellence that the Cooper Park Tennis team has consistently provided. Please take into account the overwhelming support from the community for the Cooper Park Tennis team as you make your decision.

Thank you for considering my support.

Sincerely,

Giuliana Testa

Meeting: Cond.Date: 8 / 4 / 24**Carolyn Nurmi**

From: jandcobrien1 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 10:32 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Toni Zeltzer; Harriet Price; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt; Matthew Robertson
Subject: Late correspondence re COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Woollahra Council

Community is a much used word but a slippery concept. Over 17 years Dieter supported by Sarah have created solid community at Cooper Park Tennis Courts, a rare feat these days.

Please give your support to continue this wonderful community of tennis players, cafe lovers and park visitors, all made welcome by the familiar faces that manage the complex.

Excellence should be rewarded. Woollahra Council can reward and continue to support this wonderful place by voting to continue to lease Cooper Park Tennis Courts to those that manage it beautifully.

Kind regards,

Caroline O'Brien

A Paddington Ratepayer

Carolyn Nurmi

From: John Heffernan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 11:18 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre Tender

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2R7
 Meeting: lunt
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Council Members ,

I write to support Wentworth Tennis' Tender for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre .

Steve Day and his family have been excellent community ambassadors for Tennis in the Paddington area since commencing at Trumper Park Tennis Centre.

They have been hard working , diligent and community minded in all aspects of the Tennis Centre. Because they are Eastern Suburbs locals they care about the people , rather than caring about just expanding your particular Tennis business.

My son started being coached by Steve at Wentworth Tennis, in the regular School Holiday Camps they conduct. This was when he was 5 years old. He found a love for the game and has followed this to a full Tennis scholarship at a major Texas (USA) University at age 22. Steve has been a mentor to my son throughout his Tennis career and I am very grateful for his calm guidance.

I believe that Steve Day and family would be very good custodians of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. They would operate the centre with a " community first " attitude and be a valuable asset to the Bellevue Hill community. It would be a natural extension to their way of operating the Trumper Park Courts.

Yours Sincerely,

John & Sue Heffernan
 [REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-287</u>	P47
Meeting: <u>Council</u>		
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>		

Carolyn Nurmi

From: David Goldstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 11:57 AM
To: Records
Cc: Lucinda Regan; Sarah Swan; Richard Shields; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Luise Elsing; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

Dear Woollahra Councilors,

I am a rate payer of the Woollahra council and a user of the Cooper Park tennis courts. I have used the courts for about 30 years.

I support the present licensee of the court Dieter Wilhelmi and the continuation of the licence by him. I oppose the proposal to grant the licence to others.

I am troubled by the process that the Council has adopted and its lack of transparency. The process has not been made available for viewing by those affected in a sufficiently prominent way, In addition the council has not taken any account of the views of the users by way of a process which allows users to record their opinions and their views as to how the facility should be run.

Cooper Park tennis is a highly successful operation and is unique. The efforts that Dieter has put in are a significant contributor to that state of affairs. There are other tennis courts in the eastern suburbs that are run on the basis of a webpage (to save costs) and a person who attends the office stating in the main 'I don't know. Refer to the web page'. I don't want to see Cooper Park reduced to that state, do you ?

There is also the question of Pickleball. Most users want the maximum amount of courts available so they can play tennis .That is a result of a successful tennis facility that has been created. There is a benefit to all in the municipality. Inform yourself about how many people are wanting lessons.

Perhaps a pickleball facility can be created elsewhere. The Woollahra municipality is large and expanding facilities is a good thing. Better than cannibalising the facilities that exist.

I suggest that there is no purpose going against the wishes of the actual users of the Cooper Park tennis facility.

Also the term of the new licence is too long if a new operator is put in who is not supported by the users.

Yours faithfully,

David Goldstein.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Stephen Fenton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 12:14 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter O'Connell; Margaret Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS Meeting

13.2R7

Meeting: coming

Date: 8 / 7 / 24

Dear Woollahra council committee members.

I write in support of maintaining the incumbent and status quo in regards to the ongoing running of the Cooper Park tennis centre.

Dieter and Sarah have done a great job to maintain and preserve this facility as a treasure for the Woollahra community and its many tennis players. They have the proven experience and track record which cannot be guaranteed with a new operator, and the ongoing love and care of this facility will be invaluable compared to any small differential that may be on offer.

Your sincerely,

Dr Stephen Fenton
 [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Michelle O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 12:47 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre

DRRO Item: 13-2 R7
 Meeting: 6:00 -
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24 -

To whom it may concern,

With reference to the Council meeting held on the 8/4/24 with agenda item R7 - reference Cooper Park Tennis Centre

As a long standing member of Wentworth tennis centre, playing weekly I have a real understanding of the Community built by Stephen Day and his team. It is very clear how they have build personal relationships with the community and members over the years. By offering a welcoming and inclusive environment where people feel connected and supported.

The whole team, including Stephen and Anne, have a personal stake in the success and satisfaction of their members and guests. Their hands on approach and personalised attention to each individual's needs and goals creates a sense of value and care the is appreciated certainly by myself and is clearly evidently appreciated by the community.

There is also a commitment to providing high quality tennis programs, coaching and facilities sets Wentworth tennis centre apart. Community members can trust that they are receiving excellent instruction and resources to help improve their skills and enjoy tennis. Their dedication to continuously improving the enhancing the tennis centre shows a great commitment to offering the best experience possible. Whether it is upgrading the facilities, introducing new programs or hosting exciting events, they are always seeking ways to better serve their members.

On a personal note, what I really appreciate at Wentworth tennis Centre, as compared to other centres where they are owned by larger groups is the personal and tangible stake in the success and satisfaction of its members. Their hands on approach and personalised attention to each individual s needs and goals creates a sense of value and care that I really value. I like the way they know the people who walk through the centre on the way to the station etc and get to know them, without any intent to sell the centre but with the full intent to have a welcoming happy community feel.

I could not reccommed Stephen Day more highly to be a successful applicant in the Cooper Park Tennis Centre and know with utmost certainty they would create the same successful centre as they have at Wentworth Tennis Centre.

I am available to discuss directly if required.

Warm regards,

Michelle O'BRIEN

Michelle O'Brien

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: 13-2R7
Meeting: <u>6.00.00</u>	
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>	
To: Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt; [REDACTED] 'Sandra Collier'	

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 12:50 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt; [REDACTED] 'Sandra Collier'
Subject: Late Correspondence re. Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Dear Woollahra Council members, I have played tennis at Cooper Park for a bit over a year, and always look forward to visiting the tennis courts in their unique, park like setting. I also appreciated the friendly way in which the courts and café are run by the current operators. I understand that the lease has now been put out to tender.

I would very much like to see the courts continue to be run by the current team led by Dieter Wilhelmi. The team is highly experienced, having run the courts and café for over 15 years. They are really an important part of the unique and special character of the Cooper Park tennis facility. Given their past track record, there is no doubt that they are best positioned to preserve and enhance the heritage character of the courts and their unique surrounds. The other bidders appear to be more or less faceless organisations operating similar sports centres around Sydney. Their bids might be financially more attractive, but in the case of Cooper Park, monetary considerations should be secondary to community service considerations. As far as the latter are concerned, the current management team has a well and truly proven, excellent track record.

I sincerely hope that Council will make the right decision in selecting the best suited tenderer for the future operation of the Cooper Park tennis centre.

Yours faithfully,
 Gerhard Benz
 [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Christa Pritchard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 1:34 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Council,

I am writing to you once again to express my ongoing concerns regarding the future of Cooper Park Tennis Courts. Despite having conveyed these concerns at the end of last year, they unfortunately remain unaddressed after the recent Council meeting.

Under the stewardship of Dieter Wilhelmi, Sarah Morante and their dedicated team, the tennis courts have flourished and have become a hub for the local community. It is evident that their contributions have been invaluable over the years. However, I am disheartened to observe that they have been overlooked in the initial and recent tendering processes.

The support voiced for the incumbents by hundreds of players and visitors to the cafe underscores their integral role within the community. Their proven ability to manage a tennis facility effectively and respecting the established social tennis groups, is unmatched. It is perplexing that the overwhelming local support for them has been disregarded thus far.

It is crucial to recognise that not every decision made by the Council should be solely driven by financial considerations. While it may be tempting to opt for the higher bidders, such decisions often neglect the long-term viability and stability of the institution. Moreover, the burden then placed on the Council to rectify any shortcomings can be arduous.

Given the impeccable track record of the current Leaseholders and their expressed willingness to continue, I urge you to revisit the decision-making process and ensure that Dieter, Sarah and their team are included in the ongoing discussions regarding the future of Cooper Park Tennis Courts. Their continued involvement is essential not only for the courts success but also for the cohesion and well-being of the local community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards

Christa Pritchard
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

P52	
LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2R7</u>
Meeting: <u>Conc.</u>	
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>	

From: Pat Waterman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 1:38 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre

I am aware that Steven Day, from Wentworth Tennis Centre, has tendered for the contract to run Cooper Park Tennis Centre. I write in support of his application.

I have known Mr Day for four years and have been playing tennis regularly at Wentworth during the whole of that period. Wentworth Tennis is run very efficiently. Mr Day, and his staff, ensure that all events at the centre happen on time.

The staff at the club are invariably helpful and courteous. Mr Day is the most diplomatic of men; sensitive and perceptive in his dealings with a diverse public. I think that he has led his staff by setting a good example. His ethos of fairness and decency is clear to all who have dealings with him.

I have no hesitation in recommending Mr Day to those who have responsibility for awarding the contract.

I provide my contact details below.

Stephen Farrer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.2 R7
Meeting:	Comm
Date:	8 / 4 / 24

From: Sylvia Enfield [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 2:15 PM
To: Records
Subject: The cooper park decision .

Dear councillors

I have written about this issue before and found it hard to believe that you are apparently set to hand over the running of the tennis club to an unknown group despite the absolutely overwhelming community preference to stay with the current tenants. apparently it is a decision based on a financial basis. It is deeply upsetting to know that money in my council means more than the community wishes.

Please be aware that this is a most unpopular outcome if you do decide to remove the current very popular lease holders. You may well see a drop in usage as a result . I hope you will be persuaded to leave the decision at least for the time being.

Yours sincerely

Sylvia Enfield

A long time frequenter with my family to the courts. Not a tennis player but I have a very strong feeling attachment to the club from years of spending time there under its current manager .

Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Graeme Bookallil - [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 2:41 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper park tennis centre

com>	LATE CORRO	Item: <u>B.2.R7</u>
Meeting: <u>Coome</u>		
Date: <u>8</u> / <u>4</u> / <u>24</u>		

Agenda item R7
Council Meeting 8/4/24
Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Hi To whom it may concern

Am writing about Steve and Anne from Wentworth tennis entering their Tender for Cooper Park Tennis 🎾
As having been playing tennis and going to the tennis centre at Paddington for 18 years As well as tennis have attended many Social and community events at the club house Which have been extremely well organised and catered for Steve and Anne are very caring and kind to all the locals and anyone stopping off for a break in their walks to sit and relax Regards Graeme Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

CATE CORRO Item:

From: Gill Nabarro <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 2:45 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Meeting: 6:00 PMDate: 8 / 4 / 24

Being a long time resident of Woollahra, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the awarding of the Tennis Centre lease to a Corporate. I am pleased that Council has seen fit to reopen the tender - the public outcry was well justified.

We live in a community that values hands on, local operators. We do not want online, swipe systems. Safety and social needs are important. We enjoy being a part of the Cooper Park Tennis community and would like to see the personal, community aspect enhanced for the sake of the adults and the children using it.

Thank you for considering the real needs of the Cooper Park users.

GILLIAN NABARRO

Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 3:41 PM
To: Records; Isabelle Shapiro; Richard Shields; Mark Silcocks; Lucinda Regan; Sarah Swan; Sean Carmichael; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Harriet Price; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Susan Wynne; Matthew Robertson; Merrill Witt
Cc: [REDACTED] Nick Lucas
Subject: Re: Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 8 April 2024.

Dear members of Woollahra Municipal Council,

I refer to consecutive tenders (SC7193 and SC7818) relating to the process of selecting a preferred tenderer for the Cooper Park tennis courts.

I wish to voice my opinion that council cannot proceed with the selection of any tenderer, following the disjointed processes to date.

Any decision other than to withdraw from the current process and retender the lease will be seen by the community as a misjustice. This includes the lack of clarity by tenderers and the weighting of the evaluation criteria. At a recent council meeting it was revealed that only 5% was allocated for community interests.

If council has the community interests at heart, it should decide to withdraw from the current tender process and readdress the weighting criteria on behalf of the community it represents.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Lucas
Cooper Park resident.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 3:44 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Re: Agenda Item R7
 Council Meeting 8/4/24
 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Good morning

We have known Steve Day, his wife Anne and his tennis playing family for many years through playing tennis at the Trumper Park, Paddington courts (Wentworth Tennis) Both my wife and I have had many lessons and have found Steve to be a superb coach, vitally interested in your progress through to playing with friends and family.

You only have to see the standard of the coaching on site as reflected by tennis great, Lesley Bowrey teaching her students at the courts.

You also notice a heavy presence of school tennis days well-run camps for children, those with disabilities and competition days for the local people including elders.

Their courts are beautifully presented, the maintenance of the courts and surrounds are always exemplary and the shop is always well presented and stocked.

They are personable, friendly and obviously very good at the job of running a group of courts with all the additional amenities surrounding the courts.

We can heartily recommend Steve and family for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

The community will greatly benefit.

Regards

Lesley and Alan Goulburn

[REDACTED]
 Woollahra 2025
 [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Mark Pritchard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 3:46 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

7th April 2024

Dear Council Members,

I am reaching out once more to address my ongoing concerns regarding the future of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts. Despite bringing these concerns to your attention at the close of last year, I regret to find that they remain unattended to following the recent Council meeting.

Under the diligent stewardship of Dieter Wilhelmi, Sarah Morante, and their committed team, the tennis courts have thrived, evolving into a central gathering place for our local community. Their invaluable contributions over the years are evident. Yet, I am disheartened to note their proposals and tender applications from both the initial and subsequent tendering processes. have been ignored.

The outpouring of support from hundreds of players and visitors to the café underscores the pivotal role they play within our community. Their demonstrated ability to effectively manage a tennis facility while honouring established social tennis groups is unparalleled. It is confounding that the overwhelming local backing they have received has been disregarded in favour of the highest bidder, irrespective of the content of the proposal.

It is imperative to acknowledge that not every decision made by the Council should be driven solely by financial considerations. While it may be tempting to favour higher bidders, such decisions often overlook the long-term sustainability and stability of the institution. Furthermore, rectifying any shortcomings resulting from such decisions can prove burdensome for the Council. Surely Dieter and Sarah's experience of running Cooper Park is going to be invaluable in this unwarranted process.

Given the impeccable track record of the current Leaseholders and their expressed eagerness to continue, I implore you to reconsider the decision-making process and ensure that Dieter, Sarah, and their team are included in ongoing discussions concerning the future of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts. Their continued involvement is essential not only for the success of the courts but also for the unity and well-being of our local community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

Mark Pritchard

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item:

13.2R7

From: Kris Pruszyński [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 3:56 PM
To: Records; records@woollahra.gov.nsw.au
Subject: R7 - Cooper Park tennis

Meeting:

Bondi

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

Dear Council,

My name is Kris Pruszyński and I am the Building Manager of Eastpoint Tower EDGECLIFF as well as long years resident of Eastern Suburbs. I understand that council has been recommended to 'enter into lease negotiations with Young Aces'. I know Will Skeggs and I know that this is the company he set up. I was very pleased to read this recommendation as I used to get coaching from Will Skeggs years ago in Bondi. He sparked a passion in me for the love of tennis. With my recommendation and Will's support and time many of my friends got back to tennis.

Unfortunately due to different circumstances I haven't been able to get on court recently but I will be keen to return to the court with Will if he takes over the lease!

I highly recommend himself and his company as best choice for our beautiful courts in Coopers Park.

Kind regards,

Kris Pruszyński
[REDACTED]

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Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 132 P7Meeting: CouncilDate: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Andrew <a [REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 4:05 PM
To: Records
Subject: Letter of recommendation - Mr Stephen Day - Cooper Park Tennis tender

Date: Sunday 7th April 2024

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Mr Stephen Day – Cooper Park Tennis tender

To whom it may concern,

The reason I have written this letter is to strongly recommend Mr. Stephen Day for the tender process of the Cooper Park Tennis Complex. I had no hesitation in writing a letter of reference as I have known Stephen over many years whilst playing in the Thursday night intermediate/advanced social tennis group held at Wentworth Tennis complex at Trumper Park, Paddington.

Stephen's passionate commitment to the game of tennis and his organisational skills are unwavering not only for the Thursday night social tennis group, but also for many other adult and junior events and competitions. It has been clear over the years, his dedication towards inclusivity, player engagement and organisational attributes have seen continued growth of the local tennis community.

During recent Woollahra council landscaping and pathway upgrade works through Trumper Park and Wentworth Tennis Paddington, Stephen was always diligent by ensuring a safe and clear environment for tennis players and passers-by. Over the years I have noticed at times he was clearing debris from the tennis courts thereby promoting safety for all players.

In conclusion, I fully support Mr Stephen Day's candidacy for the Cooper Park Tennis Complex tender. I have no doubt that he will ensure both Cooper Park and Wentworth Tennis complexes further enhance the tennis player and visitor experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Adney

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13.261

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From:

Mark Llewellyn <[REDACTED]>

Sent:

Sunday, 7 April 2024 4:23 PM

To:

Records

Subject:

Agenda item R7 Council meeting 8/4/24 Cooper Park Tennis

To Whom it May Not Concern.

