

**13. PETITIONS****13.1 Petition – Rezone Baden Powell Reserve to Public Open Space**

A petition signed by 366 residents of the City of Melville and 14 non-residents was received on 9 March 2021 and reads as follows:

*"We the undersigned, all being electors of the City of Melville respectfully request that the Council Rezone Baden Powell Reserve in Ardross from Residential to Public Open Space.*

*Baden Powell Reserve has been the home of the Scouts in Ardross for nearly 70 years, but Council officers are recommending to the Council that the land remain zoned Residential as this would allow new roads to be built on it to service apartment developments on Canning Highway.*

*The reserve is the home of the heritage significant scout hall that was built in the 1950s, and a significant number of large remnant gum trees which attract rare birds such as black cockatoos. The Scouts make significant use of their facilities, as do many community groups that use the Scout's building. And there is a rapidly growing use of the reserve by residents as it is the only genuine park in the area. The nearest alternative genuine public open spaces are 500 metres (sic) away, and getting there requires crossing major roads – Canning Highway to get to the Swan River Foreshore, or Riseley St to get to Shirley Strickland Oval. The Canning Highway road verge section of Wireless Hill Park is also about 500m away.*

*Baden Powell Reserve is a near ideal candidate for classification as Public Open Space when assessed using Council's own criterion. It is:*

- *A small park that services the recreational needs of the immediate residential population.*
- *Used for recreation and includes small areas of nature space.*
- *Not used for any formal or informal sport.*
- *Between 0.4 and 1.0 Ha (actually 0.5Ha) in area and more than 400m from the nearest park.*

*Should Baden Powell Reserve be rezoned Public Open Space we would like it improved by way of the addition of an outdoor exercise area, some seating, a community garden and upgraded reticulation and grounds maintenance. This would of course be through consultation with the scouts and the community."*

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**That the petition bearing 366 signatures of residents and 14 signatures of non-residents be acknowledged and be dealt with by the Council in conjunction with the item on this agenda.**