



LES OGSTON: Bruns- wick Valley Sports Association president.

Battle over sporting fields is heading to court

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THE BATTLE between

Ocean Shores residents and Byron Shire Council over sporting fields is to be played out in the NSW Land and Environment Court next month.

The Brunswick Valley Sports Association has lodged an action asking the Land and Environment Court to order the council not to sell off Lot 107 at Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores, and to order the

council to spend funds developing sportsfields on the site 'within a reasonable time'.

The court will consider the action on November 3.

The sports fields supporters are also seeking a stay of execution for Lot 107 while court proceedings are under way.

The association wants an order that 'Lot 107 not be sold to any entity until these proceedings are determined'.

Yesterday, Byron Shire mayor Jan Barham and

general manager Pamela Westing said they were unable to comment until they had received legal advice on the matter.

However, the president of the Brunswick Valley Sports Association, Les Ogston, was scathing in his assessment of the council's decision to sell off the site.

He said the council had used tactics of 'dominance and oppression' to overrule the community.

"The situation has become intolerable," Mr Ogs-

ton said.

"...with council making decisions for the ratepayers with absolutely no consideration of the community's wishes.

"The situation has now reached crisis point."

Mr Ogston said the sportfield issue had been contentious for 10 years, and says the council refuses to listen to the majority of residents.

The council has previously declared the site a wildlife habitat and claims its use as a sportfield

would damage the site's value as a wildlife corridor.

The council decided to proceed with the sale of Lot 107 in September, while an investigation of alternative sportsfields for residents in the north of Byron Shire has to date found no satisfactory alternative to Lot 107.

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