You could find no better people to run a tennis centre than Anne and Steve Day (and their sons and daughter). Where do I start? I am a long time player at Trumper Park. Both my young sons and I get coaching here, and social games with friends are also always on the agenda. The surrounds are always well kept. So too the courts. Service (excuse the pun) is always with a smile though more often a laugh. The facilities like the toilets showers are clean - and clearly cleaned regularly. There is a sense of family and community. For those of us who take our tennis seriously, there is a serious approach via knowledgeable coaches and up to date techniques taught. And all ages are catered for. And community tennis days give people not only exercise but enjoyment and company. This is not only to their benefit but to the community. I could go on, but it would merely be to repeat what I said at the beginning: you could not find two finer people than Anne and Steve to run a thriving tennis centre. Kind regards, Mark Llewellyn ([REDACTED])

Carolyn Nurmi

Meeting: _____

From:

Lucinda Christie <Luc[REDACTED]s[REDACTED]>

Sent:

Sunday, 7 April 2024 4:37 PM

To:

Records

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

Subject:

Submission for Council Meeting 8/4/24, Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Agenda Item 7

Council meeting 8/4/2024

Re: Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Good evening,

I write in support of the application made by Stephen Day, of Wentworth Tennis Centre, for the Lease of Cooper Park Tennis Centre, which I understand is listed for discussion at a Council Meeting on 8 April 2024.

I have played tennis at the Wentworth Tennis Centre off and on for 10 years, most consistently in the past 12 months. I usually play twice a week, being Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

On Tuesday mornings, a group of older people (and by this I mean older than myself (57) and most probably retired), gather at the court where I play. At least enough people to play doubles on two courts and sometimes more, they arrive as much as half an hour before they play. Mainly local people, but sometimes with a few new faces, they chat and prepare for their matches. Stephen Day, my coach and the lessee of the Wentworth Tennis Centre knows them all, greets them by name, and chats and jokes with them. I too greet them and they me.

On Wednesday mornings, whilst my group plays doubles, three other courts are occupied by players in a social group. Of all ages, they play a round robin format and change partners for each match they play. Between matches they sit and chat with each other and the staff member organising the draw, and of course Steve, who knows everyone.

Anne and Manea, Steve's wife and daughter, run the office/front of house and they too know everyone by name and are friendly, approachable and helpful (Anne makes a great coffee too!). Steve's son Kingston conducts lessons and his youngest son, Teina, arrives very early to sweep the courts and prepare them for the day's play.

The point of all of the above is to illustrate and emphasise the friendly and welcoming atmosphere and sense of community Steve and his family have encouraged and fostered at Wentworth Tennis Centre. It is a welcoming and inclusive place for local people (and their friends) of all ages and stages to meet, be active, chat and enjoy themselves.

We constantly hear and read about the importance and benefits of building and being involved in communities, local and otherwise. Steve, his family and his team of tennis professionals work hard to promote that sense of welcome, belonging and community at Wentworth Tennis. And they have succeeded - it is a happy place.

I have no doubt they would do the same if awarded the Lease for Cooper Park.

Lucinda Christie

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Jane Prout [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 8:19 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>132R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>comd.</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24.</u>

To Whom it may concern,
My name is Jane Prout and I am a user of the Cooper park tennis club and also a rate payer to to Woollahra council. I understand the Cooper Park tennis courts have been put up for tender again. I hope the council is enabling a fair process of tender and assessing all groups who have applied. I support the sentiments of Doron and the beautiful community haven can be maintained as tennis courts only, and be fully available for all members of the community.
Kind regards
Jane Prout
Sent from my iPhone

Zubin Marolia
 Manager Property and Projects
 Woollahra Municipal Council
 536 New South Head Road
 Double Bay NSW 2028

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Craig Swift-McNair
 General Manager

CC – Woollahra Mayor & Councillors
 CC – [REDACTED]

Via email - Zubin.Marolia@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, [REDACTED]

RE: Item No: R7 - CONSIDERATION OF TENDER RESPONSES FOR THE LEASE & OPERATION OF THE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS & CAFE - TENDER NO. SC7818

Dear Mr Marolia,

I am writing to respectfully request Councils consideration to proceed with the original recommendation of the Finance, Community & Services Committee, 02 April 2024.

Sydney Sports Management Group Voyager Operations (SSMGVT) is a tried and tested value-based community organisation. The Directors and CEO are family orientated community minded citizens. The CEO sits on two Eastern Suburbs NFP's (Chairman – Sydney East Special Olympics, Secretary - WNOW (Men's Wellness Group). He also coaches special needs tennis every Thursday at Heffron Park. He is local to the area and would be the dedicated contact point for Council should SSMGVT be chosen to operate this important community asset.

We acknowledge and respect the passion of the tennis community who attended and spoke at the meeting. However, a number of speaker's chose to omit the or misrepresented the relevant facts causing reputational damage and creating a negative perception to the Councillors.

Some of the items that were misrepresented include:

- SSMGVT is not a franchise or a conglomerate.
- Our Capital bid was not dodgy as communicated.
- Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre is not disgusting and dirty, we would not be referenced by City of Sydney if this was the case. The decking does require replacing and this is a City of Sydney capital expense and therefore not a dereliction of our management duties.
- We are not a faceless organisation. In fact, the Directors and CEO all very hands on providing tennis coaching lessons on a weekly basis.

Quite the contrary is the case as evidenced below by our multi-award-winning programs:

- 2017 Tennis Australia Newcombe Medal – Coaching Excellence
- 2018 NSW Tennis Club of the Year – Chatswood Tennis Club,
- 2019 World School Championships (5th)
- 2019 Tennis NSW School of the Year – McDonald College
- 2019 Tennis NSW Most Outstanding Club Finalist – North Manly
- 2021 Tennis NSW Most Outstanding Club Finalist – Heffron Tennis Centre

- 2022 Tennis Australia Newcombe Medal Winner – Luke Bourgeois
- 2022 Tennis NSW Most Outstanding Club Finalist – Heffron Tennis Centre
- 2023 Tennis NSW Finalist - Outstanding Inclusion Initiative – SMASH Tennis

Young Aces Tennis Pty Ltd gathered several representatives on Tuesday evening who were instructed to slander, misrepresent, and attempt to disqualify our organisation from the tender process. We retained our composure and professionalism and as a result the councillors only heard one side of the story which is extremely unfair and unethical. We will be instructing our lawyer's to commence proceedings against Young Aces Pty Ltd for the reputational and business damage incurred as a result of their actions.

Engendering a sense of community

The meeting had vigorous discussion surrounding the topic of "*engendering a sense of community*". SSMGVT values the importance of building inclusive community hubs as evidenced throughout our tender submission. Within 3 months of transition, we will ensure the completion of both 6.11 User Engagement, Tennis Centre User Consultation Plan and will also collaborate with Tennis NSW to complete the Tennis NSW venue audit.

We are passionate about building community hubs, a 3rd place for the community to connect. I was previously the Head of Commercial for the YMCA over a 7-year period. We operated over 200 facilities in NSW / ACT.

The scale of the organisation did not stop us creating local community hubs managed by employees not business owners or directors. Therefore, we refute the premise communicated by speakers on Tuesday evening that you must be a small family operator to deliver community friendly facilities. I have taken the YMCA learnings and implemented them into SSMGVT operations as evidence throughout our tender submission.

We are a community-based organisation as evidenced by the Local Government Authority references including City of Sydney, City of Willoughby, City of Ryde, Tennis NSW Awards and the testimonials from community-based organisation included in the Appendix section of our tender response.

We will ensure Cooper Park is an inclusive facility for all people and all ages.

Community Access and Inclusion

We are committed to access for all as evidenced through the management of our existing facilities including:

- Special Olympic Tennis at Tennis World North Ryde and Heffron Park
- We partner with NOVA disability employment employing staff with intellectual disabilities with placements at Willis Park and Tennis World North Ryde
- Hosting regular LGBTQIA+ events in partnership with Tennis Sydney.
- In partnership with Tennis NSW and Special Olympics we administered the SO NSW State Tennis Championships at Cintra Park Tennis Centre
- We partnered with Tennis Sydney, LGBTQIA+ and Tennis NSW in the delivery of the World Pride Open Gay tournament.

Community Investment (Tender Bid)

- We will support a local school with free weekly coaching as is the case at Rushcutters Bay Tennis centre with the Plunkett Street Public School.

- Our tender includes an adopt a school program with a reference provided from the principal of Plunkett Street school Woolloomooloo. The program provides free tennis coaching, court hire and bus transportation amounting to circa \$20K+ per annum.
- SMASH mental wellbeing tennis program which was nominated for the 2023 Tennis NSW Access and Inclusion award. We will administer 4x10 week free SMASH mental health program.
- We will provide free and reduced logistical EV bus transportation to schools and camp participants through the NSBC Group.

Community Programming (Tender Bid)

Community Championships – replicate the Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre annual Community Tennis Championships that is open for all community members. In 2023, we received 242 applicants entering the competitions that caters for all ages and skill levels. This community initiative will be replicated at Coopers Park.

Junior Hotshots Tournament - SSMGVT managed facilities administer quarterly Junior Hotshots tournament for local children to compete against one another for prizes and trophies. The tournaments are designed for students who are enrolled in our Hotshots programs to challenge themselves with all the coaching they have received over the term.

In addition, we administer Friday night Junior Competition through the Term and also provide a complimentary BBQ for the competitors and for their parents. It is our commitment to grassroots tennis and the promotion of junior tennis. We will commence these initiatives should SSMGVO be successful with our tender bid.

Social Tennis - Community Connection is established through weekly sessions. Social Tennis at Rushcutters Bay Tennis + Café continues to be very popular with social held 3 x sessions per week. We ensure that a tennis coach staff member is allocated to each social session who provides administration support and ensures everyone involved has an equal amount of matches. Should we be successful with the Cooper Park tender we will replicate this successful model. We will maintain the existing Friday night social.

Annual Open Day - We will administer an Australia Open Tennis Day where the courts open to the community for free, with free coaching also available for both juniors and adults, with a complimentary BBQ provided to all community members.

Examples In Action (Can be replicated at Cooper Park after completing user survey)

Organisations and groups for older people and older individuals - The Man Walk - Heffron Park Tennis Centre continues to support 'The Man Walk' group which connects and supports men whilst walking and talking. The group starts off and finishes off at Heffron Park Tennis Centre 2 x mornings per week. The walk is then followed up by free coffee and group chat at our facility.

Young people and youth related organisations - Youth Off The Streets (YOTS) - Heffron Park Tennis Centre offers a subsidised tennis program, where we provide access to tennis court hire, a tennis coach and equipment. Each week circa 10-15 students participate in the coaching session. YOTS is a community organisation that helps disadvantaged young people that experience immense personal trauma, such as being homeless, [drug dependent](#) and/or [recovering from abuse](#).

Member's Christmas Lunch (Chatswood Tennis Club) - We also build community through organising a lunch with the club for circa 100+ members.

BBQs - We have regular BBQs at all our managed facilities on Saturday mornings and at the end of the evening competitions terms. This provides an excellent opportunity to connect with each other of the court.

Ladies Clinic Thursday Morning – we provided a free Christmas lunch to the 16 ladies who attend weekly. They usually relax with coffee after their clinic each week.

Social Sunday - up to 80 members attend Chatswood every Sunday and we administer the schedule and BBQ.

Night Competition – we administer weekly competitions across all our partner venues and enjoy a BBQ and social connection at the end of each term.

The Process

SSMGVT submitted two tenders to Council, engaged in two meetings to clarify Council's queries, and attended two Council meetings in person. We scored the highest on both tenders based on Council's tender criteria and being recommended on two occasions by the Council tender panel and on the second submission by the panel with a probity consultant engaged. We have a 30-year proven track record of delivering to Sydney communities and Local Government Authorities.

We followed due process and compliance with the local government tendering act, we have not contacted Councillors during the tender process. We submitted all additional requests and queries to Council in a timely manner.

We did not:

1. Engage in a negative reputationally damaging propaganda campaign.
2. Misrepresent other bidders on social media.
3. Defame and make inaccurate allegations in a public Council meeting.
4. Load the gallery with our staff member, (eg) Mike Etherington (Head Coach – Rushcutters Bay Tennis centre – 11 Years employed), community ambassadors, school Principals and loyal tennis customers.

We are an organisation that respects community and partnerships. We respected all speakers on both occasions. This was not reciprocated by the other bidders and some of the public. I personally felt intimidated and under attack and therefore it was difficult to gather my thoughts and respond in a succinct manner. We work tirelessly to build our reputation and have found this tender process incredibly challenging.

Right of Reply – Given the derogatory and inaccurate comments communicated in relation to Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre & Café, our fully costed capital plan and the impact on our brand, we believe it is a fair and reasonable request to have a right of reply so we can set the record straight and protect our hard-earned reputation.

Request

We are seeking legal advice and have concerns that Young Aces tender submission could be deemed non-compliant with respect to Schedule D and proven experience in delivering large scale capital projects. Therefore, we request Council to proceed with the original recommendation that will provide Council, ratepayers and the community with an enhanced community hub and an improved financial position.

We suggest Young Access is an untested entity and Cooper Park should not be a testing ground for Will Skeggs and Brian Gaitz to collaborate. It would be a risk to test a new operating model at such a significant facility on a 14-year lease.

They have not operated an 8-court venue and do not have appropriate experience including Local Government tennis facility management and capital works project management.

Compliance with Schedule D – Tenders shall provide details of three contracts or agreements of a similar nature with relevant referees.

- Similar nature – 8 Court tennis complex with fully catered café
- Young Aces manage the coaching program only not the community asset as this is managed by the Belrose Tennis Club.
- Belrose Coaching Program is only 4 courts.
- Bondi Tennis Centre (Brian Gaitz) is only a 3-court facility.

Should Council decide to enter direct negotiations with Young Aces we respectfully request that we should also be allowed to negotiate and suggest the following inclusions as part of the negotiation.

Direct Negotiation

- Community KPI's – We absolutely support this position. This is the case with the operation of Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre - City of Sydney who has recently extended our lease because we delivered on the community KPI's over a 5 year period.
- Quarterly Reporting and KPI review as is the case with City of Willoughby (Willis Park – 15 court complex) – ensure adherence to lease.
- Justification of the capital expenditure bid and evidence of operator's ability to execute major capital works projects.
- Proven Transition capability – deliver business continuity evidenced by references to ensure the Cooper Park tennis community is not disrupted with a change in management and programming. This is extremely resource intensive and we have the capacity, capability and proven experience.
- Child safety – a thorough review of the organisations child safety policies, systems, and framework with consideration to the 10 Child Safe Standards and ensuring they are embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- We would also request Councillor's and Council staff attend site tours of SSMGVT operated facilities, meet our staff, and communicate with our Council partners.
- Independent Financial Score Card – ensure bidders can deliver on the significant capital investment required and will sign capital and lease guarantees.

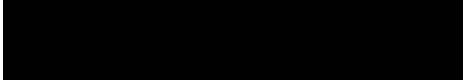
To clarify we are certainly not a conglomerate and a faceless organisation as was suggested by a number of the speakers last night. We are a midsize value-based organisation that has the head of a corporate and the heart of a community organisation. As a midsize organisation we have the benefits of economies of scale, supplier buying power, excellent governance and are not single point dependent.

We would appreciate the opportunity to speak at Monday night's Council meeting so Scott Riley (Managing Director) – 30 Years experience operating community tennis facilities and Luke Bourgeois (Director) - 2022 Tennis Australia Newcombe Medal Winner be provided the opportunity to set the record straight and protect our reputation.

Finally, we will be administering a community tennis competition this Sunday at Heffron Park with 60 beginners and intermediate players attending. This is an all-day event including lunch and a prize ceremony. I would like to invite any interested Councillors to attend and would value the opportunity to show them first-hand how we build social capital within our managed facilities thus removing the negative perception that was created on Tuesday night.

Should you require additional information. I can be contacted on 0447553159.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Richard Price.

Richard Price
Chief Executive Officer
Sydney Sport Management Group Voyager Operations

LATE CORRO Item: 13-2870

Meeting: Comp

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Geoff Tasker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 8:42 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis

Dear Councillors and staff,

I write as a local and a regular player at Cooper Park tennis courts, along with my family and friends – a number of whom I have met through Cooper Park tennis.

I am happy with how the courts have been run by the incumbent lessee over their tenure and would like them to continue as the lessee.

I realise that there are commercial considerations, and I am not aware of the amount they (or other tenderers) are offering.

I expect that the proposed tenderer is offering more but I am asking if the additional amount is significant enough to change.

The benefit of a known lessee who has community support has value.

Indeed one of the major stressors of community is change – something happening more and faster now to us all – and to have the peace and continuity of our parks and community facilities provides relief from that.

To my view, Council has done well in this area and I hope that you will continue to do so.

So I my question to you is; Is a change in lessee driven by the 'need for change', by the improved return (higher rent and/or investment in the facilities), and is the value of continuity and the support of the community being properly weighed against these?

Thankyou for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Geoff Tasker

[REDACTED]
Bellevue Hill

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Pamela Mikl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:10 PM
To: Records
Subject: Re Cooper Park

13-219	
LATE CORRO	Item: _____
Meeting:	<u>Wentworth</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

To whom it may concern

I have played at Wentworth tennis for over 10 years and have known Ann and Stephen Day and their family all the time that they have been running the courts and many excellent programs there. The emphasis has been on service and I thoroughly enjoy and benefit from playing at those courts.

