



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

29 September 2022

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 29 September 2022
Time	10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Venue	Microsoft Teams
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.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Tom Melican	Banyule City Council - Councillor
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee Member
Mary Stringer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Dianne Williamson	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcello D'Amico	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jim Brewer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Stewart Morritt	Banyule Leisure
Karlene Lang	Emergency Care Coordinator, Austin Health
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council - Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Laura Cattapan	Banyule City Council - Coordinator Community Connections

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kath Brackett	Banyule City Council - Director Community Wellbeing

Items

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

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Diversity Statement

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

- Apologies
- Welcome to all members
- Introduction of new members and Coordinator Community Connections

Committee Member Introduction

Two new members, Dianne Williamson representing Banyule University of the Third Age (u3a) and Laura Cattapan Banyule's new Coordinator Community Connections were welcomed by the Age Friendly Committee (AFC). Committee members were invited to introduce themselves.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

2.1. Request for installation of Shade Sails Ivanhoe Park Seniors Exercise Park

Action: Community Connections Coordinator has contacted Open Space Planning & Design Coordinator about the shade sails and is awaiting a response.

Outcome

Community Connections Coordinator is continuing these discussions internally and the Community Connections team have benchmarked the installation of shade sails in other local Councils.

The Community Connections Coordinator is scheduled to do a site visit on Friday 30 September with both the Open Space Planning and Design Coordinator and Landscape Architect to discuss options and solutions.

2.2. Seniors Exercise Park Usage

Action: Catherine Corbett Age Friendly Project Officer continues to offer an activation program on Fridays.

Outcome

Coordinator Community Connections reported that the Community Connections team are running a regular Come n' Try session every Friday morning. The team is reaching out to local allied health professionals and service providers to promote the usage of the park. The team will also start to engage other community groups such as U3A and multicultural seniors' groups.

2.3. Committee Vacancy

Action: Welcome to new U3A member.

Outcome

Coordinator Community Connection said that the AFC agreed to co-opt Dianne Williamson onto the AFC as a representative of U3A Banyule, as outlined in the Populations Committees Terms of Reference. Once a formal recruitment process occurs Dianne will have the opportunity to formally nominate and be endorsed by Council.

2.4. Work with Environment Team to support them to work with Seniors clubs

Action: Community Connections Team to progress this initiative.

Outcome

To be discussed at the next AFC Committee meeting.

2.5. Supporting local Bowls Clubs

Action: Age Friendly Team to liaise with Social Support Team Leader and Leisure and Recreation Team around feedback from local bowls clubs

Outcome

Cr Melican mentioned that Rosanna is having a come n' try event this weekend to promote membership.

Coordinator Community Connections said that as part of Council's Seniors Festival Program there are come n' try events with local Clubs, and that the Community Connections team sees Bowls Clubs as important stakeholder as part of their Age Friendly work.

2.6. Air quality in buildings

Action: Community Connections team to follow up on this item.

Outcome

Coordinator Community Connections said that the Community Connections team is looking into this topic and will be able to report back at the next AFC meeting.

3. Update from Council

3.1. Update from Council

3.1.1. Councillor Update

Cr Melican reported the following:

- The **Inclusive Banyule Plan and annual integrated Action Plan** was adopted by Council at the 5 September Council Meeting. The Plan states that we purposefully take steps to uplift social inclusion to support all people to experience social justice-based outcomes of:
 - Access - Everyone can access places, spaces, services and programs that meet their needs.
 - Equity - Everyone is ensured equal opportunity and has their difference recognised and valued.
 - Participation - Everyone has the opportunity for real participation in the decisions that govern their lives.
 - Rights - Everyone's difference is celebrated, ensuring we live in harmony and without risk of discrimination or violence.
- The **Olympic Leisure Centre** will be re-opening in October 2022. Council has worked with community on a co-design process on what the future of this site could look like.
- Due to the impact of the **North East Link (NEL)**, Council has put a lot of effort and time to try and get improvements. The infrastructure is a massive 10-lane, 65-metre wide trench cutting through the middle of Watsonia and will be a disruptive and difficult barrier for people to get across. A lid is currently being planned for the Southern section Council is asking for the lid to be extended to the northern side. Council

have developed a PUT A LID ON IT! initiative asking people to back Council's call on the Government to put a green lid over NEL. Cr Melican encouraged Committee members to support this initiative.

- Council approved the amended plans for the **Rosanna Library and Woolworth development** and have come to a decision that will make Rosanna a more vibrant centre and deliver a much better Library. This will also include the Toy Library and the Maternal and Child Health service and will be a real hub for younger people.

