



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

25 May 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 25 May 2023
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	Room 406, Griffin Rm, 1 Flintoff St Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr. Tom Melican
Minutes	Laura Cattapan Coordinator Community Connections

Items

1. Introductions

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

Diversity Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation, and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

Attendees

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Tom Melican	Banyule City Council - Councillor
Mary Stringer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jim Brewer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Glenn Safford	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jenny Dale	Age Friendly Committee Member
Karlene Lang	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council - Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Laura Cattapan	Banyule City Council - Coordinator Community Connections
Jenna Gandolfo	Banyule City Council – Team Leader Community Connections
Senavi Abeykoon-Mudiyanselage	Banyule City Council – Asset Management Team Leader
Udani Muhandiramge	Banyule City Council - Asset Management Team Leader
Georgie Meyer	Banyule City Council – Manager Inclusive and Connected Communities
Jane Nixon	Banyule City Council - Strategic Development Officer

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
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Dianne Williamson	Age Friendly Committee Member
Veronica Lee	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcello D'Amico	Age Friendly Committee Member
Kath Brackett	Banyule City Council – Director Community Wellbeing

2. Actions from Previous Meeting (10.02 am)

1.1 Air Quality in Council Buildings

Previous Action: Manager Resilient and Connected Communities advised the Committee that she would raise the Committee's concern with the air quality at ILCH with relevant staff and discuss potential solutions.

Outcome

Community Connections Coordinator spoke to the Major Facilities and Precinct Officer, who confirmed the high air quality and air circulation system that operates at ILCH. Coordinator Community Connections requested the air quality information to be emailed.

Further Action

Community Connections Coordinator to include in the minutes the information emailed by the Major Facilities and Precinct Officer:

All larger sites, Flintoff, Watermarc, ILCH, and Rosanna and Watsonia Libraries, would have the central HVAC plant changed to full economy cycle. This means the system would be set to allow the maximum available outside air to be taken into the building and distributed. (Note the outside air is taken into the building to mix with the recycled air and conditioned to the required set point before being delivered throughout the building.)

2.1.2 Community Connection Age Friendly Program Update - Harmony Day Event

Previous Action: Community Connections Team Leader will provide the Age Friendly Committee feedback to the Multicultural Committee Contact Officer, for both committees to advocate to Council for a broader multicultural event in Banyule for Harmony Day.

Outcome

This was raised at the Multicultural Committee Meeting on 3 May. Unfortunately, the Meeting didn't have quorum. It was decided that it would be raised again later in the year for further discussion with the outcome provided to the Age Friendly Committee.

2.3.4 Population and Advisory Committee Honorarium Discussion

Previous Action: The Manager and Coordinator will raise the Committees concerns regarding charging a fee for the attendees at the Volunteer Celebration Working Group.

Outcome

This action was raised as a recommendation to Council from the Age Friendly Committee. Refer to Item 5.

3. Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Update from Council-

3.1.1 Councillor Update – Cr Melican (10min)

Cr Melican reported on the following:

Population Committee Honorarium:

- Population Committee Honorarium paper will initially go to Council for discussion and then a Council Report will go to Council for consideration and endorsement.
- Currently the Traditional Owners on the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee are the only Committee members receiving payments. This is largely due to Traditional Owners being on several Committees and providing specific understanding of Country to Council.

- Population Committees provided feedback via a survey; the consensus was not receiving payment to attend Committee Meetings.
- A Committee member raised concerns regarding barriers to attend Committee meetings for those on low incomes.
- Manager Resilient and Connected Communities said that several options are being considered including a payment for attendance in lump sum or reimbursement for expenses associated with attending.
- The Committee discussed the need for Committee members to meet reasonable attendance levels to be eligible for payments.

Extension of Tenure for Population Committees

- A proposal to extend the tenure of all Population Committees to align with the Mayoral term in November 2023 will go to Council for endorsement in August.

Budget 2023/2024 update

- The 2023-2024 Budget includes changes to the hardship policy to make it clearer and easier for people to apply.
- Council's Capital Works has faced difficulties due to skyrocketing costs and competition from major projects causing skills shortages.
- The draft budget will be released 29 May for consultation and feedback.
- A Committee member requested a Council officer present to Committee for feedback on the budget and expenditure on older persons services.

