

## **New athletics track and Hockey turf step nearer**

By **JO MOIR**

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A new hockey turf and athletics track has made the cut but could still be axed by Masterton District Council.

In a draft annual plan, made public by the hearings committee this week, \$50,000 a year for three years will be funded by the council for a second hockey turf and pavilion at the Clareville Complex. Eight submissions were received on the Clareville turf during the annual plan process, the majority of which came from Wairarapa primary and secondary schools. The council has also recommended the project be considered as part of the long-term council community plan.

Masterton Mayor Garry Daniell said the hockey turf is a million-dollar project and the council's contribution of \$150,000 over three years would be fairly insignificant. "The Hockey Association presented a good case for the turf and have put a lot of effort into seeking other funding sources." A million-dollar, all-weather athletics track has also got a green light from the hearings committee with a \$12,000 allocation for a preliminary study.

Wairarapa Athletics coach Mark Harris, one of the submitters for the track, asked the council for a provision of \$450,000 to help establish the track at the Colin Pugh Sports Bowl. "This is conditional on other funding to ensure the all-weather athletic track is completed debt free," he said.

The group requested immediate funding of \$25,000 to allow them to complete site investigation studies and resource consent applications but the council has chosen to slice that in half and instead offer \$12,000.

The draft annual plan says the council could ask to approve the 'brief and require that it address concerns such as security and the impact on other current users of the Sports Bowl.

Councillors have a week to choose where they put their pennies before the annual plan is adopted on June 25.