

Community Proposal for the Shire of Mundaring:

DARLINGTON SKATE PARK – COMMUNITY MASTERPLAN

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Author & Chair

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This document has been prepared for the Council and Staff of the Shire of Mundaring after one year of community consultation with the residents of Darlington, Western Australia.

Submitted to the CEO Shire of Mundaring

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### **Executive Summary**

The Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group DCRAG, is the official advisory group to the Shire of Mundaring (SOM). DCRAG Terms of Reference regarding the recreation facilities in the Darlington precinct includes; informing and advising, making recommendations for future planning, and acting as a link between the community and the SOM. Throughout 2018 with the TOR firmly in mind, DCRAG has embarked on creating a vision for the Darlington Skate Park (DSP) area. A vision, by the Darlington community, for the Darlington Community.

This document explains the vision for the Darlington Skate Park and describes the community consultation process and outcomes. A Community Masterplan, created by Gerard Healy – local landscape architect, is presented to the SOM for consideration and adoption.

The purpose of the Masterplan is to;

- Advise the SOM of the needs and wants of the local residents,
- capture the desires and vision of local residents,
- enable external and internal funding opportunities to be sought,
- enable the SOM to incorporate the local vision into their long term planning arrangements,
- allow for staged, planned development that is in keeping with the locality including the Darlington Precinct Plan.

Finally, recommendations are made regarding the adoption and inclusion of this Masterplan into the SOM long-term financial plan.

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### Abbreviations

DSP	Darlington Skate Park
DCRAG	Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group
DLGSC	Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
DRAA	Darlington Retirement Accommodation Association
DSRA	Darlington Sport and Recreation Association Inc.
DVBB	Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
FODS	Friends of Darlington Station
RRHT	Railway Road Heritage Trail
SOM	Shire of Mundaring

**Timeline – Key dates**

October 2013 – 2017	DCRAG Council Representative Trish Cook
September 2017	Council item 10.3 State Government Election Commitment impacts to the Corporate Business Plan.
October 2017	Council elections, resignation of Cr Trish Cook. DCRAG Council Representative Cr James Martin.
February 2018	DCRAG AGM Chair David Earnshaw retires, Trish Cook appointed. DCRAG subcommittee formed re: Half-pipe and Masterplan.
February/March	DCRAG subcommittee meetings
April 2018	Town meeting - Proposed Skate park Modifications and dirt jumps
June 2018	Council item 10.2 State Government Election Funding for Resurfacing Darlington Dirt Jumps. Reallocation of \$25,000 to the Half pipe after lobbying by local youth.
July 2018	DCRAG Concept plan for whole DSP area presented to community via Darlington Review
August / September	DCRAG liaises with key members and residents
October 2018	Town meeting – draft Masterplan on display (Bonfire day)
October 2018	Liaised with Tredwell – SOM consultants who have commence a whole of SOM Recreation Facilities Review
October 2018	Letterbox drop to adjacent residents of Masterplan
November 2018	DCRAG Masterplan presented to community via Darlington Review

## **Background**

### **Introduction**

This section explains the role of Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG) and the recent catalyst for Skate park improvement and the creation of the Community Masterplan.

### **DCRAG Members**

Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group, formerly the Darlington Community Recreation Management Committee, is a unique, community group within the SOM. Membership consists of persons comprising various community groups, representatives from local non-group community members, one SOM Councillor, and one Shire Officer. Cr James Martin and SOM Manager for Recreation Kirk Kitchen currently retain these latter two roles respectively. All community members and group representatives act in a voluntary capacity. From time to time, DCRAG form subcommittees to further investigate or instigate specific topics. Darlington Sport and Recreation Association (DSRA) Incorporated was formed out of one such sub-committee and went on to build the Darlington Pavilion as a community project.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 2018 long-term Chairperson David Earnshaw retired after 13 years of service, including 8 years as Chair. Community member and former SOM Councillor 2013-2017, Patricia Cook was elected Chair unopposed. Colin James, also former SOM Councillor 2009 - 2013, continues in his role of secretary that he has held for roughly 38 years.

### **DCRAG Terms of Reference**

The purpose of DCRAG as per the Terms of Reference are as follows:

- 3.1 To provide **information and advice** to the Shire on matters relating to the recreation facilities in the Darlington precinct.
- 3.2 To assess the local **communities' recreation needs and wants** and keep the Shire informed of these needs.
- 3.3 To assist the Shire by **providing recommendations on future planning** of the recreation facilities in the Darlington precinct.
- 3.4 To make **recommendations to the Shire on capital items** relating to recreational facilities within the Darlington precinct.
- 3.5 To be a **focal point and act as a link** between the Shire and the local community.

### **Catalyst for Masterplan**

Annually DCRAG make recommendations to the Shire regarding the facilities and communities' wishes and requirements. For around ten years DCRAG had repeatedly requested that the Darlington dirt jumps be repaired and possibly resurfaced to make this activity safe and functional again. These requests were the result of DCRAG's members' observation of the degrading dirt jumps being disused, and the item continued to be rolled over with previous unattended capital item requests on the capital items request list.

In 2017 the new McGowan State labour government allocated \$25,000 for resurfacing of the dirt jumps. This was based on initial SOM suggestion from recreation Manager Kirk Kitchen, who was aware of the long-standing DCRAG recommendations. The item was included, along with six other items, in the Council report 10.3 in September 2017 (pp.C45 – C48) when officers sought direction regarding items included in the State Government election commitments. The report explained that the Darlington dirt jumps was not listed in the Corporate Business Plan 2017/18, and that the item did “not require extensive consultation” as it primarily was maintenance work. The prevailing view from the administration was that the dirt jumps were not used because of the poor condition and that resurfacing would again see them be used. The officers recommended proceeding with the dirt jump refurbishment.