Urban Forest Strategy

- There were over 300 submissions to the Urban Forest Strategy. Council is aiming to plant 10,000 additional trees in nature strips over 2 years which will be an expensive project.
- Residents will be consulted and given a choice from a selection of trees. The Strategy aims to have 27% tree coverage across all council land. There is significant variation in the tree coverage across suburbs presenting a challenge to reach 27% tree coverage across the municipality.

Urban Food Strategy

- The Urban Food Strategy ensures Council has the right planning controls regarding community gardens and making allowances for the local food industry.

New Age Care Facility in Macleod

- There is a new aged care facility being proposed in Macleod.
- A Committee member raised concerns about the impact of the facility on the local community due to parking, traffic, construction noise and the size of the facility not being suited to a residential area.
- Cr. Melican said this will come to a Council meeting in July.

Action

Coordinator Community Connections to provide budget information to Committee Members.

[Shaping Banyule - Budget 2023-27, Year 3 Council Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan](#)

3.1.2 Community Connections Program Update

Community Connections Team Leader provided an update on the following programs:

Active April Walkathon, Friday 21 April 2023

- Community Connections team held a Walkathon at Willinda Park in April. The event was well attended with over 80 participants. The feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive with the view to make this an annual event.

Coffee Connect program

- The Coffee Connect program has been restarted and advertised in the June/ July Age in Focus Edition. Age Friendly Champions have been engaged to assist Council staff in the delivery of the program.

Community Connections Coordinator provided the following update:

Seniors Exercise Park

- Community Connections Team are working in conjunction with Open Space Planning and Design Team regarding the shading issue at the Exercise Park. Open Spaces are proposing additional seating in the shaded area and planting trees for shade in the future.

- A Committee member raised the low attendance at the Senior's Exercise Park and raised concerns that extra shading would disrupt the sunshine and warmth in cooler months.
- The Coordinator discussed Council not using shared cloths due to safety and longevity issues.

Action

Coordinator Community Connections will see if members of the Open Space Planning and Design Team would be able to provide their proposal and potentially present the plan to the Committee for feedback.

3.1.3 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee Update – Glenn Swafford

Committee Member Glenn Swafford provided the following updates on the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee:

The Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee meeting was held at Barrbunin Beek with Banyule's First Nations Lead discussing the role and significance of the gathering place.

The focus of the discussion was on the potential impact of the Voice referendum to First Nations people and their mental health. Council is aware of this issue and considering what supports it can offer the community.

A yarning circle is to be held for Advisory and Population Committee members to discuss the Voice on 19 July. The Committee member felt that an evening event was not ideal for the Age Friendly Committee.

- The Community Connections Coordinator said that she raised this and that was told it was organised to take place in the evening because many members of the other Committees are busy during business hours. Council will provide transport for Age Friendly Committee members who are interesting in attending.
- A Committee member suggested inviting the First Nations Lead to the September Committee meeting to provide an update on the progress of the Voice referendum.
- The Committee discussed parallels between the LGBTIQIA+ marriage plebiscite and the Voice to Parliament Referendum and concerns about the negative impacts from the debate.
- A Committee member suggested seeking recommendations and key learnings from LGBTIQIA+ Committee.
- Manager Resilient and Connected Community confirmed that members of the RAP Committee attended the last LGBTIQIA+ Committee to seek ideas and strategies on how to best manage this.
- A Committee member mentioned the Together Yes campaign that encourages people to host kitchen table conversations about the Voice with resources available on the website.

The Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee were consulted on gambling harm and minimisation with an experienced Council officer presenting a draft background paper on the issue. He felt this was a good process as it provided information, specified the scope of Council influence on the issue and allowed for a more informed discussion.

Action

Community Connections Coordinator will email the details on the Yarning Circle at Barrbunin Beek for Advisory and Population Committee members and will ask Committee members if they would like transport to and from the gathering.

The link to the Together Yes Campaign to be included in the minutes: <https://togetheryes.com.au/>

3.1.4 Community Updates, Committee Members

Cr Melican asked Committee members for any community updates:

A Committee member wanted to highlight the Age in Focus newsletter of which she is on the Working Group. She mentioned that the Working Group decided to feature an older person who does significant volunteer work for the Community. Donna Taylor was featured in the [April – May 2023](#) edition and approached the Committee member to thank her for the article. She reported that people have been visiting the Op Shop and mentioning the article and bringing in donations because they have read the article. The Committee member said it is great to hear that people are reading the newsletter and are happy with the content.

