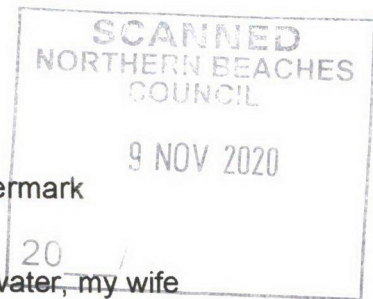


DA2020/1233 change to Village Green at Watermark Freshwater



I am the son of residents Mike & Julie Appleton of Apartment 27 Taylor, at Watermark Freshwater.

When the parents told us they were planning to move into Watermark at Freshwater, my wife and I were horrified as so many of the Over 55 Villages seem to hit the media as scandalous rip offs that seek out senior citizens and swindle them out of their savings, especially when they attempt to leave the complex. In fact we attempted to talk them out of making this move.

The safety measures quickly adopted during the early Covid period was a relief to us, setting our minds at ease. Over the 2 years that they have lived there enjoying the quiet, security of the private village complex we have been pleased with their choice. And impressed with the staff.

1. We strongly object to the proposed creation of the Bowling Green with public access on the Watermark Village Green.
2. The DA is inaccurate in many ways including – 3 lanes will not CANNOT accommodate competition bowling – a minimum of 6 lanes required by Bowling NSW.
3. The residents were encouraged to assume that the Court Yard was a part of their purchase.

We are absolutely aghast to find out that the court yard Village Green changed ownership without any prior notice to the residents some years ago, and no longer belongs to the Watermark Village but the Mounties Bowling Club.

In the terms of DA2020/1233 the Watermark Village residents will have brief access to the Green but will mostly be set aside for the use of Bowling Members, Harbord Diggers club members and their guests for “social roll up and training.” Further that the re-construction will cost at least \$308,000 to complete the bowling green with synthetic surface, a coffee shop, toilet and locker facilities; all of which sounds like bad business management to an outsider – but clearly there is more to the story than we know right now. None of this fills us with confidence in the owners Mounties Watermark Freshwater.

The Watermark bowlers presently use Mounties Manly Bowling Club, just 10 minutes down the road, with full links and facilities for competition Bowling. As 6 lanes are necessary for competition and Manly BC has those – only 3 lanes will fit on the Watermark Village Green – we question the future plans for Mounties Watermark.

No prior advice or discussion with the residents about changes smacks of a break down in communication and trust. Our trust is broken – we are forced to think ‘What will they do next?’ The security that we thought our parents lived in will be non-existent if members of the Club and public have the right to stroll through the Court Yard at will. We especially feel concern for the residents with or without dementia who have terraces that are openly accessible to the Court Yard.

We are told that “seniors living communities ... evolve” – take away the Village Green and we are fearful of just what else can evolve.

Greg Appleton *Greg Appleton*

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