

West

Indooroopilly Bowls Club to go back to market

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👤 Douglas Estwick Quest Newspapers



Greg Rolls, Mark McAleer, Ben Walsh and Warren Birks from Indooroopilly Bowls Club were determined the club could make a comeback when it went into liquidation last year. Photo: Patria Jannides

Hopes of an Indooroopilly Bowls Club resurrection have been bolstered with liquidators putting the local landmark on the market.

State legislation entitles individual owners to submit development applications over any site, meaning the club's future as a place for the genteel pastime still hangs in the balance.

But Councillor Julian Simmonds has moved to quell concerns the bowls club would be bought and developed, saying the City Plan and Indooroopilly Centre Neighbourhood Plan provided protection.

“Since I have ensured both City Plan 2014 and the Indooroopilly Centre Neighbourhood Plan clearly and unequivocally identify the importance of the site for sport and recreation use by the local community, I cannot envisage a situation where a fundamentally different change of use would be supported.

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"I believe the local community will also strongly support my efforts to ensure this site stays in use as a local sport and recreation facility," he said.

The 78-year-old institution became a casualty to debt and closed October 9.

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Solvency and forensic accounting firm Worrells has engaged real estate consultant Knight Frank as the sale agent, with the aim of reopening the club doors to the community.

The club is being marketed with its current use approvals, liquor licence, and gaming machine licence for 16 poker machines.

Worrells partner Morgan Lane has been managing the liquidation.

"We are pleased to see that potential buyers appreciate the possibility of this unique property and that the club's members may be able to enjoy the facilities once again," Mr Lane said.

The club was sold to a development consortium in 2004 on condition it would build a new clubhouse and two greens in a corner of the site for the club.

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Residential development would occupy the rest of the 13,000sq m space.

The greens, clubhouse, three bars and a bistro opened in 2009, but it would prove to be a false dawn.

When the redevelopment opened, the cost structure exceeded the incoming revenue stream and debts grew.

Cr Simmonds said he communicated to the liquidators how vital the club was for the community.

"Every effort should be made to fully disclose council's firm view that the land should be maintained for sport and recreation," he said.

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