



## **EASTBOURNE BOWLING CLUB PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**31 July 2025**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Eastbourne Bowling Club (EBC) within the next few years will likely be forced to sell the land at its current location on Muritai Road Eastbourne due to financial constraints. Although this is not our preferred position, EBC needs to position itself to relocate to an alternative site. This Public Consultation document is seeking public approval, that, at the required time, the EBC relocate to part of the tennis court area adjacent to H W Shortt Recreation Ground (HWSRG) and to amalgamate with the Eastbourne Sports and Services Club (ESSC).

In seeking Public support for this, we note that approval in principle for this relocation has been received from the Eastbourne Sports and Services Club (all 5 Clubs) and the Eastbourne Community Board. The public consultation process has the support of all parties.

This document will clearly set out the social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits such a move will bring to the community of Eastbourne for now and into the future.

### **SUMMARY OF POSITION**

- Over a century of Bowls in Eastbourne
- A relocation within Eastbourne would be financially beneficial for the local community
- Bowls has strong local ties to the Eastbourne community
- Although led by EBC, the relocation would be seen as a collaborative community initiative
- Win/win for all concerned
- Relocation at minimal if any cost to Hutt City Council

## **EASTBOURNE BOWLING CLUB HISTORY**

The Eastbourne Bowling Club was founded in 1907 with the green established on the back lawn of Mayor H W Shortt's family home. The present site was acquired in 1913 with the assistance of HW Shortt.

Over its 118 year existence the Club has won many competitions starting in 1917/18 with the Champion of Champions singles right through to 2018/19 with the Champion of Champions Pairs.

While we continue to compete in several Bowls Wellington interclub competitions, our primary focus in recent years has been to deepen community engagement. We are actively developing a strong "community bowls" programme that welcomes players of all ages and skill levels from across the East Harbour area — from Point Howard through to Eastbourne Village.

We are proud to be one of the few bowling clubs in the Wellington region with a growing membership. This season, we reached 137 members. Two key areas of growth have been:

- Retired men's and women's leagues, providing valuable social, physical, and mental wellbeing support to our older members
- Twilight Bowls, attracting a vibrant group of players aged between 30 and mid-40s.

Of particular interest may be the fact that 54% of our members — 74 individuals — are over the age of 70, many of whom describe the club as a vital source of connection, purpose, and wellbeing.

## **A WAY FORWARD FOR EBC**

In the event of a sale of the property, consideration has to be given by the EBC to the relocation options available to us. The three options open to the Club are:-

1. Relocate to another site in Eastbourne, specifically to part of the tennis court area adjacent to the HW Shortt Recreation Ground— preferred option.
2. Amalgamate with a bowling club in the Hutt Valley – not preferred and a negative option for the Eastbourne community and Club members.
3. Disband the bowling club completely – last resort.



This Public Consultation document specifically relates to a relocation of the Club within Eastbourne. It should be noted that should this proposal be unsuccessful, this would leave at least 137 active members of the Eastbourne community without their preferred recreation and wellbeing.

### **WILL THE MOVE BENEFIT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

The single and most important reason in support of a move to the HWSRG is to keep bowls alive and well within the local Eastbourne community as well as benefiting the community as a whole. The move will:-

- Consolidate the hub of sporting and social activity for the community.
- Co-habitation of an existing facility will result in an improved efficient management model.
- Increase the bowling club membership through its visibility to the community.
- Proceeds generated from the EBC's land sale could assist in developing an enhanced sporting hub for the benefit of the local Eastbourne community.
- Generate social enhancement to an existing successful community facility.
- Excess proceeds resulting from the sale of EBC's land and following relocation could assist local Eastbourne community based projects.
- The move to the HWSRG will be at minimal if any cost to HCC.

From a bowling perspective, the very positive side of such a move will be the extra "variety" of bowling activities available to EBC with a synthetic green being usable all year round. This will allow the Club to:-

- Increase player days.
- Capitalise on the already popular Community Bowls event.
- Host Inter Club gala days.
- Add business house bowls.
- Sell corporate function bowls.
- Support junior/school bowls.