However, Trish Cook had already had many discussions with skate park users and concluded that the dirt jump refurbishment was simply not what the users or wider community wanted. Trish had taken a close interest in the skate park activities and the disused dirt jumps for many years, having been a member of DCRAG as the Council representative for four years and as a daily user of the adjacent oval. Trish raised her concerns of the dirt jumps not being used, and the congestion on the skate park with SOM infrastructure team on several occasions including the September 2017 Council meeting. The Council upheld the officer's recommendations. In October 2017, Trish retired as SOM Councillor and was shortly thereafter appointed as the new DCRAG chair. Trish and a subcommittee of DCRAG soon embarked on serious community engagement including observation and discussion with skate park users. Engagement included a Town Meeting in April 2018 to discuss proposed alternative modifications to the skate park, and to confirm support or otherwise for the dirt jump refurbishment. It was clear that the dirt jumps had "had their day" both in terms of a physical asset and as a major recreational activity. Some bikers used the smaller jumps on an occasional basis, though most didn't, as the jumps were perceived as too large and too dangerous. These same bikers were happy to use the concrete skate park to perform tricks. Most serious bikers were going to The Goat Farm down the road in Greenmount, or other specialist parks catering for bikes. The engagement with Darlington youth supported the view that the concrete skate was well used though congested at peak times. Further that the addition of a half pipe instead of the dirt jumps was desired as a concrete half pipe would;

- Allow for all wheeled sports including bikers, skaters, scooters and rollerblades
- Accommodate both expert and beginner users of these sports
- Require little future maintenance by the SOM.

In May 2018 the Council was successfully lobbied by the skate park users to redirect the State Government money toward a concrete half pipe. This had full support from State Government MP Matthew Hughes who attended the Town Meeting in April 2018 and spoke with many of the skate park users. The future of the dirt jumps was not decided as the Shire of Mundaring had previously planned to do a “whole of Shire” review of recreational services. This has recently occurred, and DCRAAG have shared this draft DSP Masterplan with Tredwell, consultants to the SOM.

Throughout the community engagement process for the dirt jumps/half pipe issue, many other improvement suggestions were made and recorded. It became clear to DCRAAG that the whole area required improvement and there was a need for long term vision to enable these requests to be met in a planned, coordinated way. DCRAAG captured the ideas and began the process of developing a wider Masterplan for this area

### **Darlington Skate Park Location**

Darlington Skate Park is situated at the western end of the Darlington recreation area. A new community pavilion has now landmarked the division between the oval and the skate park. The walls of both the east and west of the pavilion consist of a bank of full-length windows. The view from inside the pavilion is one of contrast. Looking east reveals the paved undercover pavilion verandah, the green oval, the tennis courts and further the young children’s playground and Darlington Hall. Looking west reveals the small concrete skate facility, small and large disused dirt jumps, and some degraded remnant bushland which is infested with weeds. The Railway Road Heritage Trail (RRHT) bounds the northern end of the DSP enabling easy access for bikes and pedestrians including school children.

The DSP land is owned by State Government while management is vested in the SOM.

**Historic use of the DSP**

This area has been used for a variety of activities. The area was once part of the winery, more recently a pony club, and now a skate park and dirt jumps area for about 10-15 years.

**Current DSP facility**

According to the Shire of Mundaring website the current small skate facility was built in 2002 and “consists of flat banks, a big fun box with hips on the side and a rail down the middle, smooth 4ft quarter and a small hip” (SOM). The concrete skate facility is adjacent to the newly build Community Pavilion and thus has access to water fountain and toilets.

To the west of the concrete skate area are the disused dirt jumps ranging from small to large. The dirt jumps are disused due to lack of maintenance, general recreational move toward wheeled sports on concrete skate parks and The Goat Farm mountain bike area being so close in nearby Greenmount. To the north and further west are areas of degraded remnant bush areas. To the south is an area for overflow parking and occasional fire station activities including the annual Bonfire. Drainage in the area is not formalised. The dirt jumps are in poor condition, have extremely limited use (mostly for toy remote operated vehicles) and are no longer desired by the community. The site from an aerial view is quite a scar on the landscape and has been dubbed the “mine site”. It is visually unappealing, has very little shade, and the dirt areas are littered with small glass fragments from years of broken glass. There is a small under cover seated area for observers. The sign is damaged and unreadable in some areas.

The concrete skating platform area, however, is well used by wheeled sports including skateboarders, scooters and bicycles. The afternoons and early mornings are peak activity times, as well as weekends and school holidays. It has limited use in summer as the whole area becomes very hot and unpleasant due to an absence of shade.

Regarding utilities there is no lighting in the area and there nearest power source is at the Community Pavilion. There is a bore/tap situated in the middle of the overflow parking area which could be utilised. This water is used by the SOM for the watering of the oval. A tank next to the Fire Station is part of this system.

### **Relevant nearby facilities**

An advanced mountain bike park “The Goat Farm” is in nearby in Greenmount. This area is well maintained by the Government of Western Australia Parks and Wildlife Services. The Goat Farm is a totally designated mountain bike park, catering for all kinds of disciplines and skill levels. Toilet and easy car park facilities are available. Dirt jumps in the SOM are also located in Swan View, Chidlow and Woorooloo.

The nearest skate park facilities are in Midland (City of Swan), Mt Helena and Mundaring, however the latter two designs are similar to the Darlington skate area and offer little alternative in the way of challenges for the users.

### **Current users of the DSP**

The skate park consists of many different aged users and involves a variety of wheeled sports including mountain bikes, skateboards, scooters and rollerblades. There are a variety of age groups mostly under 25's though some older adults utilize the area also. Mostly users are tolerant and accommodating and share the facility harmoniously, though there is some congestion at peak times, both with different activities, different age groups and different skill levels.

The dirt jumps are only occasionally used by bikers. There is some dirt jump use for remotely operated toy vehicles.

## **DCRAG Community Consultation**

### **Introduction**

DCRAG and the DCRAG subcommittee have been welcoming to comments from all DCRAG members, people who use the DSP, and residents who wish to have their say on the future of the DSP area. DCRAG have actively sought out key stakeholders to gather their input. This section outlines the people, processes and tools used by DCRAG to consult with the local community.

### **Skate Park Users**

A core group of teenagers and young adults have been actively involved on the DCRAG subcommittee, attending meetings and discussing their comments, thoughts, ideas and experiences elsewhere. The youth include former professional skateboard educator Will Kitley, along with Torres Skene, Noah Giles, Sean Ford, Cai Morris and Conner Lapwood. Tim Fitzgerald represented older skateboard users. Bikers were represented by youth Sam Windsor, and adults Tim Colgan, and Nathan Thomson. Scooters mostly seem to be young children and some young teenagers who were consulted during the skate park competitions in October 2017 & 2018. Large posters were made available to users of the DSP to add to their comments.