Cooper Park could also grow and benefit from their management and feeling of community.

Yours faithfully
Pam Mikl

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Carolyn NurmiLATE CORRO Item: 13-2 R7

From: Barbie Hazell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:22 PM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda item R7. Council Meeting 8/4/24.

Meeting: Wentworth
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24
 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

To whom it may concern

I write this email as a recommendation for the current management of Trumper Park (Wentworth) Tennis Center, Stephen Day and Anne Day.

I understand they have applied for the tender for the Lease and Operations of Cooper Park Tennis Centre. My family of 4 (Barbara (50) Myles (49), Tigerlily (7) and Wolfgang (10)) wholeheartedly supports this application. We all play tennis at the Trumper Park centre and love it.

Stephen Day and Anne Day provide a fantastic amenity to the area in running this centre. Its a delightful and human part of the community that not only encourages fitness but also supports engagement with the community.

Please feel free to contact me via email if you have any questions.

Your sincerely

Barbara Hazell

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 132R7

P73

Meeting: Wool.

Date: 8 / 4 / 24.

Peter Cavanagh; Luise Elsing, Nicola

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:28 PM

Records; Merrill Witt

Richard Shields; Toni Zeltzer; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Peter Cavanagh; Luise Elsing, Nicola Grieve; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks

Late Correspondence regarding the Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Dear Members of the Woollahra Council FS & C Committee,

On 5th November 2023 I sent a very lengthy email to you regarding the lease of the Cooper Park tennis courts. I detailed the reasons as to why there should be no changes to the current lease. All my concerns still apply.

I was very pleased that at your subsequent meeting it was decided that the tennis courts were to remain.

I enjoy my tennis days at Cooper Park, playing tennis and then having morning tea at the café afterwards.

I feel that Dieter & Sarah and the rest of their tennis coaching staff, as well as their café staff, have provided a warm & friendly atmosphere over the many years that have been there.

I have also enjoyed the fact that, on most occasions, it has been relatively easy to find a car parking space in the car park, although it is sometimes difficult with trucks & boats also parking there.

I thoroughly enjoyed the recent fun day celebrating the Centenary of Cooper Park with our friends & hosted by the lessees, coaching & café staff. Everyone had a fantastic day.

I dearly hope that the current set-up remains, and that Cooper Park stays as one of the best tennis centres in Sydney, situated in an idyllic park, uncrowded, and retains that wonderful atmosphere for me and all of my friends.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Stuart Jones

PSJones

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Ana Curran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:33 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper park tennis centre

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Dear council

Re: Agenda item R7

Council meeting 8/4/24 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

I am writing to wholeheartedly support Wentworth Tennis as the premier choice for providing tennis services to the Cooper Park tennis centre. I have known them for over 5 years and my three kids and I have used their services. Wentworth tennis is a longstanding family business dedicated to fostering a love for tennis and promoting healthy lifestyles, Wentworth Tennis embodies the values and commitment necessary to serve the community effectively.

Wentworth Tennis offers high-quality training programs for individuals of all ages and skill levels. Their team of certified coaches ensures that each participant receives personalized attention and instruction tailored to their specific needs.

1. As a family-run business, Wentworth Tennis prioritizes creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the community. Their dedication to fostering a sense of camaraderie and teamwork extends beyond the tennis court, enriching the overall experience for participants and their families.

Wentworth Tennis is deeply committed to giving back to the community through various outreach initiatives, including collaborating with local schools and organizations. Their proactive approach to community engagement demonstrates a genuine desire to make a positive impact beyond their business operations.

2. In conclusion, Wentworth Tennis possesses the necessary expertise, values, and resources to be the ideal choice for providing tennis training services to the Cooper community. I have full confidence that their involvement will greatly enrich the lives of participants and contribute positively to the overall well-being of the community.

Sincerely,
 Ana Curran (née Diaz Serrano)

[REDACTED]
 Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Mosh Wakil [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:44 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts - Future Management

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-207</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Dear councillors

I am writing in regards to the tendering process of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts, and expressing my sincere hopes that the process prioritises the courts and its proper management in the future. I lived a few minute walk away from the courts for 27 years, grew up playing tennis there and have very fond memories of the courts, including how they were managed and cared for by local operators

I have heard through the grapevine that there is a tender process for the courts' management, which was originally awarded the contract to a large corporation (SSMG). I believe that this decision was reversed, and hope it stays that way, and that courts stay in the hands of local operators who love tennis and our community (as opposed to a large corporation). Moreover, I am aware of at least one other court that the SSMG Group manages (I believe they manage tens of sporting centres), which are kept in very poor condition, with day to day tennis-staff that are not experienced. I am sure there are many things that larger corporations can do better than smaller local operators, however, I believe that managing eight tennis courts in Cooper Park, as a 'community asset' is one better done by local operators focused on the success of one centre as 'their baby'

Thank you for overseeing this process, and considering my thoughts

Kind regards
 Mosh

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item:

13.287

From: tom hodson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 7:52 PM
To: Records
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Meeting: CouncilDate: 8 / 4 / 24

To whom it may concern.

It is my understanding that the council meeting of 8/4/24 will be discussing a recommendation to award the tender for the Cooper Park tennis centre to a group called Young Aces. If this is so then I would like Council to know that I like a number of other people have some concerns regarding this recommendation.

At a previous meeting of Council where another earlier recommendation was discussed members of the public let it be known very clearly that they wanted this tender to go to a local operator and they were led to believe that a 2nd tender process would take place and that local community concerns would be considered when making the next award.

It would seem that community expectations were not heavily considered as this section counted for a lowly 5% of the total point score and all applicants were given a full 5% upfront effectively eliminating this requirement completely. It would be like a handicap race where everybody is given a 5 meter head start.

I am not in a position to know what examination was made regarding the other areas considered. I assume that the expertise of the applicants in actually running the centre to a high standard was looked at as this will be the most important thing in the coming years. It's not much good giving the tender to the group which offers the most money if it transpires that they lack the experience or know how to get the job done.

It would appear that the incumbent team has not been considered. Given that they have been there many years and have run the centre to a very high standard generating a huge amount of public support I for one find this quite puzzling. Both Dieter Wilhelmi and Dr Sarah Morante PhD have vast experience and qualifications when it comes to coaching and have demonstrated by their actions over many years that they know how to manage a facility safely and effectively.

In the next few years a lot of capital works will be conducted at the centre amongst them new fencing, resurfacing the courts and installing new lights to mention but a few. Dieter and Sarah have done these things in the past, there is no doubt they would be able to do them again. Is this true of others, have they shown by action and not merely by a statement on a piece of paper that they will be able to perform these tasks.

If the only real consideration in this recommendation to council is money and not ability then the expectations of the community and those of us who love this facility and enjoy the time we spend here will not be met. Even if the offers amount to 40-50K extra and I doubt they would differ by much more than that, such a paltry sum which wouldn't even pay for 1 council employee will not compensate for what we lose if the high bidder turns out to be unable to run it to the same standard we currently enjoy.

I strongly urge Council to consider all factors involved and make a decision based on merit and not the holy dollar, to do anything else will be a bitter disappointment to the community.

Regards,
 Tom Hodson.

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Emma Stevens
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:56 PM
To: Records
Subject: RE Cooper Park Tennis Centre

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2R7
 Meeting: Council
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Agenda item R7
 Council meeting 8/4/24
 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Dear Woollahra Council

I am writing with regard to the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre, which I understand is listed for discussion at a Council meeting Monday, 8 April.

As a long term resident of Bellevue Hill, and a keen and regular tennis player, I am very interested in the fate of the management of the centre.

As such, I would like to support the application made by Stephen Day, of Wentworth Tennis Centre, for the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

I have played tennis at Wentworth Tennis twice a week for the past 12 years. It is a regular physical and social activity that I really enjoy, mostly due to the wonderful community of people I have met while playing there.

There is a great mix of people of all ages, engaging in a sport we love but more importantly I think, in an enjoyable, regular social catch up. I have made connections with men and women of all ages, and I know most of the regulars really well now.

The source of this wonderful community feeling is without doubt due to Steve and his family, who all work the management of the centre together.

Over the years I have come to know Anne, Kingston, Manea and Teina, and they are a close knit family who all chip in to make the Centre work so well. It is a family affair in every sense.

Anne and Manea run the front office. Kingston, like his father, coaches and organises the kids tennis camps, and Teina takes care of court and centre upkeep.

I know all this because I have come to know the family really well over the years. They are involved in every aspect of Wentworth Tennis and know all the people who play there, personally and by name.

On the days I play I always arrive early to have a coffee and a chat, as do the elderly (in their 80's!) group who play after me. There are nearly always social and competition players catching up in groups, as often off the court as on.

I hope this illustrates the warm and friendly atmosphere, and sense of community, Steve and his family have encouraged and fostered at Wentworth Tennis Centre. It is such a welcoming and inclusive place for local people of all ages to meet, be active, chat and enjoy themselves.

Steve, his family and the team of tennis professionals there, work hard to promote this sense of belonging and community at Paddington.

I am certain they would do the same if awarded the lease at Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

Yours sincerely

Emma Stevens

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Celeste Heazlett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 6:14 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; harriet.price@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; matthew.robertson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Dear Woollahra council committee members

I am writing to support the current management of the Cooper Park tennis centre and express my concern about the plans that are underway in regard to changing the management and maintenance of these courts.

Both Dieter and Sarah have spent their lives establishing a very high standard of care and quality of service at Cooper Park. They have built up an on-going growing community of regular tennis players and have inspired so many more people to play of all ages due to their successful management and care. I have seen Dieter and Sarah successfully make this tennis centre a hub of activity. As someone who has played at various tennis centres and courts all over Sydney I believe Cooper Park Tennis Courts are the most beautiful and well kept tennis courts in one of the most pristine environments in Sydney. Covid injected a new interest in tennis and research is proving it to be beneficial not just for fitness levels and body function but for your brain health too.

I play tennis up to three times a week and the patrons of the tennis centre and the local community seem quite disheartened about the changes that are being implemented and are empathetic to Dieter and Sarah's current predicament. There is confusion as to why change is necessary here.

Thank you for your time in reading this email and I urge you to reconsider your decision on the management of the courts.

Yours sincerely

Celeste Heazlett

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Susan Hauser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 6:34 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2R7

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Councillors,

Re: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

There has been a great deal of discussion in the community recently regarding the future management of our beloved Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

I have been a resident of Bellevue Hill/Double Bay my whole life and have always lived in close proximity to the courts; never more than two minutes away. These courts are where I learnt to play tennis as a young child over 50 years ago and where I have continued to play as an adult. These courts are arguably amongst the most beautiful in Sydney. They are, in a word, unique.

I understand that the future management of these courts will be discussed at a Council meeting this week. I have also heard that you were at one stage considering granting a lease to a large corporation but, after significant community objections, this is now being reconsidered. I cannot think of a poorer fit than a large multi-centre operator. These courts need to be managed by a local independent operator with a love of these courts, who will engage residents, nurture a sense of community and respect the courts' unique and magnificent qualities. Please do not grant a lease to a large corporate entity which will have little interest in fostering any continued sense of community.

With my warmest thanks for your consideration in protecting these unique courts and for listening to your residents,

Susan Hauser

Susan Hauser
 [REDACTED]



LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Jodi Boterhoek

Vaucluse

Cooper Park Tennis Tender
Stephen and Anne Day
Wentworth Tennis

I am writing to express my support for Stephen, Anne and their family-run tennis centre in Paddington. As a fellow business owner operating a weather-dependent council lease, I understand the challenges and importance of fostering a supportive family environment within the business.

Stephen, Anne and their family's dedication to both the sport of tennis and the surrounding community is commendable. They have consistently demonstrated their commitment to nurturing tennis players of all levels, from beginners to social players, ensuring that their weekly hits are not only enjoyable but also beneficial for their development and mental well being.

I have personally witnessed the exceptional maintenance of their tennis courts and running of the clubhouse, which are among the few in the area not subletting to the elite Sydney Stadium members. This decision highlights their prioritisation of local community members and their dedication to providing access to quality tennis facilities for all.

Additionally, their user friendly online booking system are testaments to their professionalism and commitment to customer service, qualities that are increasingly rare in today's business landscape.

I firmly believe that the Woollahra Council tender process should recognise the value of a family run business model over an unproven mix of individual business owners. The continuity, shared vision and passion inherent in a family run enterprise often result in more sustainable and community oriented businesses.

Furthermore, I have been an admirer of Steve Day's coaching style for over 15 years. His unique approach and genuine love for tennis have not only enriched the lives of my children but have also contributed to the success of Wentworth Tennis under his family's management.

In conclusion, I urge the Woollahra Council to consider the invaluable contributions of Stephen, Anne and their family to the local tennis community when evaluating the tenderers. Their passion, dedication and proven track record make them the ideal candidates to operate the Cooper Park tennis centre.

Thank you for your attention to my submission.
Sincerely,

Jodi Boterhoek
Tamarama Kiosk

Carolyn Nurmi

13227	
LATE CORRO	Item: _____
Meeting:	<u>bound.</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24.</u>

From: Veronica Mihajlovic <[REDACTED]@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 7:01 PM
To: Records
Subject: Re: Steve King- Cooper Park Tennis Centre, Woollahra

Agenda Item R7. 8/4/2024

To Woollahra Council,

I hereby highly recommended Steve for the Cooper Park Tennis application. He is a professional, competent and intuitive Tennis coach. I have had the privilege of having weekly tennis lessons with Steve for the past five years.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

Veronica Mihajlovic

[REDACTED]
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2 R7 P82

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 7 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Pensiri Scott
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 7:59 PM
To: Records
Subject: Council meeting 8/4/24: Agenda item R7, Cooper Park Tennis Centre

To whom it may concern,

Council meeting 8/4/24
Agenda item R7
Cooper Park Tennis Centre

I am writing in support of Wentworth Tennis for the tender of Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

I have been a patron of Wentworth Tennis for 3 years, and have been attending weekly group lessons as well as charity tennis days.

The team at Wentworth Tennis offer world class, and top ranked players who teach multiple generations of Woollahra council residents (seniors, adults and childrens programs). Wentworth Tennis has been an integral part of my re-intergration, fitness and socialising post-covid and would be the right choice for the community.

I support their tender for Cooper Park Tennis and look forward to continuing my regular tennis activities with Wentworth Tennis.

Kind Regards,
Pensiri Scott

Pensiri Scott

Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Joanne Robertson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 8:09 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Agenda item R7
 Council meeting 8/4/24
 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Dear Members of the Woollahra Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Wentworth Tennis and their management of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

As a regular player at the facility, I have experienced firsthand the exceptional service and environment they provide for the community.

Wentworth Tennis, led by a dedicated family, has consistently demonstrated their commitment to maintaining the highest standards at the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. The team's friendliness and professionalism create a welcoming atmosphere for players of all levels. Their expertise as tennis professionals ensures that every visit to the centre is a valuable and enjoyable experience.

Beyond their exceptional management skills, Wentworth Tennis has fostered a sense of community at the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. Through social events and inclusive programming, they have brought together like-minded individuals who share a passion for tennis. This positive environment encourages camaraderie and enhances the overall experience for players.

Moreover, I have always found the centre to be impeccably maintained under Wentworth Tennis's management. The cleanliness and attention to detail reflect their dedication to upholding the facility to the highest standard.

In light of these factors, I strongly urge the Woollahra Council to consider Wentworth Tennis for the tender of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. Their proven track record of excellence and their genuine commitment to the community make them the ideal choice to continue managing this cherished facility.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I trust that the Woollahra Council will make the decision that best serves the interests of the community and ensures the continued success of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

Kind regards,
 Jo

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 8:45 PM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda item R7

LATE CORRO Item: 13.2 R7Meeting: ComeDate: 8 / 4 / 24

Hello,

I am writing to you about Agenda Item R7 which will be addressed on the 8/4/24 about the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

I have been informed that Wentworth Tennis has put a tender in for the business and I as a member of the Woollahra community I think they would be an excellent choice for the tennis centre. I have been a customer of theirs for a few years and they run such a wonderful business. They do a great job keeping the courts in great condition and their instructors are the best. My daughter plays with them too and I wouldn't trust her to go anywhere else.

Regards

Dominique Stokes

Sent from my iPhone

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R7</u>	P85
Meeting: <u>Council</u>		
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>		

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 10:49 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

TO: Woollahra Council

I write, as a regular player at Cooper Park Tennis, in support of the current operators of the courts, Mr Dieter Wilhelmi and his team. I should say that I travel across the bridge to play at Cooper Park in good part simply because of the friendly atmosphere and the way in which the courts are managed.

Council will be aware that Mr Wilhelmi has successfully and competently managed the courts for the past 17 years. His team has always been helpful, courteous and, more to the point, very community minded. The value of this contribution is not to be underestimated nor diminished by gross economic assessment.

I am not sure how the Council has accounted for community benefit in its estimation of prospective tenderers. As much as councils are economically challenged, councils are also charged with fostering community wellbeing. Community wellbeing brings its own economic benefit and mitigates against unwanted economic expenditure. There is no question in my mind as to the community benefit afforded by the current management of Cooper Park Tennis, particularly when measured against interests, untested in this locality, which are more 'corporate' and profit-driven in their operational foundation.

I strongly urge Council that it is in its interests and that of the local community to renew the lease of the current management team of Cooper Park Tennis and to support what it provides to that community.

