



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

23 March 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 23 March 2023
Time	10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Venue	Microsoft Teams & Room 4.07 -1 Flintoff St, Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Tom Melican
Minutes	Laura Cattapan Coordinator Community Connections

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.”

Inclusive Banyule 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
Dianne Williamson	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jenny Dale	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jim Brewer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcello D’Amico	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 – Community Connections Team Leader
Hannes Berger	Banyule City Council – Arts & Culture Coordinator

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee Member
Karlene Lang	Age Friendly Committee Member
Veronica Lee	Age Friendly Committee Member

Items

1. Actions from Previous Meeting

1.1 Air Quality in Council Buildings

Previous Action The Committee agreed that it would be good for this information to be included in Age In Focus newsletter.

Outcome

Information on the air quality at Bellfield Community Hub was included in the February/March edition of the Age In Focus Newsletter. Information of Council's implementation of air quality improvements in Council building will be included in June/July edition in time for winter.

Concerns were raised by the Committee about the air quality in some of the meeting rooms at the Ivanhoe Library and Community Hub (ILCH).

Further 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.

1.2 Community Connections Age Friendly Program Update

Previous Action: Coordinator Community Connections said that she would send out dates and times for a planning session in February. A draft agenda for the planning session will also be provided.

Outcome

The Planning Session was held on the 2 February and the outcome of the session will be addressed in Item 2.3.1 of this Agenda.

1.3 EveryAGE Counts Campaign

Action: Coordinator Community Connections will update the draft NoM to reflect the intent of what the Committee advised.

Outcome

At the 6 February Council Meeting the Council Moved that they would support the EveryAGE Counts grassroots movement to end Ageism and agreed for Council to deliver the actions outlined under key considerations as advised by the Age Friendly Committee.

[file:///C:/Users/laurac/Downloads/Council-Meeting-Minutes-6-February-2023%20\(7\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/laurac/Downloads/Council-Meeting-Minutes-6-February-2023%20(7).pdf)

2. Standing Agenda Items

2.1 Update from Council

2.1.1 Councillor Update

Cr Melican reported on the following:

- At the 20 March Council Meeting Council requested the Federal Government sign the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons.
- Banyule City Council signed an agreement with neighbourhood houses, formalising the funding and expectations between neighbourhood houses and Council. Cr Melican advised that Council owns most of the buildings and provides insurance, printing costs, and building maintenance and upgrades.

- The Montmorency Hub have asked Council to take over their loan. Council declined due to it potentially running into millions of dollars to get the building up to standard. Council have offered them Petrie Park Community Hall for 60 hours a week.
- Council owns three cemeteries Warringal, Greensborough, and Hawdon Street Cemeteries. Councillors automatically become a member of the Cemetery Trust when elected to Council and attend a two-day course. Cemeteries are expensive with limited revenue and high maintenance. There are no online records on where people are buried. There is now a requirement for this to change, and Council needs to decide how to manage this cost. Council is a Grade B Cemetery Trust and could request a Grade A cemetery to take this over, which will likely result in a request for Council to contribute a large sum of money. Cr Melican will keep the Committee up to date on this topic.
- The Reconciliation Action Plan is due to be renewed. Manager Resilient and Connected Communities advised that Council will be taking a self-determination approach rather than Reconciliation Victoria format. This is due to Council supporting the Barrbunin Beek Gathering Place at Olympic Park and our good relationship with our First Nations peoples who support a self-determination model.
- Ivanhoe Grammar is erecting a fence to close a commonly used walk through footpath off to the public. Council disputed this and it ended up in VCAT. Ivanhoe Grammar won this dispute. Council is trying to negotiate a reasonable outcome as this path is of great benefit to the public.
- Council is working on an Ivanhoe Sports Precinct Plan and working with Ivanhoe Bowls Club and East Ivanhoe Bowls Club who are both asking for upgrades. Council is looking to merge the Clubs.

2.1.2 Community Connection Age Friendly Program Update:

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

Harmony Day Event, Wednesday 22 March 2023

- The event was a big success with a line-up of local entertainment including Bellfield Kinder Group, Chinese Senior's Club, Baljit Singh, Salvation Army and the Heidelberg Allstars, with 85 people attending the event out of 120 people who registered.
- A Committee member suggested that a reminder email mentioning the waitlist in the lead up to events may help mitigate people who registered but didn't show up.
- A member of the Committee praised the Heidelberg Allstars for demonstrating the resilience and cheerfulness of older people through their singing and dancing and suggested asking the Allstars to perform at the Seniors Morning Tea. The Committee agreed praising the Heidelberg Allstars for their uplifting and joyful performance.
- A member of the Committee raised concerns that the size of the event meant it was not as inclusive as it could be. The Community Connections Coordinator said that the Age Friendly Committee could provide this feedback to the Multicultural Committee for both committees to advocate to Council for a broader multicultural event in Banyule.
- The Committee also suggested that new Champions could assist in the delivery of such events in the future.