A Committee Member asked if Council Knows what the attitudes of the local MP's were in relation the NEL and Council's 'Put a lid on it' proposal, given there is a State Election looming. Cr Melican said that Council's proposal will cost more money and the issue is that the State finances on the project are already under pressure due to the increase in costs to material, and supply chain issues.

Manager Resilient and Connected Communities said that Banyule Council is committed to the proposal to ensure better outcomes for the Community.

Action

Include in the minutes the 'Put a lid on It' online information that invites people to provide their feedback and support the proposal.

[Lid the link | Put a lid on it | Banyule Council](#)

A Committee Member asked if there were actions that the Committee could do to support Council with the proposal. How can the Committee help?

Whilst in the meeting the Committee member looked at the website and said only 1437 people had backed it and is concerned that this would be ignored by Government as it is a very small number, if it was 10,000 then they may pay attention. He feels that the Committee not only could be supporting this individually but could also be speaking to people in the community and promoting Councils proposal. He provided U3A as an example.

Action

Age Friendly Committee members to support Council's call to Put a lid on it and encourage other people to provide feedback.

Action

It was suggested by a Committee Member that once Council is aware of the final plans/outcome of the NEL a future agenda item on this issue be considered so the Committee could focus on issues of accessibility, given the NEL will greatly impact peoples access particularly older residents.

Action

Coordinator Community Connection said that she would contact relevant Council Officers overseeing 'Put a lid on it' project and ask if there are any additional actions that can be undertaken by the Committee to support and promote this issue.

3.1.1. Community Connection Age Friendly Program Update:

Coordinator Community Connections provided an update on the following:

- The **Banyule Seniors Festival** will be taking place in the month of October. The program includes a range of activities including three High Teas. The Coordinator would like to establish a Seniors Festival Subcommittee in 2023 to support and advise Council with designing the program.



Seniors Festival
Activity Guide 2022.p

- The Community Connections team is looking at reinvigorating the **Age Friendly Champions** and establishing Champion Working/Advisory Groups to support the work of the Community Connections team.

A Community Member said that he is an Age Friendly Champion and there has been no communication with the Champions for over two years. He suggested that a small committee be established that could assist with how the Champions could be re-established.

- The Community Connections team have been in discussions with not for profit provider Link Community and Transport to discuss the potential of them delivering Council's **Community Bus Project**. The team is also investigating if there are any opportunities through both the Department of Transport Bus Reform and NEL projects to enhance the Project. The team has seeking advice from the Transport Planning team and other relevant internal stakeholders to map the bus route and will be engaging potential user groups and local services, to enable the service will meet needs.

A Community Member mentioned that when he was in Toowoomba he came across a service called '[Kan-Go Toowoomba](#)' which had been launched approximately 18mths ago. He suggested that the Team look at this model, as the feedback from older residents in Toowoomba has been extremely positive.

3.2. Presentations/Consultations/Information

3.2.1. Update on Age Care Reforms

Coordinator Community Connection provided the follow update on the Age Care Reforms:

- Council is operating the Delivered Meals, Social Support Group and Individual, and Property Maintenance. These are home support services for people over 65 and funded through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). With the change of Commonwealth Government, funding for these programs has now been extended until 30 June 2024. After this date CHSP services in Victoria are being proposed to move to a model that is like the NDIS.
- Council's Regional Assessment Team is currently funded by the Commonwealth until 20 June 2023. Funding for this service is managed by State Government Department of Health on behalf of the Commonwealth. The State Government have intimated that they suspect that the Commonwealth will extend the funding until 30 June 2024 however Council and State Government have not been provided any formal notification of this.
- The Commonwealth Government has proposed that they will be seeking feedback on the reforms. The Committee will be kept informed of any updates and this item will be included on the Committee agenda when applicable.
- Manager Resilient and Connected Communities mentioned that the Commonwealth has also put out to tender the Care Finders Program, which is looking at providing special needs/hard to reach groups with additional support to navigate and access aged care services. The Committee will also be kept informed in relation to this new service.

Action

When applicable Coordinator Community Connection will forward any Government feedback opportunities to the AFC for consideration and distribution through your networks. The Coordinator will also provide the Committee with any updates relating to the Care Finder program.

3.2.2. Advisory Committee Review and Inclusive Banyule

Manager Resilient and Connected Communities reported:

- A review was conducted with Council's Statutory Advisory Committees on participation and achievement.
- Council provided feedback that our Committees are given the opportunity to provide significant and meaningful input including making recommendations to Council. However, this doesn't always mean that the recommendations will be endorsed by Council.
- The outcome of the review also highlighted that it is important that Council consult and seek advice from people with lived experience.