Respectfully,

Antony Gleeson

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-28986</u>
<u>Council</u>	
Meeting:	
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

Carolyn Nurmi

From: M Ellis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 10:59 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Late Correspondence Re: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Dear Councillors,

My name is Michael Ellis and I am writing to you in support of Dieter Wilhelmi and the team he manages in running the Cooper Park Tennis courts.

I have the privilege of playing tennis there for many years twice a week spanning a period of four hours per week. The friendly and efficient service provided by the current management is second to none. There has been a very efficient and friendly hands-on approach in how the complex is managed, aided by the long tenure of those engaged by the business. It has a great sense of community which needs to be recognized, when weighing up other factors such as whether a new entrant might be offering a little more in payment to the Council but at the potential expense of a diminished level of service to those Woollahra residents utilizing the facility.

As a regular player at the courts, I can say that there is widespread support for the present management team to remain, but as is so common they form part of a silent majority who do not formalize their views on such matters.

I thank you for giving consideration to the views I have expressed when determining the outcome of the tendering process.

Michael Ellis

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Michael Bodey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 11:35 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou-Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

As a longstanding and regular user of Cooper Park - both its tennis facilities and parklands - I believe the process for awarding the new lease for the Cooper Park tennis courts be postponed.

I wish the incumbent Cooper Park Tennis Team to continue to lease the Cooper Park site as a tennis club. They have built a loyal and wonderful local community asset that works in concert with the surroundings of a rare local asset. As a user, I have not seen anything from Council or the tenderers to show how there will be any improvements by other lessees.

The current team themselves are local and entrenched in the community. It is clear a number of the tenderers have no local bona fides.

BUT I'm concerned by the undue haste with which this process is being decided, particularly the distribution of the agenda for an April 2 meeting on Easter Monday.

Incredibly, this decision is being made while Council's public consultation for Cooper Park is ongoing (we are yet to see the first draft or be able to comment on it). Why? Surely the tennis courts are a major part of the Park's future?

Also, is there any transparency about why the Woollahra Council's Finance, Community & Services Committee overturned - in secret and quickly - their recommendation for Sydney Sport Management Group (SSMG) / Voyager Tennis Academy as the preferred tenderer, and instead recommended Young Aces last Tuesday?

How did all tenderers receive full marks for the community engagement component of the tender, considering not one of the other tenderers has made contact with, or been seen, by users of Copper Park (Cooper Park Tennis has made contact and discussed the process)?

Why is there no transparency about capex?

This appears to be a shallow cash-grab by the council in which the tenderer offering the highest rent is being chosen. This process does not appear to satisfy good governance and, in fact, raise a number of issues about Council conduct worthy of further investigation.

Obviously, the first effect of awarding the lease to the highest bidder will be higher prices to rent courts. Also, what guarantees are there that the courts will not be used for other higher-yielding commercial purposes, including non-tennis events?

If nothing else, any decision - particularly on a 7-year lease which appears to have no impediment to being triggered to 14-years - should be withheld until Council releases its draft consultation report on the future of Cooper Park.

Regards,
Michael Bodey

--

Michael Bodey

([REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R</u>	P88
Meeting: <u>Council</u>		
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>		

Carolyn Nurmi

From: D&P M. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 11:46 PM
To: Records
Cc: Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Sean Carmichael; Isabelle Shapiro; Sarah Swan; Richard Shields; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

We are writing this email to endorse the incumbent operator of the Cooper Park tennis courts (lead by Dieter Wilhelmi) in regards to the current tender for the next 14 years, being voted on in the meeting tomorrow.

As we understand it, a major factor in decision is the financial offering, with 'consumer engagement' again receiving a mere 5% weighting. Did the Council not learn anything from the ill-fated attempt to turn the courts into a multi-sports facility several months ago?! Cooper park and its tennis courts are a community treasure, and any potential changes should vary a much higher community engagement weighting if changes are to be made with the support of your council's residents versus the angst when we are effectively excluded.

The current operators have run the courts well for many years and are effectively part of the local tennis community.

As we understand it they have committed to investing considerable capital expenditure to upgrade the courts, fences and cafe and adding solar power aligning with the Council's 2030 net zero target.

Whilst no doubt competing tenders would also have committed similar offerings plus presumably higher tender offers, not everything should be about money. The incumbents have a proven track-record with thriving community engagement and effectively running the courts for the past 17 years. If it isn't broken, don't fix it!

As far as we are aware the competing tenders are not local (a Belrose organisation partnering with Bondi Tennis is not really local, nor are SSMG/Voyager), so there is a high risk that a non-local operator would run it purely with profit as a motivating factor with local / community aspect not factored in.

Please consider choosing tender of the incumbent operator of the Cooper Park tennis courts (lead by Dieter Wilhelmi) as the successful choice in the upcoming tender decision.

Best regards,
 Phil and Deborah Moliver

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2 R7

From: philip sewell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 6:31 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Late correspondence for Council Meeting, Monday, 8 April - Cooper Park Tennis

Dear Woollahra Councillors,

As a rate payer, I appreciate your efforts to ensure that the Council obtains value from businesses operating on public land.

However, as a tennis player, regularly playing tennis at Cooper Park for at least the last ten years, I also appreciate the fantastic community that has been built up around the courts (from which I have found many tennis players and friends); the well run operation of the centre; the peaceful cafe and the excellent coaching services (Both my daughters have been coached by Sarah Morante and have gone on to become regular players).

Given the excellent track record of Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante and the support they have from the existing community, does the Council believe that the risk of taking on a new unknown management team is worth it, for what I believe is a fairly insignificant difference in financial offers?

I would therefore strongly urge the Council to retain the services of Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante.

Your sincerely,

Philip Sewell on behalf of all the Sewell family [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Annie Iredale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 7:01 AM
To: Harriet Price; Isabelle Shapiro; Luise Elsing; Mark Silcocks; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Matthew Robertson; Merrill Witt; Nicola Grieve; Peter Cavanagh; Records; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Sean Carmichael; Susan Wynne; Toni Zeltzer
Subject: Cooper park tennis courts

LATE CORRO	Item: 13-2 P99
Meeting:	Conrad
Date:	8, 7, 24

By I understand the councillors are planning to vote for a the leasing of the Cooper Park tennis courts tonight.

There is enormous community support for the current leaseholder to remain and I feel it is not just about tennis but about the happy ambience this current management has managed to achieve over the past years. It is a unique situation. The area surrounding the courts is frequented by people who also use the little kiosk as a meeting place and who don't play tennis. Like a lot of Woollahra, this area has a very local feeling and many people know each other only by sight. It is interesting to note how the proposal of a new tenancy has created so much unity.

Why change something that is clearly working?

Regards, Annie Iredale

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Bryce Lackenby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 6:48 AM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda item R7. Support for Wentworth Tennis application

LATE CORRO Item: 132R

Meeting: CountyDate: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Wentworth Tennis' tender application for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre in Woollahra.

I am an adult tennis player who recently got back into the game a couple of years ago and was fortunate to start playing at the Wentworth Tennis at Trumper Park tennis courts. In this time have benefited from the incredible work of the Day family and the effort and commitment they have put into developing the club.

Specifically, I have benefitted from the following;

1. Weekly social tennis nights where Stephen has created a welcoming, fun and supportive environment to play tennis. I have met some great friends through this and the group is continuously growing in no small part to Stephen's commitment to organising it every week. I have participated in other social tennis nights across the east and none have been as enjoyable and accessible as the ones hosted by Wentworth.
2. Administering weekend competitions where we represent the club. Stephen has actively encouraged several people to form teams and represent the club in the Eastern Suburbs tennis competition.
3. Providing a place for a diverse set of coaches.
4. Keeping the courts and facilities and courts in top condition.

All of this effort has fostered a great tennis community which I am proud to be a member of and to speak out in support for.

In short, given what they have done for Trumper Park, I believe they would be amazing administrators for Cooper Park tennis courts and it would be a boon for tennis in the Eastern Suburbs if their application is successful.

If you have any further questions I would be happy to address them. You can contact me with the details below.

Regards,

Dr. Bryce Lackenby.

[REDACTED] [com](#)
 [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: beatrice zimmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 7:21 PM
To: Records
Subject: Lease continuation

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.2A
Meeting:	Council
Date:	8 / 4 / 24

My husband and I have been playing at the Palms (now Trumper Park) long before Chris Hodsden took over the senior coaching position. Round Robins have never been better organized and the Trumper Park social aspects have improved strongly. Ann and Steve have managed to cater to personal preferences without discord. The Trumper Parks management by Ann and Steve has definitely added benefits to all the players.

Beatrice & Manfred

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Andrea Fernandez
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:17 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre Tender Agenda Item R7

ORRO	Item: 13.2R7
Meeting:	Council
Date:	8 / 4 / 24

Dear Woollahra Council Members,

I am writing in regard to the Cooper Tennis Centre Tender for this evening's meeting Agenda Item R7.

I have worked alongside Stephen Day from Wentworth Tennis Centre for 7 years during his extra commitment and coaching to Waverley College tennis students. I believe that he would be a highly valuable person to lead the tender for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

Stephen is a highly respected and valued member of the Eastern Suburbs tennis community. He has a strong passion for bringing tennis to the forefront of the local community's sense of physical and mental wellbeing. This was particularly evident during the covid lockdown when Stephen went above and beyond to allow members of the community to continue playing tennis to enhance their mental wellbeing and maintain a sense of connection with others.

Stephen's enthusiasm and dedication can also be recognised in his ongoing support of young people. This is evident in his tireless hours providing school holiday camps and supporting young men at Waverley with weekly coaching sessions. He is an excellent role model for the young people in our community. He also has a very strong connection with older members of the community and this enables them to maintain their own physical and mental wellbeing in a place where they feel a strong sense of belonging to the Eastern Suburbs community. This is all due to Stephen's caring and passionate personality.

I certainly believe that Stephen Day and his team at the Wentworth Tennis Centre would be the best choice for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre Tender.

Yours sincerely,
 Andrea Fernandez

--
Andrea Fernandez
 Assistant Head of English



**WAVERLEY
COLLEGE**



We would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation who are the traditional Custodians of the land on which Waverley College is located. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual connections to the land, waters, seas and sky and their rich contribution to society.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
 SKILLED WORKPLACE GOLD ACCREDITED

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Honza Cabejsek [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:23 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre tender

13.2 R7	
LATE CORRO	Item. _____
Meeting: <u>Comm.</u>	
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>	

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing regarding the tender for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. I am a Tennis Australia tennis coach and have been coaching in the Eastern suburbs for almost 20 years. I am currently a head coach at the Bondi Tennis Centre that is run by Brian Gaitz.

I have known Brian for more than 15 years and see him running the centre every day. He lives and breaths tennis and is personally involved in daily activities there. He works early morning, late nights and weekends. I think running successfully a tennis business for more than 15 years, having courts booked all the time by locals and have so many kids coming through for coaching speaks volumes.

I also know Will Skeggs personally, worked with him for many years and we used take kids from the centre to tennis tournaments and kids days at Sydney Olympic Park. He is very reliable, full of ideas and has a great personal approach to kids, juniors and adults.

When I learned that the Cooper Park Tennis Centre was going to be given to a big corporation it did not sit well with me.

I know lots of coaches, tennis operators and from my experience you need to be involved daily in this business to run it successfully. Not to mention both, Brian Gaitz and Will Skeggs, live locally and are involved with community and that is what brings lots of people in, not only adults but more importantly the kids. Please give this matter your urgent attention and reconsider awarding the tender to a big corporation.

Please contact me should you any questions

Kind Regards,

Honza Cabejsek
 [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Janice Eldershaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:26 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Tender

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2R7Meeting: CouncilDate: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to support Wentworth Tennis and their proposal to manage Cooper Park Tennis. I've been playing at Trumper Park Tennis Centre for many years and have really appreciated their management. They provide the usual lessons, restringing, court hire (online bookings available) and tennis events, all efficiently and with a friendly and understanding attitude. Wentworth Tennis is run *by* a family *for* families and community. I recommend Wentworth Tennis.

Regards,

Janice Eldershaw
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Shalini Loomba [REDACTED]@il.com>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 8:54 AM
To: Records
Cc: Mark Silcocks
Subject: Late Correspondence Re: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

To Whom It may Concern,

My name is Dr Shalini Loomba, a local Woollahra Resident for 25years as well as being a Local General Practitioner in Woollahra for 21 years. I have 3 children attending local schools. My full support is behind Mr Dieter Wilhelm ably supported by Dr Sarah Morante to retain the tender for Cooper Park Tennis Courts. They have provide a wonderful environment to all members of the community and have built relationships with all generations ranging from children to Senior Members of the community.

My children enjoy playing tennis at Cooper Park on a regular basis as well as my self and my Husband Mr Sharad Loomba.

We continue to cherish the friendships we have made through being members of the Cooper Park Community.

Sarah, Dieter and all of the coaches are wonderful coaches and have provided stability over the past 17 year.

I believe that they will also provide Cooper Park tennis Courts with the necessary upgrades in upcoming years.

Kind Regards,

Dr Shalini Loomba.

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item:

13-2K7

P97

Point.

Meeting:

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

From: Nathan Heazlewood <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 8:57 AM
To: Records
Cc: Harriet Price; Isabelle Shapiro; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Mark Silcocks; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Matthew Robertson; Merrill Witt; Nicola Grieve; Peter Cavanagh; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Sean Carmichael; Susan Wynne; Toni Zeltzer
Subject: Late correspondence for Cooper Park tennis, regarding the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 8 April 2024.

Dear Members,

I'm writing to make you aware that the wider communities opinion is that it has not been properly involved in this tender initiation and process.

The Council is merely accepting the highest bid and small operator. There are many other issues that council has not considered in the decision.

It will have huge implications by accepting the Young Aces.

Please do not vote the Young Aces and retender with all of the community considerations before you rush the decision.

Regards,
Nathan Heazlewood

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: 13.2 R98
Meeting: <i>Exempt</i>	
Date: 8 / 4 / 24	

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:11 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Tender

Dear Councillors
Until recently I was a Woollahra ratepayer for 35 years and played tennis regularly at Cooper Park. Since moving to Randwick my family and I continue to play tennis at Cooper Park. I write in support of the application by Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante. In my opinion they have created a vibrant inclusive tennis community which has greatly benefited the municipality. I believe council should prioritise community development over financial considerations and award the tender to them.
Regards
Wayne Mason

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

132-R7

Item.

From: Don Livingstone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 7:53 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis tender

Meeting: CancelDate: 8 / 4 / 24

To whom it may concern,

I write in support of Steven Day's tender for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

I have been playing tennis at The Palms Tennis Centre for 42 years continuously and have seen first hand what a wonderful job Steve and his family have done since they took over the lease here some years ago. The fact that Steve and his wife Ann plus their three children are actively involved in running the centre enables them to provide many coaching courses for all ages and especially some promising junior players; competitions, fitness classes many other related activities. The courts are always kept in immaculate condition and administration is clear and precise. I have played many times at Cooper park and know that Steve and his family will only enhance the experience.

Don Livingstone

{ [REDACTED] }
Edgecliff

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Lucy Walker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 7:40 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Late correspondence for Cooper Park tennis, regarding the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 8 April 2024

DATE CORRO	Item: 13.2 R7
Meeting:	Council
Date:	8 / 4 / 24

Dear Council members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter regarding Cooper Park.

I am reiterating my support for Dieter and Sarah, the current team who have been responsible for the management of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre for the past 17 years.

They have clearly demonstrated their outstanding ability to efficiently manage the centre and ensure that it is maintained to the highest level. They have built up years of knowledge of the courts and surrounds and all the idiosyncracies.

It is obvious that they have made significant capital investments, and continue to go above and beyond with expenditure not only on maintenance but also employing charming staff. They provide a fabulous venue, friendly and welcoming, not only for tennis players but for all members of the rate paying community.

Their commitment and dedication to the venue is clear, on a daily basis, they are fully hands on providing a delightful cafe experience and overall ambiance.

They take an active interest in their coaches, clients and social players, and will bend over backwards to accomodate bookings and other requests.

- Why would council risk losing such a rare gem?
- Why would council jeopardise losing so much good will, with strong community backing, support, and love that Dieter and Sarah have built up over many years.
- Why would council risk all this for an unknown quantity that is frankly, not wanted or needed?
- For what reason would council pursue such an unpopular decision when it is clear the community is totally against it ?

Dieter and Sarah's track record speaks for itself - loud and clear.

I strongly urge council to please extend the current lease.

Lucy Walker

LATE CORRO

Item:

132 R7

P101

Meeting:

Council

8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Shauna Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 7:39 AM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda item R7 - Wentworth Tennis Club tender- letter of recommendation

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the tender application of Wentworth Tennis for Cooper Park (agenda item r7 - meeting date 8/4/24). I highly recommend you accept their application.

Wentworth Tennis is a wonderful tennis company. Stephen has been my tennis coach for many years and he and his team are exceptional. They are amazing supporters of the community, with their school holidays programs being a prime example. Stephen's team are amazing with children and I've personally seen my children flourish from their tennis programs.

I have also seen Stephen's team offer teaching programs to intellectually disabled adults who always have a wonderful time, with their tennis lessons being a highlight of their week. These are just a couple of examples of how Wentworth Tennis contributes to the community. They are not just a tennis club, they are a family and have demonstrated this time and time again over the years with their kind attitude and fun mindset. I always look forward to attending my lessons with Wentworth Tennis. They would be an asset to Cooper Park.