### **Darlington Review**

The Darlington Review magazine, edited by Trea Wiltshire, is a free local, colour magazine delivered to every Darlington household on a monthly basis (excluding January). DCRAG contribute information monthly. This subscription is funded annually by the SOM.

The Darlington Review has been utilized every month of 2018 to provide an update to the community of DSP Masterplan on-goings. All councillors receive a copy of the magazine as a courtesy.

## **Social Media - Facebook**

Four main closed Facebook groups have been created/utilized.

The Darlington Hub group consists of over 1000 members and is a way of general communication. This group was set up by external locals some time ago.

Darlington Skate Park, Perth WA, Subcommittee of DCRAG group consists of 25 members and is used to communicate specific information regarding the Masterplan. This group was set up by Trish Cook DCRAG.

Friends of Darlington Skate Park group consists of 80 members and is for users. Posts include advertising skate park activities and communication of information regarding the half pipe development and the proposed Masterplan. This FDSP was set up by the local youth.

Darlington Community Garden group consists of 168 members.

## **Town Meetings**

Two town meetings were held for community consultation regarding the DSP. The first one in April 2018 engaged many members of the community regarding the half pipe /dirt jumps issue, and collected many suggestions regarding the Masterplan. A summary was shared on Friends of Darlington Skate Park below;

FB POST TO GROUPS BY TRISH COOK APRIL 2018

Hello everyone,

Just to let you know the outcome of the Town Meeting yesterday.

About 30 locals came to the Pavilion, at least half of which were youth, to view the DCRAG Subcommittee proposal for a 3 1/2" half pipe which will benefit all users of the area including bikes.

There is strong support to use the \$25K allocation from State Government for a skatepark half pipe, as shown by green voting dots. This supports the online FB poll on Darlington Hub Page. This design will enable future add-ons to the skatepark area also. There was no support for the dirt jumps as shown by the absence of red voting dots. There was a lot of support for a bike/board path around the whole youth area with some skills areas and beginners riding area. Bikers were happy to support the skatepark with this money now, as they often use the skatepark and 1/2 pipes on their bikes or boards. We will pursue a Master Plan of the area and continue to seek ideas for the Skatepark area.

The reallocation of this money from the dirt jumps to the skatepark, after community consultation by DCRAG Subcommittee, will be presented to Council on the 8th May. The next DCRAG meeting is on the 7th May. All welcome. If Council support this reallocation of funds, then discussions on the “how” to implement will be discussed with Shire officers.

Thank you all for your interest and support. Thank you to Matthew Hughes and Cr Doug Jeans for attending also.

Kind regards,  
Trish Cook  
Chair  
Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group

The second town meeting was held on the same day as the Darlington Bonfire 2018 and the Skate/scooter competition was held. Displays of the Masterplan were presented, and further comments sought from the community by way of large blank posters and conversations. Residents were able to see the Masterplan enlarged, having already seen it in the Darlington Review.

### **Consultation one-on-one with key members Darlington Community**

Throughout the year Trish Cook has actively sought out key members of the community for discussion concerning the DSP Masterplan. The comments are collated in the Summary of Comments Table below. This includes the Darlington History Group, nearby residents, environmental people and groups, fire station captain, Darlington Resident and Ratepayers Association (DRRA), Darlington Sports and Recreation Association (DSRA), etc.

### **Letter drop to adjacent residents**

All DSP adjacent residents received a letter from Trish Cook Chair DCRAG regarding the DSP Masterplan. Some 50 letters and a coloured map of the proposed Masterplan were hand delivered to the letterboxes of those nearby properties along Darlington Road, Coulston Road, Pine Terrace, and Owen Road. The letter invited residents to view the Masterplan on display the following week, and asked for questions or leave comments. Distribution

occurred ahead of the public notification in the Darlington Review so as to inform those most affected first. See Appendix 5.

**Table of summarised comments from community consultation.**

Group/ Individual:	Considerations:	Summary & Comments:
Skateboarders		<p>Complaints about congestion at peak times. Keen to get the 4” half pipe with a stair set with metal supports and a concrete ledge. Would also love a bowl rather than a pump track Do not want the area over engineered, like the natural surroundings. Do not want big development that may attract too many users from other areas. Like the local feel. Want shade, shelter and seating Happy to share the space with community garden people so long as they get their additional skills areas and have reasonable space. Want delineated areas – including smart use of landscaping Multifunctional user groups - want facilities that can be used by multiple user groups eg bikes, scooters, skaters. Multi capable facilities – that will be good for both beginners and experts. Don’t want dirt on the concrete as this causes injuries. Want facilities that will challenge their skills such as ledges, rails, stairs, manual pads, handrails or extensions of existing rails. Do want the same facilities as other Shire facilities as there is no challenge if doing the same skills. Better drinking fountain. Lighting has been requested to enable use of the park in the evenings Outdoor concrete or metal table tennis table. Basketball ring BBQ Seating (the new steps and retaining wall have provided some informal seating).</p>
Scooters		<p>Multifunctional user groups - want facilities that can be used by multiple user groups eg bikes, scooters, skaters. Multi capable facilities – that will be good for both beginners and experts. The landing on the concrete needs to be wider to enable their landings safely. Extension rail on quarter pipe requested. Half pipe may address this issue.</p>
Bikers		Multifunctional user groups - want facilities that can be used