4. Other Business

4.1 Presentations/ Consultations/ Information

4.1.1 Draft Banyule Public Toilet Plan Consultation

Cr Melican and Coordinator Community Connections introduced Asset Manager Team Leaders Senavi Abeykoon-Mudiyansele and Udani Muhandirame to discuss Banyule's Public Toilet Plan Review and consult with the Committee on the new Plan.

Senavi provided a powerpoint presentation on the findings of the review of the current public toilet network in Banyule and how the data was collated. Senavi highlighted that the review identified where there are gaps.



Presentation to Age
Friendly Committee -

Committee member feedback and discussion included:

- Committee members said that from the consultation documentation it was not clear whether public toilets in shopping centres and other public venues were included in the mapping of public toilets in Banyule.
- The Team Leader said that Council has mapped all public toilets in Banyule there are 28 toilets within proximity to each other, however the 58 toilets identified in the presentation are Banyule Council owned and maintained, including public toilets in libraries, sports facilities, community spaces and so on.
- The Team Leader outlined the five Star rating system used to rate the condition of public toilets.
- A member of the Committee said that the unavailability of toilets at railway stations is an enormous challenge. He noted that over the years these toilets have disappeared or are locked.
- Committee discussed that the Protective Services Officers should provide enough safety to leave the toilets open.
- A Committee member questioned cost to improve access to railway public toilets. He suggested the toilets should be reopened for the public and Council and the State Government could share the maintenance costs. He felt this would be a cheaper option than building a new toilet block and should be advocated to State Government.
- Cr Melican said that the State Government were not going to have public toilets at the Rosanna Train Station. Council negotiated with the State Government to contribute money towards this and for Council to open and close the facilities. It took two years to this situation.
- A Committee member said that the only people that can use toilets in railway stations are people who have tickets, and this is an issue.
- Cr Melican said the ones at Rosanna were built outside the ticketed area.
- A member of the Committee asked what the requirements for Cafés are to provide toilets, as this was raised at the Age Friendly Champions meeting. A Café in Macleod that closed their toilet and are now directing their customers to use the toilets at the station. The Committee member mentioned the Commonwealth Government public toilet map and felt it would be good to include the link in the Aged in Focus. She asked the Team Leader whether this map was used in the mapping of Banyule public toilets.
[National Public Toilet Map](#)
- The Team Leader said that the National Public toilet map was cross checked with the mapping from the review to ensure all toilets were identified. He also said that as part of the consultation process Council have received feedback from the community on where they think new public toilets should be located.
- The Team Leader said as part of the audit review Council will be looking at upgrading the toilets that received a one-star rating.

Action

Cr Melican said that he would like to get an update of the planning issues around public toilets and follow up on what the regulations are for Cafes and public toilets.

- A member of the Committee emailed the Community Connections Coordinator in response to Council's public toilet consultation, He read out his comments:
 1. One issue I'd be interested to hear more about is the cost of building and maintenance. It seems to me that one of the dilemmas is the cost of building and maintaining new facilities or upgrading current facilities. It can be easy to say we need new toilets here, here, and here but I would have no idea of the capital or recurrent costs. Or of the trade-offs - e.g., if we build new facilities can we still afford to maintain or upgrade current facilities?
If I can take one case in point, the public toilets at Ivanhoe Park. Not far from the Seniors Exercise area. My immediate thought is to recommend an upgrade but what might that cost? And what temporary provision if any could be made when the toilets are closed during constructions? And can we make an existing facility like that better without necessarily making it 'A grade'? (so, we have money to spend elsewhere?).