I highly recommend Wentworth Tennis for this tender.

Kind Regards
Shauna Anderson
([REDACTED])

Sent from my iPhone

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item:

3.2 R 02

Council

Meeting:

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

From:

Sent:

Monday, 8 April 2024 7:37 AM

To:

Records

Cc:

Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; nicole.grieve@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Matthew Robertson; susan.wunne@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Mary-Lou Jarvis; merril.witt@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Subject:

LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Council

I am writing this to ask that you retain the current operator of Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

I play tennis at Cooper Park every week so have a very good understanding of how the place operates. The current operator provides a professional approach to the management of the Tennis courts that is supported by their great knowledge of the Cooper Park tennis community. They are very responsive to the needs of the players and professionally manage all aspects of the business.

The staff are extremely knowledgeable and courteous and always strive to ensure everyone attending has a great tennis experience. The cafe is also expertly run with lovely staff who always give you a welcome smile.

They know each of the members and their various preferences.

Basically - there is no reason to make a change - if it ain't broken don't fix it. PLEASE RETAIN THE CURRENT OPERATOR AT COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS.

Thank you

Julie-Anne Scott

Carolyn Nurmi

From: sophie m <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 2:54 PM
To: Records
Subject: Re Cooper Park Tennis Court lease

LATE CORRO Item: 13-2R7
 Meeting: Council
 Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear organiser,

I wish to express my thoughts on the releasing of Cooper Park Tennis Courts to the current operators, Dieter and Sarah.

The successful operation of the tennis courts and cafe is largely due to the caring way these two people operate the complex.

In these days with focus on mental and physical health, this peaceful, natural, tree lined area is vital to the well being of the many people, from seniors to mothers and young children who frequent the cafe and adjacent play areas in all weathers.

The other item to be considered is the great walking areas for the many people exercising their dogs. Also the school groups activities happening in a safe place.

In my many years of travelling from Vaucluse daily to take advantage of the welcoming company of the staff and other seniors at the cafe, I find the place therapeutic.

I hope Dieter and Sarah are successful in managing to maintain their current status as caring, interested managers of this valuable community space. Seniors outdoor meeting places are few and far between in the Woollahra Municipality so for the cafe to remain as is is vital to many of us.

Thank you for reading my email.

With kind regards,
 Sophie McPherson

Sent from my iPad

Carolyn Nurmi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 April 2024 3:57 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis tender

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2 R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

To Whom it may concern

Writing to express my desire that the Cooper Park tennis tender is awarded to a smaller operator that will continue with an approach that has been working very well for the community. I would not like to see a larger group win or see changes to courts (other than upkeep/maintenance).

I am a social player and play weekly with friends and family. I have also had the opportunity to leave near Cooper Park (on Adelaide Parade) in recent years and see this as a vitally important community asset.

Best

Harvey Carter
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

From: Keith Maloon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 11:08 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Club

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.2R7</u>
Meeting:	<u>Council</u>
Date:	<u>8 / 4 / 24</u>

To whom it may concern,

I am a local Eastern Suburbs resident who loves the game of tennis. I feel that the management of an iconic venue like Cooper Park would be best suited to a small business operator. who will have the venue as its focus.

I don't believe that this can be achieved with a manager run organisation

Yours faithfully

Keith Maloon
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13.2.87
P106

Meeting:

Council

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

From: Peter Skalkos [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 11:37 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to voice my concern that the recommendation for the SydneySport Management Group (SSMG) / Voyager Tennis Academy as the preferred tenderer has been overturned.

I have been playing tennis in Cooper Park on a weekly basis for almost 20 years and on a regular basis for more than 30 years.

Higher financial offerings and community engagement only weighing 5% is not in keeping with what the Council says it stands for.

Cooper Street tennis park is unique in that it is a tranquil environment with a community cafe. It should be kept that way and it is my sincere wish that the current team can keep running it. They are dedicated, trustworthy and very knowledgeable about running a tennis centre like Cooper Park. They have committed to upgrades in line with the Council's requirement.

I strongly wish that the Council reconsiders and keep Cooper Park tennis in the very capable hands of the current group.

Sincerely,

Irene Grootendorst

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2R P108

Meeting: 10:00

Date: 8/4/24

From: Phil Mendoza-Jones >
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 7:34 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Councillors

The Community applauds your decision to overturn the tender from Sydney Sports Management Group.

And we would like to recommend the reappointment of the current management team to operate Cooper Park Tennis into the future.

This team is an unmatched partnership.

Briefly ...

For the past 17 years, the Cooper Park tennis courts and café have been operated by a long-standing team who are dedicated to a hands-on, service-oriented approach.

Leading the team is local resident Dieter Wilhelmi. Dieter is a professional tennis coach of 46 years, of which 27 years have been spent at Cooper Park (even living in the upstairs premises). Dieter has also served as an advisor to Tennis Australia, an Olympic program director and university lecturer. Very few in the industry are as experienced and passionate as Dieter, with none as attuned to the unique and special character of Cooper Park.

Sarah Morante has supported Dieter in the management of the centre over the past 17 years. She is also a local resident and professional tennis coach of 28 years who only increases her love of coaching and the Cooper Park community with each day spent there. Sarah has a PhD in sport science and has previously worked as a university lecturer and researcher in that field.

The Cooper Park Tennis team has displayed a similar unique longevity with a number of coaches serving the for past 17 years and various pro-shop/café staff being both local residents and patrons of Cooper Park.

This team possesses incomparable understanding of the local community and Cooper Park tennis courts. They have built relationships that span generations of Cooper Park patrons who enjoy a constancy and trust in the operation of their cherished park and tennis courts.

The team is highly driven and committed to extend this proven track record of successful operation into the future and believes it is best positioned to do so. We will continue to build valued relationships with the Cooper Park community. We will preserve the heritage of the facility beyond its 100th year. We will invest considerable capital expenditure for the upgrade of courts, fences and the cafe, along with the installation of solar power to align with Council's 2030 net zero target.

What more needs to be said? This is a proven, dedicated, professional team who cares about our community. No other potential operator could hope to match these achievements and commitments. We can trust them, and the Council can rely on them to deliver this critically important community service.

We were all there last year at the Council meeting to express our heartfelt love of our community and its services.

Untrained, unprofessional, opportunistic tenders are an enormous risk ... for everyone. Please consider this very seriously.

Phil Mendoza-Jones

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2R7

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 4:36 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

Meeting: Coop.Date: 8/4/24

Dear Councillors

I am a local resident and user of Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

I support the continuation of current management for the reasons they give below.

Thank you for taking my submission into consideration.

Theresa Power

Woollahra

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 4:14 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Last chance for your say on the future of Cooper Park tennis courts

Dear Supporters of Cooper Park Tennis,

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you would like us to remain the operator of the Cooper Park tennis courts rather than have a new group without our exclusive hands-on focus, experience running a similar operation and level of community engagement who simply have offered Council slightly more money, then please write to Council and let them know.

Update

On Tuesday, April 2, Woollahra Council's Finance, Community & Services Committee overturned their recommendation for Sydney Sport Management Group (SSMG) / Voyager Tennis Academy as the preferred tenderer, and instead recommended Young Aces – a tennis organisation based in Belrose and partnering with the operator of Bondi Tennis.

Financial offering has proven to be a highly significant factor in Council's decision-making (whilst community engagement was a mere 5%).

This has meant, despite our financial offer being slightly less than the recommended tenderers, our history of successful operation of the tennis courts and café, our reliable payment of rent for 17 years, the extensive capital works we have completed, and the thriving community we have cultivated are of insufficient weighting for us to remain.

On Monday, April 8, this recommendation will be put to vote at a full Council meeting upon which the next 14 years of management of Cooper Park tennis courts will be decided.

This meeting on Monday is our **LAST CHANCE** to express our wishes for the future direction of our beloved Cooper Park tennis courts and café, and the special community it comprises.

Your Cooper Park Tennis Team

For the past 17 years, the Cooper Park tennis courts and café have been operated by a long-standing team who are dedicated to a hands-on, service-oriented approach.

Leading the team is local resident Dieter Wilhelmi. Dieter is a professional tennis coach of 46 years, of which 27 years have been spent at Cooper Park (even living in the upstairs premises). Dieter has also served as an advisor to Tennis Australia, an Olympic program director and university lecturer. Very few in the industry are as experienced and passionate as Dieter, with none as attuned to the unique and special character of Cooper Park.

Sarah Morante has supported Dieter in the management of the centre over the past 17 years. She is also a local resident and professional tennis coach of 28 years who only increases her love of coaching and the Cooper Park community with each day spent there. Sarah has a PhD in sport science and has previously worked as a university lecturer and researcher in that field.

The Cooper Park Tennis team has displayed a similar unique longevity with a number of coaches serving the for past 17 years and various pro-shop/café staff being both local residents and patrons of Cooper Park.

This team possesses incomparable understanding of the local community and Cooper Park tennis courts. They have built relationships that span generations of Cooper Park patrons who enjoy a constancy and trust in the operation of their cherished park and tennis courts.

The team is highly driven and committed to extend this proven track record of successful operation into the future and believes it is best positioned to do so. We will continue to build valued relationships with the Cooper Park community. We will preserve the heritage of the facility beyond its 100th year. We will invest considerable capital expenditure for the upgrade of courts, fences and the cafe, along with the installation of solar power to align with Council's 2030 net zero target.

How you can help

Make a written submission based on the above information.

Must be received by Council by 10am on Monday, April 8 Email to records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au Copy to:

richard.shields@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, sarah.swan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
isabelle.shapiro@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
sean.carmichael@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
lucinda.regan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
nicola.grieve@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, mark.silcocks@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
toni.zeltzer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, peter.cavanagh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
harriet.price@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
matthew.robertson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
susan.wynne@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, mary-lou.jarvis@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
Merrill.witt@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

List the Subject of your email: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

Address the meeting

If you would like to address Council in-person at this meeting, you must complete the Public Forum Registration Form for "Items on the Agenda for General Manager & Officers reports" (link below)

Microsoft Word - SC1987 FORM Public Forum Registration Form - General Manager and Officers reports - 2022-2023.DOCX ([nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au))

Meeting:

Laine

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

Carolyn Nurmi

From: michael fabian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:37 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear All,

As a long time resident of Woollahra, I am writing to express my surprise and extreme concern at the tender process relating to Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

I watched the meeting that considered the Council's Finance, Community & Services tenderer recommendation of Sydney Sports Management/Voyager on 6 November, 2023. The Councillors' refused to follow the recommendation and decided to restart the tender process, requiring multi-sports to be excluded and insisting that local community interests be taken into account in the subsequent tender process.

Last week, I watched as the Council's Finance, Community & Services tenderer recommendation was again overturned and the Young Aces group from Belrose (affiliated with Bondi Tennis) recommended in their place. The exclusion of multi-sports remains somewhat ambiguous and the requirement to take into account the local community interest was not handled the way it was intended by Council at the original meeting. Tenderers were merely required to pay lip service to the important notion of community interest in their responses and ironically all tenderers scored the maximum of a paltry 5%. This was very disappointing to the local community.

It was very clear from both the discussion and listening to the questions that many of those around the table at the council meeting last week had not read the tender responses and had little real understanding of the tenderers or what it takes to operate a tennis centre. And yet, that did not stop those present from switching from one large corporate tenderer to another non-local one based on a high-level and largely uninformed and misinformed discussion.

I say all this without meaning any disrespect whatsoever to anyone present at the meetings. I know the workload and timeframes are rigorous. And I would like to add that I thought the decision not to recommend Sydney Sports Management/Voyager was indeed the correct one. Their dominant grip on some 20 plus tennis centres in the Sydney area, combined with their lack of local community knowledge is of real concern.

Moreover, a large number of local residents, including myself, prefer that the tender not be awarded to Young Aces. They have no experience with the local community. The local Cooper Park and broader Woollahra community would like a group with local, hands-on knowledge and experience in place. We strongly and overwhelmingly prefer the incumbent operator Dieter Wilhelmi and his first class team who have proven themselves so well over the period they have been operating Cooper Park Tennis courts. This must be very clear to Council based on the turnout of residents at both meetings and the volume of correspondence it has received.

Given the demonstrated division and indecision within Council, combined with the enormous support Council has witnessed for the incumbent operator, it would seem prudent at the very least to take a step back and restart the tender process and get it really right this time. Before awarding a 14 year lease (7+7) for this unique tennis centre in Woollahra, it is incumbent on Council to ensure it has left no stone unturned in making the right decision. It needs to de-risk the chance of making a hasty, uninformed decision that has not adequately included local community input.

I appreciate that for some in Council the annual rental is the most important factor in awarding the new lease - and this was reflected in it being by far the single most important criterion in the evaluation process. On the other hand, the local community's main driver is the day-to-day, friendly, knowledgeable, experienced and hand-on approach of the operator. The present incumbent ticks all those boxes and more. Change for the sake of change and making the bottom line the ultimate criterion are risk-laden approaches that drive negative behaviour.

I urge Council to take the difficult but in my opinion correct and fair decision to restart the tender process and this time with real community input in the process. This would help yield the right result and go a long way to clearing up the negative perception in the community about this tender process to date. There is an extremely strong sentiment about this matter in the local community that should not be underestimated.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my comments above.

Yours faithfully.

Michael Fabian

[REDACTED]

Woollahra, 2025 NSW

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13.287</u>	P114
<u>bound</u>		
Meeting: _____		
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>		

From: Matthew Butler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 9:01 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

To whom it may concern,

I understand there is to be a meeting soon on the future of cooper park tennis courts.

I was in favour of the previous plan which would have provided facilities such as table tennis, squash, pickle ball. So long as this was tastefully constructed. However I know this is no longer on the table.

I understand 'Young Aces' is due to win the contract.

I'm writing in their support. I understand there will be a vocal part of the community wanting to keep the current tenants however I feel:

1. There has been a poor junior tennis program with the current tenants (ended pre-COVID). I am very excited to see how Young Aces has a terrific website, junior camps, competitions, dedicated coaches, birthday parties etc - well thought thought programs to engage our youth. This is lacking with the current tenants. With 2 children (ages 5 and 2) it is very exciting to see this new operator really cater to that.

2. No classes. I see on Young Aces a fantastic schedule my children would definitely participate in: <https://www.classhub.com.au/provider/youngaces/2024/1> - the current tennants are more focused on the older residents I think vs young.

3. The website of young aces is fantastic, very engaging for the whole community.

4. Services like restringing I believe are not offered by the current tenants.

5. For adults the focus has definitely been on the older side of the community. For those in their 20's, 30's or 40's there is no information around how to find similarly skilled players to compete with? Competitions, ladderboard etc. I would love to participate but it's just the 'same old crowd' I think those who control things with no real interest in starting a dynamic leaderboard and meeting players of all ages and different levels of skill. I get it and they have a great club, but it's a little exclusionary.

6. There has been no cooked food at the cafe for 1+ years. It used to be one of my favourite places to go for breakfast. I understand due to the uncertainty over the last year perhaps a cook wasn't hired after the last left. But it has been a LONG time without a chef in SUCH a beautiful spot. Their previous chef really was good, incredible simple breakfasts - it was a shame they left. Would love for him to return!

One thing about the current tennis cafe - I love it - hopefully that beautiful quiet air doesn't change about the place. It's such a lovely spot. That's something I hope doesn't change.

I know there is going to be a very vocal part of the community at the meeting. But wanted to voice another perspective. I think perhaps a bit of a change might be good in many ways. P115

All the best,

Matt

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

P116
Item: 13.2R7

From: Edmund Walkley <[REDACTED]@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 10:30 PM
To: Records
Subject: Agenda item R7 Council meeting 8/4/24 Cooper Park Tennis Centre

Meeting: Council
Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Woollahra Council Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the tender application submitted by Wentworth Tennis Club for the expansion of its footprint through a merger with Cooper Park Tennis Club. As a longstanding member of the community and a passionate advocate for recreational sports, I firmly believe that this merger will bring about numerous benefits and contribute significantly to the local tennis scene.

The proposal to combine Wentworth Tennis Club and Cooper Park Tennis Club into one entity operating across two different venues in our community is both innovative and promising. By joining forces, these two clubs have the opportunity to pool their resources, expertise, and facilities to create a stronger, more vibrant tennis community for all members.

First and foremost, a merged club would provide enhanced opportunities for tennis enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels to participate in the sport they love. With access to a wider range of facilities and programming, members will be able to enjoy a more diverse and enriching tennis experience. Whether it's competitive leagues, recreational play, or youth development programs, a unified club would offer something for everyone, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community spirit among players.

Furthermore, the consolidation of resources resulting from the merger would enable the club to make significant investments in facility improvements, equipment upgrades, and maintenance projects. This would not only enhance the overall quality of the tennis experience but also ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of the club for generations to come.

From a logistical standpoint, having one club operating across two venues in close proximity offers distinct advantages in terms of accessibility and convenience. Members would have the flexibility to choose between two locations based on their preferences and scheduling needs, thereby maximizing participation and engagement within the community.

Additionally, the merger presents opportunities for synergies in marketing, administration, and programming, leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness in club operations. By consolidating administrative functions and streamlining processes, the club can allocate more resources towards delivering exceptional tennis programs and services to its members.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the tender application submitted by Wentworth Tennis Club for the expansion of its footprint through a merger with Cooper Park Tennis Club. I believe that this collaborative endeavor holds tremendous promise for our community, and I urge you to consider it favorably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Ed Walkley

Carolyn NurmiMeeting: Cooroo

.com>

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Marjorie Maydwell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 5:07 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Woollahra Council

Apologies for this late correspondence regarding the future operations of Cooper Park Tennis Courts to be put to a vote at the full Council Meeting, Monday 8 April.