- The Inclusive Banyule Committee is the overarching advisory group that represents Council's population committees, including the AFC. Glenn Swafford represents the AFC on Inclusive Banyule.
- A Plan will be developed by Inclusive Banyule which will form a workplan for our population committees.

Cr Melican said that current meeting frequency of the AFC isn't productive for creating meaningful input.

Glenn Swafford feels that the sequence of the Population Committee meetings needs to be more aligned to Inclusive Banyule meetings to enable there to be a collective sense. Glenn would like all the Population Committees to get together on an annual basis and for short reports from each Population Committee to be provided to the Inclusive Banyule Committee.

Glenn will provide an update of the Inclusive Banyule Committee meetings at the AFC meeting, as required. He suggested the possibility of getting an AFC What's App set up so Committee members could communicate with one another outside meetings.

Action

Coordinator Community Connections to investigate the possibility of setting up an Age Friendly Committee What's App or another accessible option.

3.2.3. Age Friendly Strategy Review and Update

Coordinator Community Connections reported:

- The Strategy needs to be reviewed and updated.
- The AFC will have a key role in providing advice and input on the review and update of the strategy
- At this stage the Coordinator is needing to map out the process and once that is consolidated, she will look at engaging with the Committee.

A Committee Member said that she would like the Age Friendly Champions to also be engaged in this process. She felt that the Champions had initially received a lot of training and recruitment and then have not been engaged over the past few years. The Coordinator agreed and said that the Team are looking at reinvigorating the Champions to support the work Council is delivering in the age friendly space, including the Age Friendly Strategy. The Team is keen to engage the Champions to codesign programs and be more involved Council's age friendly initiatives.

3.3. Other Business

3.3.1. Community Updates

- Cr Melican asked Dianne if she could provide an update on the Warringal Conservation Society. Dianne reported:
 - The Group is now meeting face to face and finally getting out and doing planting and monthly meeting with speakers. They continue their advocacy for the local environment.
- Dianne also provided an update on U3A:
 - The membership is still growing, however people enrolling in courses and physically attending courses hasn't gone back to pre-COVID levels. There are still some restrictions in the amount of people who attend groups.
- Marcello reported that the attendance of the Italian senior's groups has drastically reduced since COVID. Marcello feels that attending clubs face to face is more effective and that 10 clubs have folded through lack of attendance and leadership.
- Mary said older people are less likely to return to face to face activities due to the fear of their own health and out of respect for their peers. She would like our culture to change so that windows are opened and there's good airflow, so older people can feel safe again. It is importance for older people to meet face to face, they really need it.
- Glenn mentioned that Hybrid options are slowly disappearing and yet there is still a need as people are still in fear. Older people are experiencing isolation. He also said the Age In Focus newsletter provided some

great information on activities. He suggested that through Council's Economic Development team they could look at initiatives where an air quality score for local business is promoted.

3.3.2. EveryAGE Counts Campaign

Coordinator Community Connection discussed the Mayor's response to EveryAGE Counts inviting the Age Friendly Committee to deliberate on Council's actions in relation to this campaign. Committee Members had read the information.

The Committee appreciated that the Mayor invited the Council to deliberate on this campaign.

The Committee agreed that they would like Council to support the Campaign.

Action

The Committee would like the opportunity to further discuss any additional actions that Council could deliver in relation to Ageism Awareness at the next AFC meeting.

Cr Melican stated that he would be happy to move a Notice of Motion on the EveryAGE Counts Campaign.

3.3.3. Recommendations

1. The Age Friendly Committee recommend that Council support the EveryAGE Counts campaign and for Cr Melican to move the EveryAGE Counts Notice of Motion.
2. The Age Friendly Committee recommend that that their meeting schedule be changed from meeting quarterly to meeting bimonthly and for this to be reflected in the Banyule City Council Population Committees Terms of Reference.

4. Close and date of next meeting

Cr Melican asked if Committee Members were comfortable to go back to face to face meetings. Most members were comfortable to attend the next meeting face to face.

A Committee Member said he is keen to understand air quality in Council buildings and that he is aware that Council has gone above and beyond to ensure there is good air quality in some of its building e.g., ILCH. He also mentioned that it was due to COVID-19 that the Committee met quarterly however prior to that the Committee met regularly and were engaged in a range of activities including three or four subcommittees. He said he felt Committee Members wanted to be more active and that he is keen for Council and the Committee to continue to support Banyule's Age Friendly Cities status.

Coordinator Community Connection said that she is very keen to work with the Committee on all the actions that the Committee Members have raised. She will also look at booking a suitable room for the next AFC meeting.

Manager Resilient and Connected Communities asked if Committee Members would like to meet more regularly. The Committee agreed that they would like to recommend that the meetings occur bimonthly with the next meeting scheduled for the **24 November 2022**.