2. I'd also be interested to know what the Banyule Team feel we can learn from other Melbourne councils.
 3. Finally, I'd be interested to hear what the Team thinks of the community toilet scheme in parts of the UK* and the pros and cons of such an initiative in Banyule. (*See e.g. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/streets/clean-streets/community-toilet-scheme-cts>)
- Community Connections Coordinator said that other Councils currently have similar arrangements to the UK Community Toilet Scheme including Port Phillip Council.
 - Cr Melican explained the budget process for the upgrading of the toilets. He also said Council is now making better use of facility builds and provided an example of new pavilion built at Banyule Flats where the toilets were built with an external and internal entrance. He is hoping the same design will be used for the new pavilion being built at Macleod Park.
 - The Manager Resilient and Connected Communities mentioned [Changing Places Facilities](#) and gender-neutral toilets for consideration in Banyule.
 - A member of the Committee said that Bellfield Community Hub has designated gender-neutral toilet.
 - A member of the Committee provided feedback that the Map Council provided was losing a lot of detail so he suggested using the same size objects for all the toilets but differentiate the new and existing toilets by using different colours.
 - A member of the Committee wanted to thank Council for bringing in Council Officers to consult with the Committee on this topic and would like more of this.

The Team Leader thanked the Committee and provided the Committee with his details if they would like to provide further feedback:

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4.1.2 Banyule Inclusive Employment Program Review (20min) – Emma Joyce Inclusive Enterprise & Local Jobs Coordinator & Jane Nixon Strategic Development Officer

Georgie Meyer Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities introduced herself and said recently started at Banyule. Georgie introduced Jane Nixon Strategic Development Officer Healthy and Active Communities. Georgie said that Emma Joyce was unable to attend the meeting today.

Jane showed a powerpoint presentation which provided some background on the Inclusive Employment Program unique to Banyule Council. She explained that program focused on people experiencing barriers to securing meaningful and suitable employment who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, living with disability or a young person aged 16-25.



POP new pathways program presentation

A member of the Committee asked why older people were not identified as one of the target groups, when often they experience significant difficulty to maintain or gain employment.

The Strategic Development Officer acknowledged this and said that gaps in the target group will be included in a review of the program. She said the four identified target groups in the current program were a historical decision. Through a review they are hoping to expand the selection criteria for the program.

Cr Melican said that at the time there was issues around employment of young people.

The Strategic Development Officer also said they recognise that within the four identified groups there is lots of intersectionality. It was identified the program has been well represented by all the target cohorts other than the First Nations Community. The program will now look at pathways for First Nations people within existing resources and create a new traineeship program. This would involve dedicating four out of the 15 places to First Nations community members. This will need to be endorsed by Council.

The Strategic Development Officer said that she wanted to discuss with the Committee barriers to the Inclusive Employment Program for some groups not currently included in the target groups. The review will look at the potential to expand the eligibility criteria and understand the challenges with assessing and managing eligibility. She is keen to gain input from the Committee and would like for two members of the Committee to participate in short interviews as

part of the Review and would like for the Committee to provide feedback today on the questions provided to the Committee prior to the meeting:

- What barriers are people experiencing in applying for the Inclusive Employment Program?
- How can we support people applying for the program?
- How can we make applying for the program safer and more inclusive?
- What else do we need to consider/think about?

A member of the Committee mentioned volunteering as a pathway to employment and the impact COVID-19 has had on the volunteer workforce.

The Strategic Development Officer said that volunteering will be included in the Strategy.

A member of the Committee asked what type of roles people can apply for.

The Strategic Development Officer said that they are varied across Council, and they work with both internal staff and the trainee to tailor their role and skills.

A Committee Member mentioned the [State of the Nation 2023 COTA Report](#). The perceived and actual barriers that older persons find about getting into the workforce. He also said that when people over 55 come out of the workforce it is striking how hard it is for them to re-enter, the data is stark on how long they are on jobseeker allowance. He asked if the program also worked with local businesses to reduce discrimination.

The Committee member also mentioned career transition and older people finding it hard to make the transition themselves and then employers not being comfortable employing for example an older engineer working in a Café

A Committee member mentioned if Council is looking at Inclusive Employment, then consideration should be made to the number of hours people work. She asked if the positions were fulltime as a lot of older people are not interested in fulltime work. There are a lot of issues for older people that will not be the same for younger people. Flexible work and what they do is very important for older people.

The Strategic Development Officer advised they consider what is best for the person and they have some people who only work one day per week.

A Committee member asked what sort of support people get once they are in the program.

The Strategic Development Officer said they have their direct supervisor and there is a member of her team that also provides additional support. Participants also attend regular workshops.

A Committee member said that it would be good to advertise how people are supported when looking for recruit.

Cr Melican said that there have been some huge successes through this program.