		<p>by multiple user groups eg bikes, scooters, skaters. Multi capable facilities – that will be good for both beginners and experts. Happy to use a half pipe as this will suit beginner bikers and expert bikers. A pump track enables expert users to pick up speed, but also enables beginners to stay on track. Big slope junction into the RRHT for bikes.</p>
All wheeled users		<p>Would be willing to be physically involved in busy bee, landscaping activities. Get the schools involved. Want to cater for spread of all ages, progression from beginners to advanced, with variety and skill challenges (eg balance boards, sleepers) Avoid over engineering – maintain a chill out space for local youth Definitely not a horse-resting area or dog exercise area. Seating, Shade, water fountain and Bins are needed. Landscaping should incorporate the use of natural materials to suit the area and the history of the village. Basket swing (universal access) similar to Sculpture Park Mundaring. Charging station for phones Planting for privacy for users and nearby residents.</p>
Parents		<p>Somewhere for young children to learn to ride their bicycles. Easy jumps for little kids to learn to ride (mixed community banks). Accessibility paths between playground and skatepark for prams</p>
Lynne Williams Dton Rd resident	<p>Lighting Noise</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour</p>	<p>Concerns expressed regarding noise &amp; lighting. Has had lighting issues from the recently built Community Pavilion, this has now been rectified from DSRA. There is currently no DSP lighting other than the Community Pavilion and oval. Smart lighting (if any) will need to be further considered at the detail level and residents concerns addressed. Lighting has not been included on the Masterplan. To combat noise and visuals, the Masterplan includes replanting and restoration of the area of remnant bush on the north-east side of the DSP. This will act as a buffer for residents that back onto the RRHT along Darlington Road. Concerns expressed re: antisocial behaviour that currently, occasionally exists in the bush areas alongside the RRHT. Intergenerational use of the area may assist with increased “passive surveillance” of the area.</p>
Pam and Bob Nearest resident to		<p>Fully supportive of Masterplan. Enjoy hearing the youth playing. Fully supportive of a community garden in the proposed</p>

DSP in the retirement units. DRAA		location next to their unit.
DRAA		Secretary advises.
Cliff Burns Pine Tce resident	Discussion	Supportive of bush regeneration High supports using local native flora to support native animals and bird life.
Cliff Burns Dton History Group	Discussion	The DHG are aware of an old historic railway siding, on the south side of the RRHT. The siding is barely visible due to weeds and grasses. It is located further west along the RRHT and does not conflict with the Masterplan.
Peter Day Dton “Weed man”	Inspection of the area August 2018	Supportive of vegetation being replanted with local natives which will help to reduce weeds. Some native and desirable plants and trees exist, however much of the area is infested with weed.
Gill Scott FODS		Supportive of the community garden and the native restoration. Willing to assist with the native restoration project, by way of sharing equipment and expertise.
Chris Pemberton DRRA		DRRA have been updated regularly via secretary. They also collect suggestions for annual capital items. One suggestion was to “demolish the dirt jumps and fence as dog exercise area”. This idea is not supported by the rest of the community and is in direct conflict with skate park users. DRRA are supportive of the Masterplan.
FB Dton Hub POLL : dirt jumps		There was NO support for the dirt jumps on either the FB poll or the at the Town meeting.
John Wood Pine Terrace resident		Sent an email after maildrop. “Heartfelt congratulations and thans on your great work in developing the concept plan for this area of such wonderful potential. If there is anything that my wife Ronnie and I can contribute to support your project please let us know”.
Dton Volunteer Bushfire Brigade		
Other unreferenced general comments		Soil testing may be required as this area has been used for a variety of known and unknown uses, including fire fighting exercises and pony club.
Other comments captured that related to recreational areas outside the scope of the DSP.		Tennis Court Universal access / Ramps / 5 <sup>th</sup> tennis court. Seating around the oval in stone Universal accessibility between the west and the east ends of the oval – pathway on the south side? Community crossing between playground and shop (DRRA & SOM are looking at this safety issue)

Other skate parks that users have recommended are:

Wanneroo

### **SOM Consultation - Director of Infrastructure**

DCRAG subgroup have endeavoured to work with the Shire officers on this project. The DSP Concept plan was shown to Shane Purdy and some members of his team in July 2018 during an onsite meeting. The infrastructure team informally assessed the Concept plan. Drainage was subsequently included on the Masterplan as requested by Mr Purdy. It is acknowledge that the Infrastructure team and other SOM departments will require formal assessment. Email updates have been sent to Mr Purdy to get him abreast of support, concerns and changes. Mr Purdy was agreeable to exploring a community-led initiatives.

### **SOM Consultants - Tredwell**

Tredwell consultants are currently assessing the SOM existing recreational facilities and future needs. Conversations with Tredwell representatives occurred informally at the DSP by chance, with Trish Cook. Later, Tredwell were sent a copy of the DSP Masterplan as well as Trish completing and advertising their survey.

### **Political consultation / funding**

DCRAG acknowledges that the Shire of Mundaring do not currently have plans for the Darlington Skate Park area and subsequently no monies have been forecasted for this area in the SOM Long term capital budget. With a Federal election likely to be held in the next six months, DCRAG has communicated with local politicians and candidates to gain support for

the Masterplan and seeking financial support and commitment for this project. Both major parties have shown interest and support for the Masterplan.

### **Matthew Hughes MP (State Labor)**

Matthew Hughes, Member for Kalamunda, has been a supportive advocate for this Masterplan as was his predecessor John Day (former MP Liberal Government). Matthew's pre-election commitment of \$25,000, initially for the dirt jumps, was supportive of Councils' decision to reallocate this money to the half pipe. Matthew has attended numerous meetings with the subcommittee and youth representatives.

### **Ken Wyatt MP Member for Hasluck (Federal Liberal)**

Minister Ken Wyatt has been very supportive of this project and has advised SOM in writing of his awareness of the financial assistance and his commitment to this project in the future.

### **James Martin Hasluck candidate (Federal Labor)**

A detailed Masterplan was explained to James when he became a Labor candidate. As James has been the Council representative on DCRAG for the last two years, he is familiar with the project.

### **Leanne Mills Hasluck candidate (Greens)**

It is hoped that Leanne will be explained the details of this project in the near future.

### **Independent candidates for the Federal election.**

There are no declared independent candidates at this time.

## **The Community Masterplan**

### **Introduction**

This section will explain the details of the proposed DSP Community Masterplan.

The DSP Community Masterplan has been prepared over the last 12 months by Darlington resident and landscape architect Gerard Healy of G.H. & Associates in Midland. Gerard is experienced in; providing landscape architectural services to local governments, community consultation and recreational planning. Gerard has volunteered his time and services to this project and has participated in many of the community sessions as well as having one-one engagement with key community personnel. The community of Darlington thank Gerry for his kind assistance of his expertise.