I note Council's intention (Item R7), subject to vote, to enter into negotiations with Young Aces Tennis as the operator of Cooper Park Tennis Courts, for a 7 year, with a further 7 year option, term.

The current operators of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts have successfully delivered:

- ✓ Thriving tennis hub
- ✓ Clean safe environment
- ✓ Rental security for the past 17 years to Council
- ✓ Successfully completed all extensive capital works programmes to date, despite the complexity of the very unique environment in this local heritage listed site and all the while maintaining the safe sanctuary of the Park's flora and fauna.
- ✓ Proven track record
- ✓ Proposing ongoing capital investment for upgrades of cafe, pro-shop, courts and fences
- ✓ Sustainable environmental investment - with further renewable and energy solutions to ensure Council will meet its 2030 environmental objectives.

The current operators tick all the criteria and are clearly keen to continue to operate the Cooper Park tennis courts, with the focus on the whole site and vision to ensure Council meet their sustainability goals!

Council shouldn't be engaging with an entity that only delivers part of this very vital criteria.

My husband and I have been residents of Woollahra for over 30 years and walk Cooper Park every day. My children, now adults and residents themselves, grew up enjoying treasure hunts in the Cooper Park "magic forest". They are keen tennis players and regularly play at Cooper Park.

The current operators, with 17 years of experience, have a unique understanding of their location, Cooper Park - a highly cherished local heritage listed site - and the community, building relationships which have spanned generations. As a family we have witnessed their investment of very difficult and successful structural upgrades of the courts over the years to the beautiful centre it is today. **The courts, originally unplayable as soon as it sprinkled and impacted by constant flooding, now have such great drainage, that at 8:15am yesterday morning - 6 April - after unprecedented rain, matches were in play!**

Thanks to the hardworking and dedicated Cooper Park Tennis team, the centre thrived through COVID, providing the community with much needed outdoor activity in a clean and safe environment.

The Cooper Park Tennis team have **proven** they have a **sustainable** knowledge of, and respect for, the site and community. Cooper Park's needs go beyond playing tennis.

Council has a responsibility to make significant decisions that have far-reaching impact are in the interests of its community and land. The current operators have proven they are uniquely placed to continue to deliver Woollahra Council's objectives to its community.

Council should not be considering anything short of this.

--

Sincerely

Marjorie Freeman



Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item:

13.2.24 120

Conc.

Meeting:

Date:

8 / 4 / 24.

From:

Jane Prout <[REDACTED]>

Sent:

Monday, 8 April 2024 8:21 AM

To:

Cc:

Records; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt

Subject:

Re: Late correspondence for Cooper Park tennis, regarding the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 8 April 2024.

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Jane Prout and I am a user of the Cooper park tennis club and also a rate payer to to Woollahra council. I understand the Cooper Park tennis courts have been put up for tender again. I hope the council is enabling a fair process of tender and assessing all groups who have applied. I support the sentiments of Doron and the beautiful community haven can be maintained as tennis courts only, and be fully available for all members of the community.

Kind regards

Jane Prout

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Apr 2024, at 2:27 pm, [REDACTED]

Dear distinguished members of the Council,

It is with a heavy heart that I address you to express my profound disappointment in the conduct of our elected representatives and the administrative staff of the Woollahra Council ("Council"). Recent developments surrounding consecutive flawed tenders (SC7193 and SC7818) and the subsequent processes have deeply troubled the local community. These issues have been brought to light in the documented tender and lease, recent Council meetings, documented in meeting minutes, and outlined in the recent Privy Report.

In 2016, the Council valiantly fought against the merger of local councils, rallying behind the community in a battle for survival. Yet, in 2024, that same spirit of unity and protection seems conspicuously absent as the Council has embarked on a distressing course of action. The decision to proceed with two deeply flawed tenders, endangering the existence of the cherished 100-year-old community tennis centre, is a betrayal of the trust placed in the Council by the diverse and loyal residents it serves.

Drawing upon my extensive experience as a successful businessman involved in tender bids across various government levels, I am compelled to highlight the critical importance of community consultation and participation in such endeavours. The Council should have prioritised understanding community expectations and concerns before structuring the tenders. Properly structured tenders with equitable specifications, clear KPIs, and a rigorous qualifying process would have separated genuine contenders from mere pretenders.

During the recent Council meeting, the dismissal of SSMG Voyager and the subsequent appointment of Young Aces after protracted open and confidential deliberations underscored a concerning lack of clarity and informed decision-making. It appears that this decision was more of a compromise to mitigate a challenging situation rather than a well-considered resolution. I firmly believe that the

Council should have reconsidered and restarted the tender process to ensure a fair and professional outcome.

My apprehension towards Young Aces' bid stems from its ostentatious financial offer, which raises serious doubts about its viability and long-term sustainability. Will their aggressive investment strategy, prioritising coaching over community access and sustainability, truly serve the best interests of our diverse tennis community? Moreover, their association with Belrose Tennis Centre, known for its coaching-only services, raises concerns about their suitability to manage our cherished tennis centre (references: <https://play.tennis.com.au/BelroseTennisClub> and <https://bonditennis.com.au/about/>).

Upon further scrutiny, it becomes evident that significant shortcomings exist within the tender and lease arrangements, warranting immediate attention. The Privity Report, while highlighting financial aspects such as rent (40%), capital expenditure (10%), business plan (10%), and financial capacity (5%), lacks comprehensive information on other essential evaluation criteria. This disproportionate emphasis on financial metrics suggests a concerning disregard for broader community concerns, which constitute the remaining 35% of evaluation criteria not addressed in the report. Furthermore, the recent Council meeting revealed that a mere 5% allocation was made for community interests, a stark departure from the Council's purported commitment to community engagement. Such a disregard for community priorities is deeply regrettable and merits urgent rectification.

I implore the Council to revisit its decisions and safeguard the community's interests with the same fervour demonstrated during the 2016 merger dispute. Transparency, accountability, and genuine commitment to community expectations must guide your actions. Should the Council choose to proceed with the tender process, I stand ready to provide detailed insights into the aforementioned shortcomings and ambiguities.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against awarding the tender to Young Aces and instead consider a fresh start, ensuring that the process is fair, transparent, equitable, and in the best interests of our cherished community.

Yours sincerely,

Doron Argaman

Carolyn Nurmi

Subject:

FW: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK"

" - Last night's meeting
LATE CORRO Item: 13.2 R7

From: Mark Sheldon <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK" - Last night's meeting

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Councilors

Further to my late correspondence below, I have had significant feedback from the meeting last night. Clearly the mood of the meeting was any tenderer other than SSM Group Voyager. The primary reasons being . . .

1. They are not local to the Woollahra Community
2. They are a large corporate group managing court complexes at 17 locations across Sydney
<https://www.voyagertennis.com/our-locations/>
3. As a huge corporate there management will not be local and their personalisation of community involvement and engagement will be weak, and seen as an obligation not a natural part of the local community.
4. Many I have spoken to have visited SSM Group Voyager centres and report that many are run down, poorly maintained, holes in nets etc
5. That their café offerings, cleanliness, and vibe are not as good as Cooper Park facilities are now.
6. How can SSM Group Voyager be a good fit for the Cooper Park tennis community and park users.
7. They are a category killer and am sure their strategy is to secure Cooper Park, Trumper Park and Lynn Park.
8. Do we really want a Woolworths or Coles type managing our Cooper Park Tennis

I would implore the selection committee councilors go and inspect some of their facilities before making the wrong decision.

If SSMGroup Voyager are awarded management of Cooper Park tennis, the community connection will be lost, the place will be allowed to run down, and Council be seen as not having listened to the Community, and its constituents, who they are there to represent.

As I have said previously this selection cannot be made purely on the numbers. Council is not obligated to take the lowest financial tender or the highest scoring criterion as several are qualitative.

Regards

Mark

Mark Sheldon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Mark Sheldon

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:48 PM

Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK"

Importance: High

Dear Council

I attended the Council meeting on Monday 6th November 2023, at which time the meeting concluded with a recommendation by the Mayor that tenders would be re advertised with revised criteria including, greater community engagement, no multi use courts, local content and taking into account the very vocal sentiment of the meeting and the various presentations made.

I understand that new tenders have now been received and presentations made by the proponents, so in the final stages of evaluation.

I am also lead to believe that 'Voyager' is the preferred tenderer.

I would like to recall the strong views of the tennis community using the courts and facilities, and who by and large are very happy with the incumbent.

So if my understanding is correct, how could Council possibly find 'Voyager' the preferred tenderer, in the interests of the local community, its wishes and relative the local ethos of Cooper Park.

The main issues at the November 6 meeting were . . .

- The successful tenderer should be a local to the area
- Have a strong sense of Community
- Have a strong sense of acceptance from the Community
- A preference for people service over online systems
- A smaller organisation with the personal touch
- No online booking systems
- No multi use courts

While we recognise tenders also include a financial component, we trust Council will not see this as a priority over tenders with smaller or different financial offerings, but more suited to this venue.

Cooper Park is a very special place as we all know. The tennis courts are low key, community based and the tennis fraternity like it pretty much as is.

It is not a big suburban tennis centre, as is the case with Voyager's other venues. Cooper Park tennis courts do not fit into a corporate multi tennis centre culture, bigger is not better, Cooper Park tennis courts are a unique, one off community sports facility.

So we hope Council makes its selection taking into account the above criteria, and the strong sentiment of the meeting of November 6.

That sentiment strongly supported one of the other smaller operators.

We would hope that Woollahra Council does actually listen to its constituents, and not simply select a tenderer on the numbers.

Regards
Mark

Friends of Cooper Park

Mark Sheldon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>13-2R</u> ^{P124}
Meeting: <u>Council</u>	
Date: <u>8 / 4 / 24</u>	

From: Catherine Reitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 1:13 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

To: Woollahra Council and Councillors
Re: Proposal for future operations at Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

I would like to put forward a submission regarding a potential change to the operator at Cooper Park tennis centre.

Cooper Park has been a successful, thriving and integral part of the tennis and local community for many years under the leadership of Dieter Wilhelmi and his team, including Sarah Morante. They have been providing an important service and facility to the wider local council area and also to the Eastern Suburbs tennis community.

It would be unfortunate timing for the Council to now consider an alternative operator and proposing a change given the recent response from the local community to any such change.

This is a very unique and special facility that should not only be seen as an 'investment' to council, which offers a 'return', but as a very special product and service that the Council is providing to the local community.

Dieter Wilhelmi and his team are a very important part of this product and they have consistently proven this by providing quality facilities and excellent service to the tennis community over the past 17 years.

My parents have also been involved in tennis centres for the past 45 years and it is with this personal and lifetime of experience that I understand the value of having the right team in charge of operations and how much a change in operator can significantly alter and impact your tennis centre, your tennis community and in turn your council investment.

In short, you cannot be dispassionate about who runs Council facilities. While the investment and financial return must be a consideration by Council this cannot be their only benchmark when choosing the best team and the best operator to manage a facility such as Cooper Park tennis courts.

Dieter and his team have strong community support to maintain this unique facility and the important services it offers to Woollahra Council.

This team possesses incomparable understanding of the local community and Cooper Park tennis courts. They have built relationships that span generations of Cooper Park patrons who enjoy a constancy and trust in the operation of their cherished park and tennis courts. Dieter and his team provides a much desired link to our tennis community history within Woollahra council and the Eastern Suburbs tennis community.

We would love to see Dieter and his highly driven and committed team extend this successful operation into the future and believes it is best positioned to do so. We hope to see them continue to build valued relationships with the Cooper Park community. We believe they are the best team to preserve the heritage of the facility beyond its 100th year and to protect one of Woollahra councils premium community and sporting facilities.

We ask Council to reconsider any recommendations they may have made to have Young Aces, a tennis organisation based in Belrose and partnering with the operator of Bondi Tennis, as a potential new operator.

As a former professional tennis player who has had the privilege of playing at Wimbledon many times and at many world class Clubs over the years I can appreciate the value and significance a tennis centre with a team and experience such as Dieter and what his team can bring to the local community.

Finally, we ask you to consider and respect the wishes of the community for the future direction of a very beloved Cooper Park tennis courts and café, and the special community it comprises, by extending the existing operators management for the next 14 years.

Yours Sincerely,
Catherine Barclay Reitz
Former WTA Tennis Tour and Federation Cup player 1990-2003

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2R726

From: Sarah Morante <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:20 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Meeting: Council

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you all as part of our heart-felt, final plea to reconsider your position regarding the future management of the Cooper Park tennis courts.

Tennis has been a major part of my life since the age of 5. Throughout my junior years I lived and breathed tennis as a national-level competitor. At 15 years of age, I began coaching on a voluntary basis, which soon transitioned into a part-time job that helped me throughout my school and university studies. Almost 40 years after first picking up a racquet, tennis is still the core focus of my life. And a large part of this is the Cooper Park tennis courts.

In 2007, I had just completed a PhD (funded by the International Tennis Federation to establish heat guidelines for the Grand Slams) and was a full-time academic at The University of Sydney. This was also when I also started coaching part-time at Cooper Park and helping the Lessees to run the coaching program. I quickly fell in love with both the Park and the people. And before too long, Cooper Park Tennis became my sole focus.

For the past 17 years, with Dieter Wilhelmi, I have been involved in the daily operations of the business – from coaching tennis to making coffees to cleaning the toilets to sitting down with other players and park users for a chat. Over this time, the Cooper Park tennis courts have become my home, and the people who frequent the courts and café have become my family. This is at the heart of our approach to the management of the Cooper Park tennis courts. It's our life. A life that we've chosen and loved every single day of the past 17 years. But that's not to say our management has been a "soft" one that merely focusses on people.

Over the past 17 years, we have built Cooper Park tennis courts into a thriving tennis facility – one of the best community tennis centres in the country. Being long-time Woollahra residents as well as spending each and every day working at Cooper Park, we have an intimate understanding of community characteristics and desires, which has enabled us to shape the direction of the operation accordingly. In particular, we have ensured casual court hire has remained the cornerstone of the business. This not only meets demand but also the spirit of being an open and inclusive community facility. We have provided a highly experienced tennis coaching program with incomparable continuity among the coaches – something that is enormously appreciated by customers. Additionally, we provide adult and children's competitions, school holiday tennis camps, events and social tennis – and most recently, the 100th anniversary of the Cooper Park Tennis courts.

In 2007, we gave the historic pavilion the upgrade it deserved and introduced the café, which has become a greater asset than we could ever have anticipated. It has become the heart of the Cooper Park community. It's brought together children from various schools across the local area to make new friendships through tennis camps, lessons and competitions. It's a place where mothers have a hit and coffee after dropping their kids at school. Where groups of retirees enjoy a weekly social doubles event and morning tea. Where neighbours can stop in for a morning coffee or afternoon ice-cream as they walk through the park with their dog. Where teens and young adults have progressed from being students to holding their first job in our café. Or where an art class, using the park as their muse, can take a peaceful lunch break.

Cooper Park Tennis has reliably paid its rent to Council along with all other outgoings and requirements needed to stay in operation. We have completed \$987,508.30 of entirely self-funded capital works, which included two rounds of

court resurfacing, two total upgrades of court lighting, and the establishment of the café. We have also invested in a strict maintenance program for the courts and cafe with ongoing minor upgrades where required (e.g., fence repairs to manage subsidence and the refurbishment of the tennis court cabanas).

Back in 2007, Cooper Park Tennis did **not** propose the highest rental offer of the tender process. However, Council wisely put this criterion into perspective and valued our broader offering. The impeccable track-record of Cooper Park Tennis' operation has proven Council made a good decision in 2007 – we have delivered on all we promised in our tender and all that Council demanded. We have exceeded all expectations in having developed such a strong and thriving community at Cooper Park. Council can view the unprecedented level of support for our continued management as a commendation for their decision to appoint us operators of Cooper Park tennis courts as much as a plea for us to continue.

We urge Councillors to adopt the same broader perspective as their predecessors did in 2007. Please note what an effective and reliable partner we have been to Council over the past 17 years, and how we can offer the same trust and security for both Council and the community into the future. Also please consider our rental offer for more than the 40% weighting that significantly determined tender rankings. We ask you to factor social capital (an invaluable asset in any business and most especially, a local Council) into your decision-making. Creating and maintaining a community comes with a cost that is reflected in the bottom line of a business – as it has done in our rental offer. However, the time and money spent on community is not really a cost. It is an investment. The value of community and social capital may not fit into a balance sheet – but maybe the truly important things in life don't. Sadly, for all concerned, community and the social capital it brings is now a rare commodity. It takes considerable time and care to build yet can be destroyed overnight. This is a very real possibility for the Cooper Park tennis community. So, it is very important that Councillors consider the value of social capital, and what it takes to create and maintain alongside the clear need for financial return. As with all investments and life in general, it is a trade-off. Cooper Park Tennis proposes a slightly lower rental than some other tenderers but is a sure bet. Not only will rent be paid and capital works be delivered, the invaluable community will remain in the safe hands that created it.

Kind regards,

Sarah Morante.

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13-2 R7

P128

From: Mark Forstmann <[REDACTED]> **ting:** Council
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:30 AM
To: Records **Date:** 8 / 4 / 24
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan;
Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet
Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

Dear Woollahra Council

I'm a very regular user of Cooper Park tennis courts, using the courts between 2 and 3 times per week for the last 10 years. Together with my friends, family and colleagues, we have spent a large amount of time at the courts.