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.

Active April Walkathon, Friday 21 April 2023

- The Walkathon promoting Active April is a partnership with the Heart Foundation and will be held at the Willinda Park Athletics track. The event will include walking and jogging around the athletics track and Come and Try sessions of Tai Chi, aerobics, and walking soccer to help promote local Senior's groups and programs for older adults.
- A Committee member mentioned that for events such as this the Age Friendly Champions previously assisted to disseminate flyers to their networks and local hubs to encourage more participants.
- Committee members were provided with flyers to distribute.

Age Friendly Grants Update <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/About-us/Grants-programs/Age-friendly-grants>

- The Grant Program has up to \$1,500 available for community groups and services to apply for from a \$15,000 pool. There are 3 grant categories including New and Emerging Seniors Clubs, Senior's Festival Events and Community Connections Projects.
- The grant round is designed to encourage new and hard to reach groups to apply for the grants as it is generally the same groups that are applying each time. Council would like the grants to be more accessible, including those with limited digital literacy and CALD groups.
- A Committee member requested a copy of the Grants Guidelines to be sent to Committee members.

Action

Community Connections Team Leader will send the Grants Guidelines to the Advisory Committee.

2.2 Presentations/Consultations/Information

2.2.1 Creative Banyule 2030 Strategy

Cr Melican introduced Hannes Berger, Arts and Culture Coordinator.

The Arts and Culture Coordinator thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present on the development of the new Arts and Culture strategy and provided a PowerPoint presentation. This included:

- Arts & Culture is a growth area in Banyule and has seen a lot more interest over the last few years
- Previous Strategy expired in 2021 and has been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19.
- The new Strategy is now well underway with the new plan being titled 'Creative Banyule 2030'
- Work has been done on research and developing goals for the plan, with a community engagement phase including Shaping Banyule online survey, and community workshops, with this consultation being the last community engagement opportunity.
- COVID-19 has had big impact on Arts and Culture sector. There have been big changes recently in the social innovation and change space, with more focus on lived experience, cultural rights, placemaking, access and inclusion and the digital world.

The Arts and Culture Coordinator asked the Committee for their input and perspective on what arts and culture means to them. The Committee's responses were as follows:

- Creativity and imagination are of high importance and is needed in everything we do.

The Coordinator advised that research showed there were three demographics who understood the value of arts and culture intrinsically: CALD communities, older people, and younger people. Research shows 90% of people are involved in arts and creative culture daily.

- Arts and culture create social connectedness and a vibrant community, through connection with others at events, creating things, and engaging with thought provoking exhibitions.

The Coordinator commented that arts and cultural outcomes are equally important as environmental, social, and economic outcomes and should be embedded in all policy and planning. Policy and research work identified five outcomes that provide benefit which are stimulating creativity, appreciation of lived experience, enrichment from arts and culture, insight and knowledge sharing and a sense of belonging.

The Coordinator asked the Committee for feedback on what Council has done well in the past and what could be improved in the future.

- A Committee member said she appreciated the Annual Banyule Art Prize and exhibition and saw this as a great opportunity to showcase local artists, allow residents to access and purchase pieces from local artists. She is a collector of art and as lifetime resident of Banyule it's important to have pieces that reflect her environment.

The Coordinator advised Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub has received positive feedback that it has created momentum and opportunity for arts and culture.

- A Committee member commented that she appreciates the Arts and Culture Newsletter and Open Studios. Banyule Council acquired artwork and suggested these should be made accessible to the public and displayed. Other Committee members supported these comments about the need to make the artworks accessible to the community.

The Coordinator said Council does an exhibition of the collection once a year, however Committee members have not seen it.

The Coordinator provided the draft vision statement for the next Arts and Culture Strategy for feedback. "Enriching people, places and ideas through a thriving and valued creative culture". He also provided the focus areas, which include: First Nations culture, developing creative sector, and building resilience, fostering social connection, health, and wellbeing of community through arts and culture, increasing engagement and participation in arts and cultural experiences, and realising the creative potential of Banyule's urban spaces and places through a place-based approach.