### **Purpose**

The aim of the DSP Masterplan is to provide a vision for the future use of this space with a focus on recreational activities for the Darlington intergenerational community. This vision follows extensive community consultation over the last few years. The Masterplan provides recreational activities for youth, and others, and allows for non-organised sports and recreational activities.

The purpose of the Masterplan is to;

- Advise the SOM of the needs and wants of the local residents,
- capture the desires and vision of local residents,
- enable external and internal funding opportunities to be sought,
- enable the SOM to incorporate the local vision into their long term planning arrangements,
- allow for staged, planned development that is congruent to the locality.

## **Main features**

Some of the main features of the Draft DSP Masterplan include:

1. The half pipe skate park extension (funding of \$25K has been secured and a community build project will commence in the months to come)
2. Additional skate/scooter area to link the half pipe and existing skate park
3. A pump track to cater for bikes, skaters and scooters
4. A community organic, vegetable garden based on permaculture principles
5. Local native bushland screening for adjacent residents along Darlington Road including some bush tucker plants.
6. Land-scaping and drainage improvements
7. Wood-land walk trail and adventure play area
8. Other concept features, bocce ball court, third cricket net, water tanks, shade etc.

## **Dirt jumps**

Please note that the plan proposes that existing dirt jumps will be demolished and the earth will be used to provide landscaping features to demarcate the various areas. Consideration has been given to avoid over-engineering of the area, boost intergenerational recreation activities, improving local native bush areas and landscaping that will provide shade and shelter. There is no community support for the dirt jumps, even if repaired.

**Skate Park – Half pipe**

The installation of a half pipe project is in progress. Led by Darlington resident, retired architect and now Project Manager David Grant, it is proposed that DSRA will manage this installation as a community build. The Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) are currently holding \$25,000. This funding was from State Government 2017 election commitment, and was initially allocated to the dirt jumps. After successful lobbying from local youth, the Council of SOM requested State Government to reallocate this money to a half pipe.

**Skate park – Shelter and Apron (skill components)**

Skateboards and some other wheeled sports all agree that they need skills structures and areas to challenge them and enable tricks to be performed. Skills components include ledges, stairs, rails, spines, banks and many pads.. The Masterplan includes a concrete apron that will circumscribe the existing structure together with the new half pipe. This apron will also include additional skills structures to challenge riders and enlarge the whole designated area. Additionally, dirt on a skate facility can lead to accidents. The skate surface needs to be clean and smooth, but not too shiny or slippery. Enlarging the area will also reduce congestion and decrease contamination on the surface.

**Pump track – Cyclists, skaters and scooters**

The SOM have recently installed a pump track at Lake Leschenaultia. The DSP Masterplan recommends that a concrete pump track replaces the dirt jumps in Darlington. Together with the half pipe this would cater for all levels of expertise, all wheeled sports and reduce congestion between seniors and juniors. By using concrete, maintenance would be at a

minimum for the SOM. Concrete tinted red would help reduce the glare from grey concrete and with landscaping, would blend into the bush environment.

There have been some comments from skateboards preferring a bowl, rather than a pump track. However, a bowl can be intimidating for beginner users. Additionally, pump tracks are a fairly new concept which local skaters may not have experienced.

A Pump Track is a progressive structure which uses an up and down ‘pumping’ motion to propel a bicycle or skateboard forward without pedalling or pushing. Pump Tracks are great for practicing balance skills and improving confidence in a simple way. They are safe and fun to ride for all ages and skill levels. Also, they are suitable for any size bicycle – from push bikes and kids bikes, to BMX and full-size mountain bikes – and even for skateboards and long-boards.

Pump Tracks facilitate a community environment by bridging the generation gap between parents, small children and teenagers. Our structures are modular, flexible and moveable to suit any type of terrain and can be made from concrete or a steel framework with a high-grip composite surface.

<https://trinityskateparks.com.au/pump-tracks-australia/>

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Youtube video example in Brooklyn - Skateboarding:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SH7MuogZnQ>

Youtube video example in Baldivis WA – Skateboarding/ bmx/scooters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVPJInWoJpk>

### **Darlington Community Garden (DCG) – Organic, permaculture, vegetables.**

Suggested by Gerry Healy, the concept of a community garden in Darlington has met with widespread approval. Gerry’s experience and research informs us that by co-locating youth

recreational areas with other low key areas such as community gardens, anti social behaviour can be deterred. There is widespread community support for a community garden in this location. A Facebook group called Darlington Community Garden has 168 members at this time. The first meeting, held in April, had around 30 people in attendance and there was major agreement that the DCG be organic, permaculture garden focusing on vegetable and fruit trees. The Masterplan shows the area on the south west side, adjacent to the Darlington Retirees Accommodation Association (DRAA) is most suitable, as will get plenty of sunshine, with shade in the afternoon. The most immediate neighbours, Pam and Bob Hall are very enthusiastic and supportive of the project as are DRRA. According to preliminary advice from SOM infrastructure team, water may be accessed from the nearby bore that reticulates the Darlington Oval. The DCG figurehead is Candice Cahill who has some horticultural experience. Candice and horticulturalist John Yaxley are investigating possible details designs. The Masterplan is conceptual only at this stage. Earthworks and soil testing will be required. Candice is currently pursuing a DCG lease of the area with Karen White at the SOM. The SOM will need to apply for a “Power of Lease” as the land, while managed by the SOM, is owned by the State Government. This may be a lengthy timeframe of up to 12 months. It is envisioned that the DCG will be auspiced by another incorporated local group, probably DSRA.

### **Community Garden – Native bushland, northeast corner**

The area of land running alongside the RRHT, between Darlington Road residents and the Skate park, is ideal for revegetation and renovation. Some remnant bush remains, along with weed trees that will eventually need to be removed. Planting of this area is a priority on the Masterplan, as this would assist in buffering residents from noise and lighting. A local native bush restoration would also assist small local fauna like bandicoots, birds and lizards. The area could incorporate bush tucker plants to make for an interesting walk, and provide

snack/food for skate park users. The nearest, affected resident to this is Lynne Williams on Darlington Road who is concerned that if bush-tucker were incorporated in this area it would encourage human activity and thus noise and possibly anti-social behaviour. If bush-tucker plants are incorporated they could be located closest to the skate facilities. More native shrubs and trees can be used for buffering. Weeds, including some trees, can be removed in succession rather than all at once. It is hoped that this area will serve as an asset to privacy for residents.