I would like the current Cooper Park tennis team of Dieter Wilhelmi & Sarah Morante to continue to lease the Cooper Park courts as a tennis venue and club.

Over the years, they have nurtured a loyal, friendly and tennis-minded community, and are well respected by the community. The current team themselves are local and involved in the community.

Personally, I'm concerned by the haste with which this process is being decided.

As a player and client of the courts, I have not seen anything from Council or the tenderers to show how there will be any improvements by other lessees.

This decision seems to be made while Council's public consultation for Cooper Park is ongoing. Why? Aren't the courts a major part of the Park's future?

I am concerned by the % rating system by which the tender is being assessed.

- For instance, how can the Rental component be granted 40% whereas Financial Viability and Capacity be only 5%?
- Furthermore, how can all tenderers receive full marks (5%) for the community engagement component of the tender, yet to my knowledge, not one of the other tenderers has made contact with, or been seen, by users of Cooper Park?
- Why is there no transparency about the capital improvements, both scope and cost for the courts.
- What is the reason Woollahra Council's Finance, Community & Services Committee overturned their recommendation for Sydney Sport Management Group (SSMG) / Voyager Tennis Academy as the preferred tenderer, and instead recommended Young Aces last Tuesday?

Placing so much emphasis on the amount of rent seems to be just a play to get as much money in as possible, and nothing about the tennis. These courts have been here a 100 years. Let's not get caught up in the very short termist thinking of rent maximizing as opposed to the long term health, viability of the local tennis community

This whole process does not appear to satisfy good governance with the aim of creating high standard and quality tennis courts for the local community and raises issues about Council conduct, potentially needing further investigation.

The Tender process failed last time for the similar reasons.

This is major decision for Cooper Park and a wonderful tennis centre, that will endure for 14 years.

Please reconsider the Tender for the benefit of all, and particularly the Cooper Park tennis community.

kind regards

Mark Forstmann



Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO	Item: 13-P130
Meeting: Council	
Date: 8 / 4 / 24	

From: Caldwell, Rebecca <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2024 9:07 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt; Caldwell, Rebecca
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Woollahra Council

I understand Woollahra Council's Finance, Community & Services Committee have changed their preferred tenderer for Cooper Park Tennis Courts from Sydney Sport Management Group (SSMG)/Voyager Tennis Academy to Young Aces/Bondi Tennis. I would like to express my concerns about the committee's decision to recommend this new tenderer and implore the Council to award the tender to the current operators.

From what I know of Young Aces and Bondi Tennis, while they do cater for adults their focus is mainly on children. Young Aces' Instagram and Facebook pages advertise adult lessons, however, these sites clearly focus on programs targeting young children. The inclusive demographic at Cooper Park Tennis includes children, families, young adults and a significant contingency of older adults and retirees. I play regularly at Cooper Park and often see players of all ages coming and going. These people know Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante by name and vice versa. The team at Cooper Park recently held a celebration to commemorate Cooper Park's 100th birthday. I was amazed at how many people turned up, not just to celebrate the birthday, but to show their support for the team that runs it.

I'm sure you are aware of Dieter and Sarah's extensive experience and credentials that more than qualify them to manage the operations and coaching at Cooper Park Tennis Courts. I would like to share a personal story to demonstrate their caring and passion for the tennis community, which I believe is a significant differentiator. Sarah started coaching my daughter a few years ago. My daughter's dream was to make the Tildesley tennis team at her school. The Tildesley Shield Tennis Tournament is run by the Independent Girls Schools Sporting Association (IGSA Sport) and is the ultimate aim for the girls who play tennis with the school. My daughter shared her goal with Sarah, so Sarah made it her goal to develop the technical and psychological aspects of my daughter's game. From day one it was abundantly clear that Sarah cared and wanted to help my daughter achieve her goal. She gave her strategies and recommended drills to practice, videos to watch, players to keep an eye on. On a few occasions, Sarah took the time to watch my daughter play school competitions to see how she managed her nerves in a match (this was something they had been working on). Sarah didn't have to do this on her day off, but she did because she cared. She wanted my daughter to be successful. On one occasion, I was hitting with my daughter at Cooper Park and afterwards Dieter pulled me aside and gave me suggestions on how I could hit with her more effectively to allow her to practice her technique. At the time, Dieter didn't know me very well and certainly didn't have to speak to me, but he did because he cared about her and her goals as a tennis player. It took some time, but my daughter earned a place on the Tildesley team and performed very well in the tournament. I have no doubt that her success was in large part a result of her working with Sarah.

I have seen similar care displayed by Sarah when coaching other players, ranging from young children to elderly players. The current team at Cooper Park are 100% dedicated to understanding the needs of their clientele, to helping them achieve their goals, whatever they may be, and to preserving the close community and tranquil environment at Cooper Park. And the local community categorically reciprocates this dedication. Throughout the bid process for Cooper Park Tennis Courts, community support has remained strong. The community feels strongly that Dieter, Sarah, and their team are the right people to manage and operate Cooper Park Tennis Courts and should be awarded the tender.

This return to the local community is rare and invaluable. In relation to the Council's evaluation criteria, a return to the local community should be valued higher than a purely monetary return. Dieter and Sarah have proven they can provide both, as can be seen from their 27 years of involvement at Cooper Park (Dieter – 27, Sarah – 17). They have the necessary experience, a proven track record, and are dedicated to meeting the Council requirements and improving the environment and customer experience at Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

In an email dated, 11 November from Merrill Witt (addressed to those who had written to the Council about Cooper Park Tennis Courts) Councillor Witt thanked us for taking an interest in Council affairs and said, "your voice makes an important difference". I hope this is true and you will consider the community wishes. I also hope you recognise Dieter and Sarah's incredible commitment, caring and passion as a key differentiator. I urge you to honour the collective voice of our community and grant the Cooper Park Tennis Courts tender to Dieter Wilhelmi and Sarah Morante.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards
Rebecca Bridger

Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item 13-2 R7

Subject:

FW: Cooper Park courts

Meeting:

Council

Date:

8 / 4 / 24

From: tom hodson [REDACTED] >

Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 7:56 PM

To: Richard Shields <Richard.Shields@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Sarah Swan <Sarah.Swan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Cooper Park courts

tom [REDACTED]

to records

To whom it may concern.

It is my understanding that the council meeting of 8/4/24 will be discussing a recommendation to award the tender for the Cooper Park tennis centre to a group called Young Aces. If this is so then I would like Council to know that I like a number of other people have some concerns regarding this recommendation.

At a previous meeting of Council where another earlier recommendation was discussed members of the public let it be known very clearly that they wanted this tender to go to a local operator and they were led to believe that a 2nd tender process would take place and that local community concerns would be considered when making the next award.

It would seem that community expectations were not heavily considered as this section counted for a lowly 5% of the total point score and all applicants were given a full 5% upfront effectively eliminating this requirement completely. It would be like a handicap race where everybody is given a 5 meter head start.

I am not in a position to know what examination was made regarding the other areas considered. I assume that the expertise of the applicants in actually running the centre to a high standard was looked at as this will be the most important thing in the coming years. It's not much good giving the tender to the group which offers the most money if it transpires that they lack the experience or know how to get the job done.

It would appear that the incumbent team has not been considered. Given that they have been there many years and have run the centre to a very high standard generating a huge amount of public support I for one find this quite puzzling. Both Dieter Wilhelmi and Dr Sarah Morante PhD have vast experience and qualifications when it comes to coaching and have demonstrated by their actions over many years that they know how to manage a facility safely and effectively.

In the next few years a lot of capitol works will be conducted at the centre amongst them new fencing, resurfacing the courts and installing new lights to mention but a few. Dieter and Sarah have done these things in the past, there is no doubt they would be able to do them again. Is this

true of others, have they shown by action and not merely by a statement on a piece of paper that they will be able to perform these tasks.

If the only real consideration in this recommendation to council is money and not ability then the expectations of the community and those of us who love this facility and enjoy the time we spend here will not be met. Even if the offers amount to 40-50K extra and I doubt they would differ by much more than that, such a paltry sum which wouldn't even pay for 1 council employee will not compensate for what we lose if the high bidder turns out to be unable to run it to the same standard we currently enjoy.

I strongly urge Council to consider all factors involved and make a decision based on merit and not the holy dollar, to do anything else will be a bitter disappointment to the community.

Regards,
Tom Hodson.



Carolyn Nurmi

LATE CORRO

Item: 13.2K P134

Meeting: Lou Q.

Date: 8 / 4 / 24

From: Richard Sebel [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 9:26 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt; [REDACTED]
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Council,

We are Woollahra residents and long-time users of Cooper Park Tennis Courts and cafe and want to record our support for the current operators of the courts and cafe for the following reasons:

- For the past 17 years, the Cooper Park tennis courts and café have been operated by a long-standing team who have proved their dedication to a hands-on, service-oriented approach.
- Dieter Wilhelmi, who leads the Cooper Park team is a professional tennis coach of 46 years, of which 27 years have been spent at Cooper Park. Dieter has also served as an advisor to Tennis Australia, an Olympic program director and university lecturer. Very few in the industry are as experienced and passionate as Dieter, with none as attuned to the unique and special character of Cooper Park and its playing community.
- Sarah Morante has supported Dieter in the management of the centre over the past 17 years. She is also a local resident and professional tennis coach of 28 years. Sarah has a PhD in sport science and has previously worked as a university lecturer and researcher in sport science.
- The Cooper Park Tennis team has displayed a similar unique longevity with a number of coaches serving for the past 17 years and various pro-shop/café staff being both local residents and patrons of Cooper Park.
- This team possesses incomparable understanding of the local community and Cooper Park tennis courts. They have built relationships that span generations of Cooper Park patrons who enjoy a constancy and trust in the operation of their cherished park and tennis courts.

- The team is highly driven and committed to extend this proven track record of successful operation into the future and build valued relationships with the continuing and growing Cooper Park community. They are committed to preserving the heritage of the facility beyond its 100th year and plan to invest considerable capital expenditure for the upgrade of courts, fences and the cafe, along with the installation of solar power to align with Council's 2030 net zero target.

We are concerned that insufficient value has been placed on the work and achievements of the current Cooper Park team and believe their proven professional service delivery, community development and custodianship of the heritage nature of Cooper Park should be viewed as strong indications that they continue as operators of the facilities.

Yours faithfully
Richard & Janny Sebel

Carolyn Nurmi

Meeting: Covid

From: Carr [REDACTED] **Date:** 8 / 4 / 24
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 1:53 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Council Members,

With reference to the Probity Report **Paragraph 4.5 entitled Obtaining Value for money**, I would like to express my support for the team of Sarah and Dieter who have run the Cooper Park Tennis Courts for the past 17 years or so.

The **value for money** that Sarah and Dieter provide can be seen in their commitment to service that goes well beyond what would normally be expected:

They have invested heavily in capital improvements.

The courts and café are meticulously maintained no matter the weather conditions.

The constant presence of staff members ensures that safety and security are maintained at all times when the courts and café are in use.

The commitment to a well-stocked, friendly and comfortable café provides a place for the whole community to meet, and not just tennis players.

But there are other aspects to **obtaining value for money** that are perhaps less easy to quantify but which, in my view, place the management of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre in a category of its own:

The consideration with which Dieter and Sarah treat their staff, their coaches and their customers creates an atmosphere of mutual respect throughout the centre: people always seem to behave well in this space.

The fact that Dieter and Sarah are both hands-on coaches allows them to really get to know their clients, to follow their progress and to be aware of any health or other issues.

The generosity with which they treat their tennis-playing clients: some tennis centres force players onto court in wet and other risky conditions. Sarah and Dieter willingly allow the players themselves to decide if the courts are playable or not and are quick to offer a refund.

Their personalised booking system is much more expensive to run than an on-line equivalent, but it provides another opportunity for management to better get to know their clients and to advise them of the best courts for their particular requirements.

In short, Sarah and Dieter have **provided value for money** by investing heavily in the infrastructure of the centre, by maintaining its high standards, and importantly by absorbing many costs that other management groups would either not incur in the first place or would pass on to their clients.

I therefore it would be fair and just to allow them one more renewal of the lease to allow them to benefit from the *value for money* they have provided to the Council and ratepayers over the past 17 years.

Carmel Doherty, [REDACTED]

Carolyn Nurmi

P138	
LATE CORRO	Item: 13287
Meeting: Council	
Date: 8 / 4 / 24	

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 April 2024 2:27 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Late correspondence for Cooper Park tennis, regarding the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 8 April 2024.

Dear distinguished members of the Council,

It is with a heavy heart that I address you to express my profound disappointment in the conduct of our elected representatives and the administrative staff of the Woollahra Council ("Council"). Recent developments surrounding consecutive flawed tenders (SC7193 and SC7818) and the subsequent processes have deeply troubled the local community. These issues have been brought to light in the documented tender and lease, recent Council meetings, documented in meeting minutes, and outlined in the recent Privy Report.

In 2016, the Council valiantly fought against the merger of local councils, rallying behind the community in a battle for survival. Yet, in 2024, that same spirit of unity and protection seems conspicuously absent as the Council has embarked on a distressing course of action. The decision to proceed with two deeply flawed tenders, endangering the existence of the cherished 100-year-old community tennis centre, is a betrayal of the trust placed in the Council by the diverse and loyal residents it serves.

Drawing upon my extensive experience as a successful businessman involved in tender bids across various government levels, I am compelled to highlight the critical importance of community consultation and participation in such endeavours. The Council should have prioritised understanding community expectations and concerns before structuring the tenders. Properly structured tenders with equitable specifications, clear KPIs, and a rigorous qualifying process would have separated genuine contenders from mere pretenders.

During the recent Council meeting, the dismissal of SSMG Voyager and the subsequent appointment of Young Aces after protracted open and confidential deliberations underscored a concerning lack of clarity and informed decision-making. It appears that this decision was more of a compromise to mitigate a challenging situation rather than a well-considered resolution. I firmly believe that the Council should have reconsidered and restarted the tender process to ensure a fair and professional outcome.

My apprehension towards Young Aces' bid stems from its ostentatious financial offer, which raises serious doubts about its viability and long-term sustainability. Will their aggressive investment strategy, prioritising coaching over community access and sustainability, truly serve the best interests of our diverse tennis community? Moreover, their association with Belrose Tennis Centre, known for its coaching-only services, raises concerns about their suitability to manage our cherished tennis centre (references: <https://play.tennis.com.au/BelroseTennisClub> and <https://bonditennis.com.au/about/>).

Upon further scrutiny, it becomes evident that significant shortcomings exist within the tender and lease arrangements, warranting immediate attention. The Privy Report, while highlighting financial aspects such as rent (40%), capital expenditure (10%), business plan (10%), and financial capacity (5%), lacks comprehensive information on other essential evaluation criteria. This disproportionate emphasis on financial metrics suggests a concerning disregard for broader community concerns, which constitute the remaining 35% of evaluation criteria not addressed in the report. Furthermore, the recent Council meeting revealed that a mere 5% allocation was made for community interests, a stark departure from the Council's purported commitment to community engagement. Such a disregard for community priorities is deeply regrettable and merits urgent rectification.

I implore the Council to revisit its decisions and safeguard the community's interests with the same fervour demonstrated during the 2016 merger dispute. Transparency, accountability, and genuine commitment to community expectations must guide your actions. Should the Council choose to proceed with the tender process, I stand ready to provide detailed insights into the aforementioned shortcomings and ambiguities.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against awarding the tender to Young Aces and instead consider a fresh start, ensuring that the process is fair, transparent, equitable, and in the best interests of our cherished community.

Yours sincerely,

Doron Argaman

PROCURE

GROUP

PROBITY REPORT

CLIENT

Woollahra Municipal Council

PROJECT

RFT for the Operating Lease for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre at
Bellevue Hill

DATE

25 March 2024

REPORT STATUS

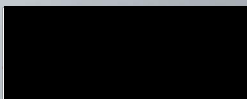
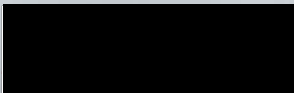
Final

PREPARED BY

John Pinhorn
Senior Probity Manager

APPROVED BY

Simon Taylor
Managing Director



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Statement of Responsibility

This probity report has been prepared for the purpose of assisting Woollahra Municipal Council in its decision making regarding the RFT for the Operating Lease for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre at Bellevue Hill Project. Procure has compiled the report on the basis of:

- a. information it has been given and which it has reviewed;
- b. the processes and procedures it has observed; and
- c. the issues raised with it.

The conclusion stated in section 2 of this report is based upon the work performed as documented in it. While Procure has identified probity risks and considered the controls, environment and action taken by Woollahra Municipal Council to address those risks, probity issues may nevertheless have arisen that have not been identified.

As the probity advisor, Procure has focussed solely on probity aspects of the process. Procure does not provide, nor does it purport to provide, nor can it be construed to have provided legal, commercial, procurement or technical advice. It is the Woollahra Municipal Council's responsibility to obtain appropriate advice and ensure compliance with relevant legislative and policy requirements.

While Procure may provide input into processes followed, Woollahra Municipal Council retains responsibility for the probity of its personnel and processes. The report cannot be relied upon by any other party or for any other purpose.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Our Engagement

Procure Group Pty Ltd (**Procure**) has been engaged by Woollahra Municipal Council (**Council**) to provide independent probity advisory services in relation to the RFT for the Operating Lease for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre at Bellevue Hill. Further detail regarding our scope of service is included in section 3.