Community Connections Coordinator mentioned that the program should consider focusing on people who have been long term unemployed due to ageism or made redundant and can't get another job.

Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities said that the Strategy is due to be updated at the end of 2024 and would like to come and consult with the Committee next year

A Committee member said that it would be good to promote the program in Council's Age in Focus newsletter.

A Committee member asked what age would they consider a boundary, 65, 67?

Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities said that a person's age would not be considered a barrier.

Community Connections Coordinator asked if two members of the Committee would be happy to participate in the review. Jenny and Glenn both said they would be happy to participate in the review.

Cr Melican thanked the Officers.

4.1.3 Age Friendly Champion Relaunch (10min) – Age Friendly Champions Working Group and Community Connections Team Leader

A member of the Age Friendly Champions Relaunch Working Group reported the following

- She was very happy to see so many people at the relaunch including some original Champions.
- There was a lot of interest and diverse skills in the room.

A member of the Committee asked what happens next. The Community Connections Team Leader advised that interested parties registered for working groups and activities at the event are being contacted.

Community Connections Team Leader said that there is an article in the next Age in Focus advertising for Champions.

A Committee member suggested that the team need to reach out to all the Champions post the relaunch to see if they are still interested in participating.

Action

Community Connections Team will put a call out to previous Champions post the relaunch outlining what activities they can get involved in. This will act as a final call to participate.

4.1.4 Update on the development of the Older Adults Framework 2030 (5min) - Community Connections Coordinator

Community Connections Coordinator said that as part of the Champions relaunch, she had three people nominate to be on the Co-design working group for the Framework. She said that the Working Group will be a key stakeholder in the development of the Framework.

Both Jenny and Kaylene said that they would participate on the Working Group.

The Community Connections Coordinator said this will be a regular Agenda Item for the Committee.

4.1.5 Banyule Trial Community Bus update (3min) – Community Connections Coordinator

The Community Connections Coordinator reported that the trial bus service is hoping to start running by the first or second week of July.

The infrastructure including bus signs etc are in the process of being installed.

Committee members will be invited to the Launch with a tour of part of the bus route with the Councillors. Given there are only 17 seats on the bus there are limited seats for Committee members. The Coordinator will provide Committee members will more details closer to the date.

The Coordinator said that their will need to be extensive promotion of the service and will be asking the Committee to support Council with promotion.

A Committee member asked if it the service used existing bus stops and the Coordinator said that this is not allowed. Committee members said that this needs to be advocated.

4.1.6 Yarning Circle for Banyule Population and Advisory Committees (2mins) – Community Connections Coordinator

Refer to Agenda Item 3.1.3

5. Committee Recommendation to Council

5.1 Previous meeting recommendation outcomes

As outlined in the Council Meeting Minutes 17 April 2023, the following Council's response to the Age Friendly Committee recommendations were moved:

Note the officer recommendations and responses to the above recommendations are as follows:

5.1.1 There is no charge for the Banyule Volunteer Celebration.

- a) *That Council does not intend for individual volunteers to be charged the full amount of a ticket for the Banyule Volunteer Celebration, however, note that volunteers and not-for-profit organisations would be expected to make a small contribution currently set at \$10 for their ticket towards the ticket for the event.'*
- b) *In the instances where volunteer groups or organisations do not have the ability to pay for a ticket due to limited funds or special circumstances, Council will make available free tickets to individual volunteers.*

5.1.2 There are more community events that are not age specific held during the daytime as night-time is often not as accessible for older adults.

- c) *In relation to the recommendation at 6(b) note that as part of annual event planning processes for events officers will plan for more community events to be held during the daytime to accommodate greater participation.*

5.2 Meeting recommendations

The Age Friendly Committee would like to recommend that Council extend the Inclusive Employment Program to include older people as a target group.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge their support of the consultation process for the update of the new Public Toilet Plan and future investment in public toilets.

6. Close and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 27 July 2023. Venue to be confirmed. Committee members were happy for the meeting to take place at Bellfield Community Hub if a meeting room couldn't be booked at 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough.

The meeting was scheduled for the 29 November 2023, however needed to be moved to the 23 November 2023. This meeting may need to be moved to occur before the Mayoral election which is on 13 November.

Action

Community Connections Coordinator will email the Committee confirming the venue for the July meeting and an updated date for the November meeting to take place prior to the Mayoral election.