- A Committee member commented that Banyule is recognised as the home of the Heidelberg School and wants it to be acknowledged in the strategy.

The Coordinator advised this was not mentioned as a focus area in the strategy but recognised it as an important part of Banyule's heritage and there is potential for it be part of the Economic Development Strategy as part of the visitor's economy.

- Cr. Melican discussed the State Government Grants that were put out after COVID-19 and asked about the impact of these.

The Coordinator advised he was not sure of the impact of these yet but was aware of new grant rounds, extending grants to capital works, a range of new initiatives and the Federal Government announcing a new cultural policy.

- A Committee member suggested that there could be an arts and culture edition of Age In Focus Newsletter.
- A Committee member asked for a copy of the Coordinators slides and was advised they will be included in the minutes. He also enquired about Banyule's art collection and suggested digitising this collection to increase public access.

The Coordinator agreed this was good idea and advised a feature of the next strategy would be to create a register of the collection and displayed digitally. He suggested also sending out the National Cultural Policy to Committee members and thanked the Committee for their time.

Action

Community Connections Team Leader to email the Committee the Arts & Culture Coordinator 's details for any follow up feedback they would like to provide.

The PowerPoint presentation included in the minutes:



Creative%20Banyule
%202030%20-%20A

2.2.2 Banyule Community Bus Update

Coordinator Community Connections provided an update on the Community Bus:

- Council have now settled on a bus route which will weave through Bellfield, West Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Rosanna, Ivanhoe, and Eaglemont and will stop at major community spots. This was based on a feasibility study identifying these areas as the most in need of service with vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.
- The bus will be a free service, running Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with three loops of the route per day. The timetable is being finalised.
- Bus stop signs and temporary platforms for accessibility will be installed.

The Committee enquired about other suburbs being included. Laura advised the Community Bus is a trial to ascertain the feasibility of the service and the service may be extended in the future based on the success of this service.

Resilient and Connected Communities Manager said that the aim was to show a successful model that can be replicated and/or extended. She also advised the Committee of a new Public Transport Victoria on demand service operating on demand in St. Helena.

A Committee Member enquired about the possibility of accessing the Feasibility Study. The manager said she wasn't sure if this was allowed to be released but could find out. Community Connections Coordinator suggested the Council Report may have tabled the Feasibility Study and could include the report in the minutes.

A Committee Member enquired about the duration of the community bus route. The Coordinator said that it would be approximately 2 hours and advised her previous Council had a similar service and the bus trip itself fostered social connections.

Action

Community Bus Council Report to be included with the minutes

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/about-us/meetings/2022/minutes/council-meeting-minutes-21-march-2022.pdf>

2.2.3 Age Friendly Champions Update

Community Connections Team Leader provided an update on the Age Friendly Champions Program relaunch:

- The Working Group have met to begin planning for the Relaunch event.
- This event will include Mayor Peter Castaldo signing the EveryAGE Counts pledge, and the relaunch of the Champions program which was put on hold due to COVID-19.
- Invitees include previous Champions, Committee members and the Presidents of the key Senior's Groups in the municipality.
- The Working Group will be meeting on 5 April to discuss the event agenda.
- A Working Group member advised the group haven't yet discussed the details of the Champions roles
- The Team Leader confirmed this would be discussed at the Working Group meeting and will be the next step in the process of the program relaunch.

2.2.4 Update- City of Banyule Older Adults Strategic Plan Review and Development of new strategy

Community Connections Coordinator advised that the process to Review and Update the strategy is being planned and that it is important for the Committee to be involved in the process as a key partner. Given the Committee only meets six times per year she asked if the Committee would be open to attend a meeting to focus on the strategy. The Committee agreed.

2.3 Other Business

2.3.1 Planning Day Discussion and Draft Action Plan

Community Connections Coordinator presented the draft Action Plan with the key action's areas coming out of the planning session and welcomed feedback from the Committee. The Coordinator advised that she linked the key focus areas with Council plan actions to align with the Committee's work and aligned their actions with the eight Age Friendly Cities domains.

Cr Melican suggested that the Committee could take this offline and to let the Coordinator know if they have any feedback on the action plan so that it can be adopted at the next meeting.

A Committee member wanted to know about the date for 1.2.1 to host a community information session. The Coordinator suggested that it could be included as part of the work of the Major Events Working Group. The Committee agreed.

A Committee member also wanted Council services to be included in the information session section and asked for this to be included under section 1.2.1 in the Action Plan.

Action

Coordinator to include in the Action Plan under 1.2.1 that Council services also be included as part of the information session.