### **THE RELOCATION PROPOSAL**

The Muritai Croquet Club retains its current location, with the new bowling green positioned on the existing tennis courts between the existing croquet lawn and the boundary with San Antonio Catholic Church. This would reduce the number of existing tennis courts from three to two and include the development of a new 3v3 basketball area, regarded as one of the fastest

growing sports in NZ. EBC's assessment indicates this arrangement will bring greater usage to this HCC recreational space.

Please refer to the **attached** plans, both existing and proposed, as well as a proposed section plan at the junction between bowls and croquet lawns. These plans have been prepared from detailed Survey drawings recovered from HCC. We can clarify the following regarding the site and planned relocation:-

1. The existing path between the Croquet Club and tennis courts will be relocated to the south side of the croquet lawn. HCC have confirmed the existing path is not a public right of way.
2. The planned tennis courts will have the same dimensions as the existing courts, including the space between and behind the courts.
3. The new bowling green will be to minimum dimensions of 34m square.
4. The relocation will include for the remarking of the relocated tennis courts and new 3v3 basketball area.
5. The relocation will be strictly within HCC's District Planning rules.

### **EBC's CONSIDERATION OF NET ZERO EMISSIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In implementing this proposal, and amalgamating with the ESSC, we will contribute to net zero emissions by: -

- Waste minimisation during the construction phase.
- Potential addition of solar panels to any new and existing roofs.
- Construction to meet Green Council's specifications.
- Strengthen the community through connected sports activities thus implementing community efficiency
- Creating a model of social responsibility on behalf of the Eastbourne community.

### **FINALLY**

Should the Eastbourne Bowling Club be successful in the Public Consultation process, we would continue to work on a collaborative basis with all parties and the local community in order to establish a facility that all Eastbourne can be proud of and ensure that all interests are met.





Catholic Church

Existing Fencing

Tennis Courts

Basketball Court

Skate ramp

EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY HALL

Public Toilets

Shed

Croquet Clubrooms  
and Community use

CROQUET LAWN

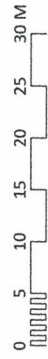
ESSC

VIA STREET



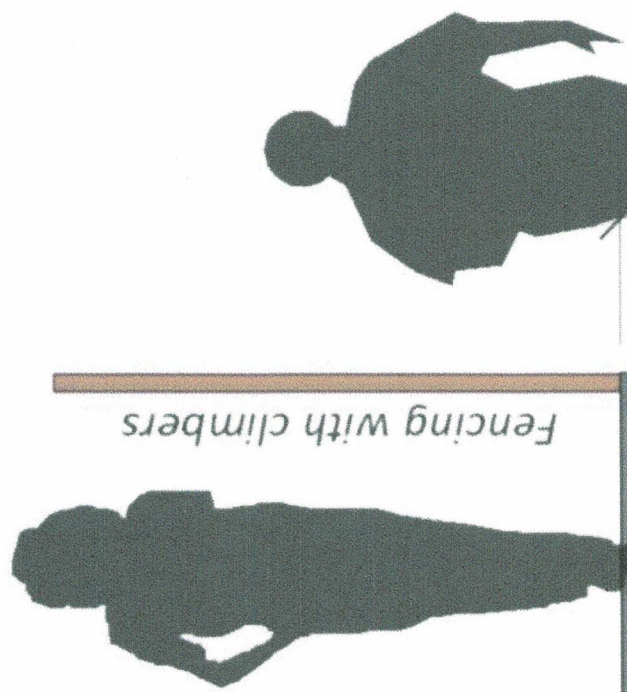


SCALE 1:500



Note:

- Tennis court dimensions and spacings are as per existing courts.
- Layout as shown is based on Spencer Holmes Engineers Topographical Survey at 6-12-2022
- All measurements in Millimeters
- Drawing issued at 27-05-2025



Fencing with climbers

quet Club

New wall

750

Bowling Club

Typical Cross-Section 1:50