### **Third Cricket Net**

A third cricket net has been requested by the Darlington Cricket Club for some years. With the Masterplan proposing relocation of the storage container to the back of the Community Pavilion, this would enable the third cricket net to be installed adjacent to existing nets on the south side.

### **Wood-land walk trail and adventure playground**

In 2013, modifications to the children's playground area, (opposite the Darlington Hall), with particularly respect to shade, were discussed by the Darlington Community. Overwhelmingly at that time, the community desired Nature-based play facilities. This was not available at that location as the playground was fairly new and a shade solution was found. The community desire for nature-based play facilities has not been forgotten. An area of land between the DRAA (south) and the RRHT (north) to the west of the DSP is ideal for renovation. The whole area is currently weed infested and provides little shade. Some native and large trees could be used for flying fox, basket swing, and adventure playground. Informal trails meander through this area to connect the Skate Park to the RRHT and bus stops on Coulston Road. Many dog owners walk through this area to access the oval, as do bikers and skaters/scooters to access the skate park.

## **Landscaping**

The Masterplan includes extensive landscaping that will utilize the existing dirt jump soil. The absence of shade has been addressed by the addition of large trees, some native, some not. Sheena Wheeler, local Darlington Tree Custodian, is now a member on DCRAG and will work together with Gerry for careful and appropriate tree selection and placement. It is imperative to not let the trees drop leaves/berries onto the skate facility. Drainage has been outlined in blue. Soil improvement will be required.

## **Other features**

Lighting is yet to be considered for this area. Smart lightning on the skatepark may be an option. Residents impact needs to be carefully considered.

## **Recommendations**

Within the Darlington community there is overwhelming united support for the Masterplan.

DCRAG recommends that Council receive, assess, adopt, adapt and incorporate the DSP Masterplan for in SOM long term financial planning. This will allow;

- funding to be allocated and budgeted for by the SOM
- funding from State and Federal governments to be actively sought
- development of the area to be done in a planned, well thought out way,
- community acceptance of development in the area.

The plan will be presented at the Annual Electors Meeting in December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The plan is not a rigid document. Indeed it lacks detail deliberately as further technical and professional consultation would be required. Whilst the pump track has been included there has been overwhelming support by wheeled sports for multiuse facilities. The pump track could well be replaced by extended with other concrete skateboarding/scootering facilities.

The whole of Shire approach will be required to ensure neighbouring facilities are not duplicated, so that every village recreational area has different, interesting and challenging skills areas. It is highly recommended that the youth of the community and professional skate park and pump track designers are consulted nearer the development time. A community build for this large, whole project is not recommended. However, some areas like community garden and native bush area could involve community groups.

### **Conclusion**

This document presents the Darlington Skate Park Community Masterplan to the SOM for adoption and inclusion to the SOM long-term financial plan. Community consultation by DCRAG has been outlined, as have the major components of the Masterplan.

Recommendations for the future have been outlined to continue community engagement as well as expert technical advice. The Darlington Skate Park area has tremendous potential for a shared, intergenerational, recreational area.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Excerpt DCRAG Community Notes Darlington Review August 2018

#### MASTERPLAN FOR SKATEPARK

There has been a significant amount of liaison, discussion and cooperation with Shire of Mundaring (SOM) officers over the past months. The concept Masterplan for the Skatepark/dirt jump area at the lower oval area is moving forward. A concept, designed by volunteer, local landscape architect Gerry Healy, has come together primarily from discussions with Skatepark users, resident suggestions from the Town Meeting and DCRAG meetings, and Darlington Hub Facebook page input. Residents of The Glen (DRRA) have given their blessing and we are working with nearby residents to ensure appropriate considerations regarding noise, lightening, security etc. are included in the plan.

The suggestion by Gerry to incorporate an organic permaculture type Community Garden in the south west part of this area has met with widespread interest and approval. A specific Facebook page called **Darlington Community Garden** has over 140 members already. The group has kindly received an offer of donation of \$1000 from Pip Windsors' local running group to kick off the project. The inaugural meeting attracted 30 people, and a subgroup of talented locals will be meeting to look at design options. The DCG group head organiser is Candice Cahill, with Kell Barnes providing administration support. Youth of the Skatepark are happy to share this area, so long as they have their space and new half pipe, as they don't want this area over-developed. The dirt jumps will be remoulded to provide smart, landscaping divisions of main areas. Some restoration of existing bushland to the northeast area to provide residents on Darlington Road with buffering is included. This will occur after Shire weeding and Stage Two of the Pavilion build is completed. A pump track for bikes has also been incorporated into the concept plan to accommodate both beginners and experts.

This concept DSP Masterplan was put to the Shire Infrastructure team onsite one early cold morning recently. They have given their principle support of the plan, noting that further community consultation will be undertaken by DCRAG (a town meeting will be held in coming months). The concept plan will also need to be approved by other Shire departments e.g. Safety, Bushfire, Recreation etc.

The purpose of the community developing our own (Shire approved) Masterplan is that when grant money becomes available through the Shire or from State/Federal governments, our plan is ready to go. It is likely that this plan will be achieved in stages as there are no Shire budget provision for funding this redevelopment as yet. Further, the drainage of the whole area will need to be attended to as a priority before other installations (including the half pipe) are considered.

Colin James  
Secretary DCRAG

Appendix 2 – Excerpt DCRAG Community Notes Darlington Review September 2018

## **DARLINGTON REVIEW NOTES - SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **DARLINGTON COMMUNITY RECREATION ADVISORY GROUP**

#### MASTERPLAN FOR SKATEPARK

Efforts continue behind the scene to lobby local politicians for funds to redevelop the Darlington Skate Park. Federal Government Minister Ken Wyatt has previously supported the community pavilion build and is supportive of the improvements to the adjacent Skate Park area. I recently attended a community meeting with Ken and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and there were many requests from a variety of groups for funding of projects. With a Federal election due sometime before May 2019 it is timely to connect with politicians and voice our requests.