This report sets out our work performed and observations from a probity perspective relating to the procurement process followed by Woollahra Municipal Council, within the context of the framework provided by the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption's (ICAC) probity fundamentals.

1.2 Project Summary

The Council was seeking Tenders from experienced commercial operators to lease, equip, operate, and manage the Cooper Park Tennis Centre located at 1 Bunna Place, Bellevue Hill. A competitive Request for Tender (**RFT**) process was undertaken, and the RFT was advertised through the Woollahra Municipal Council's website, VendorPanel, and in the Sydney Morning Herald on 30 January 2024 and the Wentworth Courier on 31 January 2024. The RFT was open for a period of 33 days closing at 3.00pm on Friday, 1 March 2024.

At the RFT closing time of 3.00pm on 1 March 2024, Council received 6 Tenders. The RFT Evaluation Panel (**EP**) has completed its assessment in accordance with the approved Evaluation and Probity Plan and has prepared an Evaluation Report recommending a preferred Tenderer for contract award. The Evaluation Report was finalised and approved by the EP members on 22 March 2024.

1.3 Summary of Key Activities and Dates

ACTIVITY	DATE
RFT issue date	29 January 2024
Mandatory Pre-Tender meeting on site	14 February 2024
Deadline for requests of information by Tenderers	26 February 2024
RFT Closing date	1 March 2024
Tender opening	1 March 2024
Evaluation Panel meetings	12 March 2024 14 March 2024 19 March 2024
Evaluation Report finalised	22 March 2024

2 CONCLUSION

Based upon our work performed and detailed in this report, no issues of a probity nature have come to our attention that would lead us to conclude that the process followed by Woollahra Municipal Council in the evaluation of the Tender for the appointment of an appropriately experienced commercial operator to lease, equip, operate, and manage the Cooper Park Tennis Centre located at 1 Bunna Place, Bellevue Hill has not been conducted in a fair and equitable manner with due regard to probity.

3 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Probity Advisor's Role

3.1.1 Role of Probity Advisor

Attachment A provides a detailed description of the role of the probity advisor as well as a definition of probity, taken from relevant publications of the ICAC. In short, a probity advisor is engaged to observe, review, and provide guidance on the integrity of procedures and processes, focusing on the means, rather than the ends, of the project in question.

3.1.2 Probity Fundamentals

In undertaking the probity advisory role, Procure has had regard to the “probity fundamentals” identified by the ICAC. These probity fundamentals are:

- + Maintaining accountability and transparency;
- + Maintaining impartiality;
- + Managing conflicts of interest;
- + Maintaining confidentiality; and
- + Obtaining value for money.

Further detail describing these probity fundamentals is included in Attachment A.

Section 4 of this report outlines our work performed to monitor the application of the probity fundamentals.

3.2 Scope of Work

Procure was engaged on 14 December 2023 by Woollahra Municipal Council to act as probity advisor in regard to the RFT for the Operating Lease for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre at Bellevue Hill. In accordance with our proposal, our scope of work included the following:

- + Attend an initial meeting with Council to understand requirements of the project;
- + Review and provide comment on the procurement strategy, RFT documents and Evaluation and Probity Plan;
- + Review conflict of interest arrangements, review confidentiality arrangements and review records maintained by the Council;
- + Attend on site Pre-Tender meeting (including preparation);
- + Review and monitor communications with Tenderers throughout the process including addenda and post Tender clarifications;
- + Attend evaluation meeting to shortlist Tenderers;
- + Attend final evaluation meeting;
- + Review Evaluation Report and provide comment from a probity perspective;
- + Provide ad-hoc probity advice to address any issues raised that relate to the probity of the process; and
- + Attend debriefs with unsuccessful Tenderers.

3.3 General Approach Taken

In providing the above services, Procure has employed a range of approaches, including:

- + Consideration of relevant Council's Procurement Guidelines;
- + Consideration of ICAC Guidelines for managing public sector projects;
- + Review of relevant NSW legislation including the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*;
- + Review of Department of Premier and Cabinet (Local Government) – Tendering Guidelines for Local Government;
- + Review of and input into relevant RFT documentation to maintain accountability and transparency;
- + Provision of advice regarding probity risk assessment in consultation with Woollahra Municipal Council;
- + Observation of key meetings, activities, and processes; and
- + Discussions with relevant representatives of the project team and provision of advice on issues arising.

3.4 Probity Risk Assessment

Procure has adopted a risk based approach to the provision of its probity services. At the commencement of the engagement, Procure identified typical probity risks and mitigation strategies. This was refined with client input to address project specific risks and mitigation controls.

4 WORK PERFORMED & OBSERVATIONS

4.1 Maintaining Accountability and Transparency

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Maintaining Accountability and Transparency*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

4.1.1 Pre receipt of Tenders:

- + Noted that the RFT had been advertised on the Woollahra Municipal Council website, VendorPanel, and in the Sydney Morning Herald on 30 January 2024 and the Wentworth Courier on 31 January 2024;
- + Noted that Council prepared an Evaluation and Probity Plan for this RFT and was approved by EP members on or before 8 February 2024;
- + Attended the mandatory Pre-Tender briefing held on site for registered potential proponents and provided a probity briefing to attendees. Noted that participation at the meeting was a requirement for submitting a conforming Tender. Observed that there were no probity issues raised at the meeting;
- + Conducted a probity review of the questions and answers provided for the RFT on the VendorPanel website;
- + Confirmed that the Evaluation and Probity Plan for the management of the evaluation of Tenders was developed by Council's Manager Property and Projects with probity advice from Procure. The Evaluation and Probity Plan included, among other things, the following:
 - + Introduction including; purpose and objectives of the document;
 - + Summary of roles and responsibilities of the EP members, including decision making;
 - + Evaluation Protocols;
 - + Confidentiality;
 - + Conflicts of interest;
 - + Record keeping;
 - + Communication with proponents;
 - + Evaluation process; and
 - + Weightings to be applied to evaluation criteria;
- + Noted that Council had decided not to publish the evaluation criteria weightings and sub-weightings in the Evaluation and Probity Plan as a measure to ensure their confidentiality and the integrity of the evaluation process;
- + Further confirmed and noted that the evaluation criteria weightings and sub-weightings were made available to the EP members upon distribution of the received Tenders and at the EP meeting held on 12 March 2024;
- + Noted that membership of the EP comprised persons that appeared to have appropriate skill and experience to conduct the evaluation;
- + Reviewed the RFT documentation issued to Tenderers to confirm that evaluation criteria and submission requirements were appropriately documented;
- + Reviewed all Council Tender Addendums issued during the RFT period to ensure they met probity requirements; and
- + Observed that the evaluation criteria included in the scoring worksheets was used in the assessment of Tenders in accord with the Evaluation and Probity Plan and RFT documentation.

4.1.2 Receipt and evaluation phase:

- + Noted that the secure electronic VendorPanel directory was opened on 1 March 2024 and confirmed that six Tenders were received;
- + Further noted that Council did not accept any late Tender and the VendorPanel website did not permit submissions after the Tenderer submission deadline;
- + Noted that each EP member had undertaken an individual assessment of Tenders and had completed the scoring worksheets prior to attending the EP meeting held on 12 March 2024. Noted that the EP members used an evaluation sheet which outlined the pre-determined selection criteria, as per the Tender documentation, including the mandatory requirements, non-cost criteria and cost criteria;
- + Attended the first EP consensus scoring meeting held on 12 March 2024, at which individual EP members were provided with the evaluation criteria weightings and sub-weightings and proceeded to score each Tender against each specified criterion;
- + Noted the EP determined that one Tenderer had not attended the mandatory Pre-Tender briefing and had not provided adequate evaluation criteria response information. This Tender was deemed as non-conforming and was not further considered;

- + Noted robust discussion amongst EP members, in which individual scores were discussed and initial consensus scores agreed for each Tender;
- + Noted that the EP determined to shortlist the highest three scoring Tenders and sought to obtain clarifications from each of the respective Tenderers;
- + The EP prepared Tenderer clarifications for each of the shortlisted Tenderers and a probity review was conducted;
- + Attended in person clarification interviews conducted by the EP with the 3 shortlisted Tenderers on 14 March 2024. At the conclusion of each clarification interview observed that the EP reconvened and revisited its scoring for each Tenderer against the scoring evaluation criteria. Noted that the EP resolved that for two Tenderers further clarifications were required on the financial information submitted. Noted that the respective Tenderers were asked to provide the additional clarification information;
- + Attended the EP meeting held on 19 March 2024 and noted that the EP reviewed the responses to the additional clarification requests submitted by the Tenderers and resolved to finalise consensus scoring of all three shortlisted Tenderers. The EP after deliberation scored each Tenderer and made its recommendation on the preferred Tenderer;
- + Reviewed the Evaluation Report prepared by the EP and confirmed that it accurately reflected the evaluation process followed and conclusions of the EP. The Evaluation Report was signed by each member of the EP on 22 March 2024;
- + Reviewed the scoring calculations included in the Evaluation Report. No errors were noted; and
- + Confirmed through observation of the evaluation process and review of documentation maintained that the EP members at the meetings held on 12 March 2024, 14 March 2024 and 19 March 2024 had followed the Evaluation and Probity Plan in all material respects.

4.2 Maintaining Impartiality

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Maintaining Impartiality*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

- + Confirmed that on 12 March 2024, the EP agreed to seek clarifications in regard to the non-price criteria from the top three shortlisted Tenderers. The request for clarifications did not provide an opportunity to improve each Tenderer's pricing or to improve on responses to non-price criteria;
- + Noted that no clarification was sought from the other Tenderers on the basis that these Tenderers did not appear to be in contention at this stage. This assumption was subsequently confirmed at the EP meetings held on 14 March and 19 March 2024;
- + Noted that the EP required further clarifications from one of the Tenderers regarding submitted financial information and that this additional information was sought;
- + Noted that on 19 March 2024, the EP considered the additional clarification information provided and revised its scoring in accordance with the Evaluation and Probity Plan;
- + Confirmed that each Tenderer was assessed against the same evaluation criteria. These criteria were those included in the RFT documentation issued to Tenderers;
- + Noted that the highest-ranking Tenderer was recommended for approval;
- + Observed the evaluation process and confirmed that the process afforded fair and equitable treatment of Tenderers, in accordance with the Evaluation and Probity Plan; and
- + Noted that each member of the EP was present when scoring of Tenders was discussed and agreed and the recommendation was confirmed.

4.3 Managing Conflicts of Interest

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Managing Conflicts of Interest*, Procure undertook the following tasks:

- + Noted that several emails were received by the probity advisor from members of the public regarding the proposed use and purpose of Cooper Street Tennis Centre and raising issues with regard to a previous RFT process and its compliance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021;
- + Noted that no probity issues were raised in relation to the current RFT process, and the concerns raised with the probity advisor by the members of the public were passed on to Council for its information and action;
- + Confirmed that the EP members had signed individual Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality Declarations and noted that there were no perceived or actual Conflicts of Interest declared;
- + Confirmed at the EP meetings held on 12 and 14 March 2024 that no member was aware of any conflict of interest;
- + Confirmed by review of original documents that each of the EP members had signed the Conflict of Interest Declaration document prior to the receipt of Tenders; and
- + Confirmed at the final EP meeting held on 19 March 2024, that no member was aware of any conflict of interest.

4.4 Maintaining Confidentiality

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Maintaining Confidentiality*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

- + Advised the EP members that they were under a general requirement to maintain strict confidentiality and noted that documentation considered to be confidential was kept in restricted access drives;
- + Noted the application and use of confidentiality controls during the distribution of Tenders to EP members and that the restrictions on access were consistent with the Evaluation and Probity Plan;
- + Emphasised confidentiality obligations to EP members when attending the EP meetings on 12, 14 and 19 March 2024;
- + Confirmed at the EP meetings held on 12 and 14 March 2024, that confidentiality requirements during the RFT process were handled in accordance with the Evaluation and Probity Plan and further confirmed that EP members were not aware of any breach of confidentiality;
- + Confirmed at the final EP meeting held on 19 March 2024, that EP members were not aware of any breach of confidentiality; and
- + Confirmed that no breach of confidentiality has been brought to the attention of the probity advisor.

4.5 Obtaining Value for Money

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Obtaining Value for Money*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

- + Noted that rent to Council was a 40% weighted evaluation criterion, providing a comprehensive business plan for operation of the Tennis Centre complex was a 10% weighted criterion, detailed proposals and timing for upgrade of the Tennis Centre, including itemised cost estimates and presentation of the centre including café was a weighted 10% evaluation criterion and financial capacity and viability was a 5% weighted evaluation criterion;
- + Observed at the EP meetings on 12, 14 and 19 March 2024, robust and exhaustive evaluation of all proposals against value for money-based evaluation criteria;
- + Noted that for shortlisted Tenderers the clarification questions sought further details on each Tenderer's financial capacity and resources, and their historical capacity to deliver a comparable tennis centre operation;
- + Noted at the EP meeting held on 19 March 2024, that it was the consensus position that the recommended Tenderer represented best value for money and confirmed with the EP that it had sufficient information necessary to support the decision making process;
- + Noted that the preferred Tenderer's rental offer – first year of the Tennis Centre Lease was not the highest, being \$5,000 per annum less than the second ranked Tenderer. However, it was noted the preferred Tenderer scored highest when assessed against the non-pricing criteria;
- + Noted that the preferred Tenderer proposed to invest [REDACTED] in the first 5 years in capital works while the second ranked Tenderer proposed to invest [REDACTED];
- + Noted that the EP had confidence in the preferred Tenderer's pricing since it had an extensive track record in managing comparable sized tennis centres with similar demographics which included a track record of operating cafes and kiosks;
- + Noted that the EP conducted reference checks with other nominated Councils for the preferred Tenderer and that all referees highly supported the preferred Tenderer's experience and capability in running tennis centres and indicated that it has undertaken major capital investment and complied with contractual obligations. Further it was confirmed that the preferred Tenderer repaired and maintained tennis centres in good condition; and
- + Noted that the Evaluation Report included considerations regarding rental, pricing, capital investment including for the Tennis Centre, fit out of the kiosk and the operation and maintenance of the Tennis Centre generally and demonstrated that the preferred Tenderer overall represents best value for money.

Attachment A – Key Terms & Definitions

Key Terms	Definition
Probity Advisor	In its publication ‘ <i>Probity and Probity Advising</i> ’ (November 2005) the ICAC describes a probity advisor as: <i>“an individual or organisation engaged to observe, review and provide guidance on the probity framework and/or processes of a project. Agencies use internal or external probity advisors to verify that the processes followed are consistent with government regulations, policies, guidelines and best practice principles. A probity advisor provides opinions and guidance on probity risks and issues that may arise during the process and confirms, in writing, whether the concluded process is consistent with the requirements outlined in a probity plan as well as general probity fundamentals. If probity requirements are not being or have not been met, the advisor identifies the non-conformities and any reasons for these in a written report, and if necessary, suggests solutions and monitors their implementation.”</i>
Probity	Probity may be defined as: “ <i>integrity, uprightness, honesty</i> ” (Macquarie Dictionary). Within the public sector, the word “probity” is often used in a general sense to refer to an “appropriate process”. Government seeks to conduct its commercial dealings with integrity. Public officials (and their advisors) must be able to demonstrate high standards of probity while pursuing the stated project objectives.
Maintaining Accountability & Transparency	Public sector accountability requirements are intended to save money, resources and time in the long term and prevent corruption, maladministration and substantial waste of public resources. All persons with responsibilities in relation to a project should be accountable for their actions associated with the project. All key activities and decision-making associated with the project should be recorded. Transparency helps ensure that a process is conducted with integrity, thus enhancing competition and the delivery of value for money, as well as reducing opportunities for corruption, maladministration and substantial waste of public money. An evaluation process should be applied consistently and conducted in accordance with an appropriate methodology. Processes should be well documented and reviewable.
Maintaining Impartiality	Individuals and organisations involved in preparing and submitting proposals for large public sector contracts often invest considerable time, effort and resources in doing so. In return, they are entitled to expect impartial treatment at every stage of the process. If they do not consider the process to be impartial and honest, they may withhold valuable ideas or be deterred from bidding in the future. Any form of bias, whether driven by personal interests or not, could jeopardise the integrity of the project.
Managing Conflicts of Interest	Conflicts of interest arise when there is a conflict between a public official’s public duty and private interests, where those private interests could improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities. Advisors and other consultants working on the project must comply with public sector conflict of interest requirements. Failure to declare and/or effectively manage conflicts of interest can damage the integrity of the project, therefore eroding public or market confidence in the outcomes. Inadequate systems for identifying and dealing with conflicts of interest provide opportunities for corruption, maladministration and serious waste of public resources.
Maintaining Confidentiality	Accountability and transparency are fundamental to the work of public sector organisations and public officials. However, there is some information that needs to be kept confidential, at least for a specified period of time, in order to protect the integrity of a process and give private sector participants the confidence to do business with government. This information can include the content of proposals, intellectual property and pricing and profit structures. Importantly, much of the information relating to a project needs to be kept confidential up to the point where a contract is signed.
Obtaining Value for Money	Value for money is achieved by fostering an open competitive environment in which private sector participants can make attractive, innovative proposals with the confidence that they will be assessed on their merits. Lapses in probity often end with one or more parties obtaining unreasonable financial gains at the expense of the public interest. Value for money does not necessarily mean lowest price. Agencies need to consider non-price elements of proposals (including risk) and devise criteria that allow them to be evaluated.