Draft Age Friendly Committee Action Pla

2.3.2 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee Update

Cr. Melican asked to table the Age Friendly Committee Representative on Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee report.



Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee -

The Community Connections Coordinator asked for comments on the report from the Committee. There were no comments.

A Committee member would like the Committee to thank the Inclusive Banyule Committee representative for his work and providing a report as it was good to get more information flowing between the Committees. The Committee agreed.

2.3.3 Current Committee Tenure extension to November 2023- to be endorsed at the 17 April Council Meeting

Cr. Melican advised Council were extending the tenure of the Committee to realign with the Mayoral Elections in November.

The Coordinator Community Connections advised:

- The tenure of the Committee was scheduled to finish in June but is planning to be extended due to COVID-19 interruptions.
- A report is going to Council on 17 April to ask for this extension.
- Current Committee members who do not wish to be extended to advise the Coordinator.

The Resilient and Connected Communities Manager advised that all Population Committees are being aligned with the Mayoral term which then aligns the Committee tenure with when Councillor representatives on the Committees are also decided.

2.3.4 Population and Advisory Committee Honorarium Discussion

Resilient and Connected Communities Manager advised that a Report on Committee Honorariums is being drafted with recommendations going to Council. This is for Council to provide consideration of what level of acknowledgement should Council provide for people giving their time to Committees. This could be monetary, gift vouchers, or travel allowances.

The Manager asked the Committee for suggestions of what they felt would be appropriate for attending the Age Friendly Advisory Committee meetings. The Committee's responses included:

- Cr Melican advised that currently the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee receive a payment due to members being on several other Council committees and provide specialist knowledge.

The Manager said that some people prefer to stay as volunteers to remain independent of Council and others may see a small payment as a recognition of time and contribution in the Advisory role.

The Community Connections Coordinator advised that three questions have been sent to Committee members and she has received responses from three members.

- A Committee member mentioned that she has participated in the annual volunteer acknowledgment event as a member of volunteer group, but not as a Committee member.

The Manager agreed and that as of this year Committee members will be invited to the annual celebration.

- A Committee member advised she would not like payments as she does not want to feel obliged to agree with Council and feels that this could compromise members. She values her independence and ability to provide support. She acknowledges the annual event is great but objects to Council charging money for tickets.
- The Manager and Coordinator advised internal conversations have taken place regarding this and the concern is that in the past people registered but then didn't show up to the event.
- A Committee member suggested invitees should be advised if they don't attend, they will then incur a cost. Everyone should not be penalised for the bad behaviour of a few.
- The Committee discussed the history of charging attendees to attend the events. It was suggested that if the costs were too high for Council, they could scale back the catering.
- It was suggested sending a reminder a week prior advising that there is a wait list.
- A Committee member questioned why volunteers are treated differently to those attending the Community Ball.

The Manager and Coordinator will raise this with the Volunteer Celebration Working Group and recommend the change to Council.

Action

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

2.3.5 Major Events Working Group Members

The Community Connections Team Leader provided an update on upcoming Major Events including World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June and the Senior's Festival in October.

The Team Leader advised that the Champions program will include a working group for major events to ensure that older adults can play a key role in developing these events. She asked Committee members if anyone would like to nominate themselves for this working group.

The Committee members wanted more information before committing. The Coordinator commented that the Advisory Committee needed more members to share the load of work.

2.3.6 Community Updates

- A Committee member commented on the Lantern Festival. She felt it was an extraordinary event and had a great buzz. She loved the works of art and imagination, and the First Nations performance. She also commented that she loved the choice to have the festival at Malahang Reservice as this was accessible to people from all socio-economic areas of Banyule. Cr. Melican commented on the change to Malahang Reserve over the past 15 years compared to what it used to be.
- A Committee member discussed the Best Biz Awards and accessibility issues for residents without computers wanting to vote. Shop owners commented on the demographics who frequented the local strip shops being older people and paper-based voting was introduced. She questioned how we could advise older adults of the paper-based voting options for these awards. She suggested utilising Council social media channels to promote paper-based voting as well as libraries.
- A Committee member mentioned the Makers Market being re-established after COVID-19 restrictions. She raised concerns about the ILCH space it was hosted in as this space was limited and not suitable for bad weather.

- The Committee commented that they would like to have their hybrid meetings hosted via Zoom as MsTeams was not as easy for older people to navigate, and they feel that the Zoom platform is used more by older people and is accessible.

5. Committee Recommendations to Council

The Committee would like to present to Council the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

- There is no charge for the Banyule Volunteer Celebration.
- 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.

6. Close