I have also had discussions with Labor candidate for the seat of Hasluck, James Martin who is a current Shire of Mundaring South-ward Councillor. Cr Martin is also familiar with the processes and requirements of the Darlington Skate Park Community Master plan having been the Council representative on DCRAG since the October 2017 elections.

Meanwhile we are working with the Shire of Mundaring to prepare the concept master plan, so that if funding becomes available we are ready to go. Currently we await a drainage infrastructure map from the shire, to enable our local volunteer landscape architect to design a drainage plan. Once this is completed to shire satisfaction then detailed planning for the half pipe can be undertaken. The work is likely to be undertaken as a Community Build under the Darlington Sports and Recreation Association (DSRA) chaired by Geoff Barker. This means that the dollar can be stretched a little further.

I have also liaised with the good folk at Glen Forrest as they are hoping to add a beginners bicycle-learning track at Morgan John Morgan; and Swan View are also looking at a Skate park facility. Networking with our neighbours will prevent duplication and more variety of local facilities.

Local weed elimination man Peter Day, John Yaxley from the Darlington Community Garden (DCG) group and I have recently looked closer at the bushland remnant to the northwest of the park. It is proposed that this area be restored to local native bushland, including some bush tucker foods, which will provide screening for the southern Darlington Road residents. This may be the first project of the DCG while they await shire approval, drainage and earthworks for the proposed DCG situated on the southeast side of the Skate Park block. Liaison with DSRA regarding the pavilion Stage 2 continues.

Patricia Cook  
Chair  
DCRAG  
040 9479 551

## Appendix 3 – Excerpt DCRAG Community Notes Darlington Review October 2018

**DARLINGTON REVIEW NOTES - OCTOBER 2018****DARLINGTON COMMUNITY RECREATION ADVISORY GROUP**

5. Along with this area is the overall Masterplan for the Recreational / Skate park area. Documentation regarding drainage has now been received from the Shire and volunteer landscape architect Gerry Healy is putting together a Master Drainage Plan, as requested by the Shire in addition to the Concept Design. Funding is being sought from both State and Federal governments and discussions with politicians and candidates of the major parties have occurred. The Community Bonfire 2018 is all set for Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, with all groups working towards a similar event as last year including;

- **Town Community Meeting 12-5pm** in the Pavilion to display the Masterplan for the Darlington Skate park Area. Designed by Gerry Healy after many months of collecting community feedback in a variety of ways, this will be the last opportunity to give your comments to DCRAG. It will then be officially presented to the Shire of Mundaring for consideration and eventual adoption. Refer Trish Cook.

Colin James, Secretary DCRAG

## Appendix 4 – Excerpts of DCRAG Minutes of Meetings

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> August in Community Pavilion**

Masterplan for Recreational Area....TC indicated process worked through with community consultation and SOM involvement. Require copy of lower oval (skate park area) drainage information but still waiting from Shire. Shire requires a drainage plan. Seeking funding for project from Liberal & Labour sources for it.

## Appendix 5 – DCRAG Letter to adjacent Darlington Skate Park residents

206/21340 Helena Valley Road,  
Helena Valley 6056

Dear Darlington Resident,

Re: Darlington Skate Park – Community Masterplan

The Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG) is the official advisory group to the Shire of Mundaring (SOM) regarding the Darlington recreation areas. DCRAG is made up of volunteers including representatives of all the local recreational user groups, community members, Shire officer, and a Councillor. You have received this letter drop as your residence is nearby to the Darlington Skate Park (DSP).

Over the last 12 months or so DCRAG subcommittee has embarked on developing a Community Masterplan for the whole DSP area. The skate park area adjoins the pavilion and currently consists of dirt jumps, small skate park, and degraded bush areas. The purpose of the DSP Community Masterplan is to develop a community vision for the area in preparedness for possible future development and funding. This vision has been collated from information received from a range of community input including a Town Meeting in April regarding the half pipe/dirt jumps, feedback from Facebook polling and comments, and one-one conversations with various community groups, some adjacent residents and current skate park users.

The proposed Draft DSP Community Masterplan is attached for your consideration. An enlarged version of the Draft DSP Community Masterplan will be on display at the Darlington Sports and Community Pavilion on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 from 12pm to 6pm** prior to Bonfire 2018. Further community input and comments of the concept plan are welcomed and encouraged, both at the Pavilion on the Bonfire day and by email to Trish Cook below.

Compiled by local volunteer landscape architect Gerard Healy, some main features of the Draft DSP Masterplan include:

- The half pipe skate park extension (funding of \$25K has been secured and a community build project will commence in the months to come)
- Additional skate/scooter area to link the half pipe and existing skate park
- A pump track to cater for bikes, skaters and scooters
- A community garden
- Local native bushland screening for adjacent residents along Darlington Road including some bush tucker plants.
- Land-scaping and drainage improvements
- Wood-land walk trail and adventure play area
- other concept features, bocce ball court, third cricket net, water tanks, shade etc.

Please note that the plan proposes that existing dirt jumps will be demolished and the earth will be used to provide landscaping features to demarcate the various areas. Consideration

has been given to avoid over-engineering of the area, boost intergenerational recreation activities, improving local native bush areas and landscaping that will provide shade and shelter.

Following the October 27<sup>th</sup> display, both the Draft DSP Community Masterplan and a report on the DCRAG community consultation process will be then be presented to the Shire of Mundaring for consideration and adoption. Community feedback can also be given directly to the Shire of Mundaring by email (see below).

DCRAG are mindful that the Shire of Mundaring has no future funds committed to this area. Should the Shire of Mundaring adopt the presented DSP Community Masterplan then the project, either whole or staged, may then be included in their long-term (10 year) financial planning strategy. DCRAG will continue to lobby Federal and State Governments for grants and other financial assistance, and will work with the Shire of Mundaring to bring this vision to fruition.

DCRAG thanks Gerry for his enormous voluntary contribution to collating this Draft DSP Community Masterplan. DCRAG will continue to work with DSP users, the Shire of Mundaring, local community builders, the Darlington Sports and Recreation Association, the Darlington Residents and Ratepayers Association and the Darlington community to collect further ideas for detailed planning considerations.

Kind regards,

Patricia Cook  
Chair DCRAG  
Chair DCRAG subcommittee - DSP Community Masterplan  
Email to [trishcook@netspace.net.au](mailto:trishcook@netspace.net.au)  
Mobile: 040 9479 551

Email [shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au)

Cc Shire Of Mundaring

Attached Map of DSP Masterplan

## Appendix 6 – DCRAG SOM Communications

Hi Trish,

I see no problem with you sending out this letter out on behalf of DCRAG to finalise a draft masterplan for Shire consideration. This information together with other feedback we receive including that during the Shire's Recreation Plan workshops will all aid in finalising a plan for this location and potential funding priorities.

In regards notification I would suggest all residences within a close walking distance or visual view of the area would benefit from a direct letterdrop.

We look forward to what DCRAG puts forward.

Regards,

**Shane Purdy**

**Director Infrastructure Services**

*Please contact me by telephone if your matter is urgent and you need a response within 24 hours.*

**E:** [shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au) **T:** 9290 6637 **www:** [www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au)



**From:** Patricia Cook <[trishcook@netspace.net.au](mailto:trishcook@netspace.net.au)> **Sent:** Monday, 15 October 2018 9:41 AM **To:** Shire of Mundaring <[ShireofMundaring@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:ShireofMundaring@mundaring.wa.gov.au)> **Cc:** Trish Cook <[trishcook@netspace.net.au](mailto:trishcook@netspace.net.au)>; Cr. John Daw <[ShirePresident@Mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:ShirePresident@Mundaring.wa.gov.au)>; Colin James <[c\\_james@inet.net.au](mailto:c_james@inet.net.au)> **Subject:** Letter to residents nearby to Darlington Skate Park from DCRAG **Importance:** High

Attention: Shane Purdy / CEO / Shire President / Kirk Kitchen

Dear Shane, Kirk, John and Jonathan,

DRAFT COMMUNITY MASTERPLAN - Darlington Skate park

Please find attached a letter which will be delivered to a adjacent and nearby residents of the Darlington Skate Park as part of DCRAG community consultation.

Your comments before the letter is distributed (this week) are welcome.

The letter and draft will also be published in the Darlington Review this month, which is delivered free to every household. Additionally, it will be shared with local residents by Facebook and Emails including DCRAG groups, DRRA, DASRA etc. once neighbours have been advised.

In particular could you advise the typical area of neighbour notification which would apply in cases such as park redevelopment so that we can be in line with SOM practice e.g. name of the streets and distance from the park.

It is, so far, planned to cover relevant homes along Darlington Road, Orange Road, Pine Terrace, Coulston Road.

Your speedy advice is appreciated.

Also find attached a copy of the DRAFT DSP Community Masterplan for your interest. Please do not share this until local residents have been advised (end of the week).

Kind regards,

Patricia Cook  
[trishcook@netspace.net.au](mailto:trishcook@netspace.net.au)  
Mobile: 0409 479 551

I acknowledge the strength, resilience, and capacity of the Whadjuk Noongar people, who are the traditional custodians of the land upon which I reside, and I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

DISCLAIMER: This page, and any accompanying document, contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose. This information is private and protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any disclosure/copying or distribution, or the taking of any action based on, or any other use of, the information contained in this electronic mail transmission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please advise this office (Shire of Mundaring) that an electronic mail transmission has been received in error and destroy the transmission immediately. The views expressed in this document are those of the author and do not represent the views of the Shire of Mundaring unless this is clearly indicated.

Appendix 6 – Contact Details – Key Personnel

**Gerard Healy & Associates**

*Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Recreational Planning, Master Planning, Visual Impact Assessment, Community Consultation*

Suite 6, 40 Victoria Street, Midland WA 6056  
Postal: PO BOX 188, Midland WA 6936

Tel: 08 9250 7277  
Fax 08 9250 7377

Email: [gerard@ghassociates.com.au](mailto:gerard@ghassociates.com.au)  
Web Site: [www.ghassociates.com.au](http://www.ghassociates.com.au)

Registered Landscape Architect: Gerard Healy AILA

**Patricia Cook (Chair) & Colin James (Secretary) DCRAG**

*Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group*

[Trishcook@netspace.net.au](mailto:Trishcook@netspace.net.au) Mobile: 040 9479 551

[c\\_james@lnet.net.au](mailto:c_james@lnet.net.au) Phone: 6298 0836

## Appendix 6 – DCRAG Motion SOM Annual Electors Meeting

## COMMUNITY MASTERPLAN – DARLINGTON SKATEPARK

## Motion

That the Council of the Shire of Mundaring (SOM) receive and assess the Darlington Skate Park (DSP) - Community draft Masterplan 2018 and Community Consultation Report completed by the Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG) with a view to:

1. adopting the DSP Community Masterplan 2018 as a SOM document for which future development of this area is based.
2. Incorporating the Community Masterplan into the SOM long-term financial plan, either as a whole development or a staged development.

## Rationale:

The Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group DCRAG, is the official advisory group to the Shire of Mundaring (SOM) regarding the recreational areas of Darlington. DCRAG Terms of Reference (TOR) regarding the recreation facilities and precinct includes; informing and advising, making recommendations for future planning, and acting as a link between the SOM. Throughout 2018 with the TOR firmly in mind, DCRAG has embarked on creating a vision for the Darlington Skate Park (DSP) area. A vision by the Darlington community, for the Darlington Community.

This document explains the vision for the Darlington Skate Park and describes the community consultation process and outcomes. A Community Masterplan, created by Gerard Healy – local landscape architect, is presented to the SOM for consideration and adoption.

The purpose of the Masterplan is to;

- Advise the SOM of the needs and wants of the local residents,
- capture the desires and vision of local residents,
- enable external and internal funding opportunities to be sought,
- enable the SOM to incorporate the local vision into their long term planning arrangements,
- allow for staged, planned development that is congruent to the locality.

Patricia Cook  
Chair  
Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2018.