



# Minutes Multicultural Committee

15 February 2023

## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 15 February 2023
<b>Time</b>	6.00 – 7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough Level 4, Griffin Meeting Room
	Online <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Cr Fiona Mitsinikos
<b>Minutes</b>	Sherryn Prinzi

## 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
Louisa Ong	Community member
Susan Zhou	Community member
Baljit Singh	Community member
Ginger (Lan) Jiang	Community member
Samira Liban	Community member
Melina Linardatos	Community member
Albert Fatileh	Victoria Police
Ansum Sadik	Victoria Police

## Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Linda Liwewe	Community member
Mandira Panday	Community member
Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan	Community member
Naaz Fahmida	Community member

# Items

## 1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and Diversity Statement as read by Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Welcome and introduction of new Multicultural Committee member Melina Linardatos. Melina thanks the committee for the welcome and shares her aspirations to contribute to the local community.

## 2. Minutes from previous meeting 6.00 – 6.10pm – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
<b>Harmony Day</b>	Follow up about other Harmony Week events happening locally Continue planning	Update to be provide under Standing Agenda item
<b>Days of Significance Calendar</b>	Add Eid Al-Adha to the days of significance	Eid Al-Adha has been added
<b>International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons</b>	The Committee supports Banyule City Council to become a signatory of the ICAN Cities Appeal.	Council report has been drafted and will go to Council on 20 March. See Briefing Paper for a summary of the report.
<b>Racism and discrimination</b>	Environmental scan to identify local actions to address racism and discrimination	Work has commenced and updates will be provided to the Committee in the coming months

## 3. Community Infrastructure Plan Consultation – Niki Efstratiou

Council is currently developing a Community Infrastructure Plan to advance investment priorities and actions over a 10-year period to meet the current, emerging and future needs of Banyule. This is a 10-year plan to ensure community buildings - libraries, neighbourhood houses, Maternal and Child Health centres, kindergartens and sport pavilions - meet current and future needs. Major facilities are not within the scope but may be referred to.

The role of community buildings is to provide essential services and support, entertainment and leisure, lifelong learning, social connection opportunities, opportunities to improve physical and health wellbeing, and employment opportunities.

Currently, there are 132 Council owned buildings, with some co-located services and 95 non-council buildings. All community buildings are considered in the planning, but no decisions made for non-council buildings. Seeking to collaborate churches, scout halls, schools.

Developed through a long process starting with the development of a Social Infrastructure Framework. Council aims to ensure buildings are fit for people, fit for purpose and fit for place. This process saw the collection of information on the current state of our buildings, identification of 20-minute neighbourhoods, current and future population growth and how the number of buildings required for the future.

Consultation around this plan started on 6<sup>th</sup> December with approximately 280 people engaged to date. The consultation process included a broad range of engagements activities to achieve a balanced view.

Plan will include the following priorities:

1. Maximise the use of existing buildings, council and non-council

2. Review lease and licence agreements to support flexible use
3. Develop information resources to ensure access on availability and booking, eg through Bookable system
4. Add value to existing projects to create multipurpose facilities.
5. Upgrading buildings for children, youth and families to deliver increased demand for services
6. Identifying opportunities to create clusters of buildings and promote shared use of spaces
7. Collaborate with non-council building owners to unlock opportunities for shared use

Emerging issues identified through consultations:

- Isolation because of covid and seeking to reconnect
- Access more activities and events closer to home
- Services and community groups are seeking more space to deliver programs and events
- More flexible access to space over the week
- More information on how to access different spaces
- Spaces for small and social enterprises for defined periods
- Organisations want to understand the needs of the community and how they can support Council

### Discussion

How can we make building more accessible for people from diverse cultural groups?

- Use buildings to provide affordable services such as supermarkets (serving private need)
- Create buildings where they are needed
- Most people who were isolated, live alone, therefore, creating interest-based centres focusing on what people want to go to.
- Need to connect in with people who do not necessarily join
- Need to make sure there are affordable spaces
- Spaces that respond the needs of multicultural people, such as the Harmony Centre in Heidelberg West, with the facilities to cater for cultural needs

### Action

Lisa King to include draft Community Infrastructure Plan with minutes

## 4. Inclusive Banyule Committee – Sherryn Prinzi

The Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee has identified two high-level priorities: mental health and social and affordable housing. The committee is now seeking feedback from the population groups on these issues.

### Discussion

What are the key opportunities faced by populations and what opportunities would the population committee like Council to focus on to uplift local mental health supports?

- Aligned with activities that support positive mental health, health and nutritional advice
- Multicultural communities would benefit from better education about what mental health is – there is still a lack of understanding around what mental illness means
- Tips for parents in supporting themselves and family members who may experience mental health
- Service providers need to understand the cultural differences, and acknowledge the stigma around mental support
- Promotion of mental support through cultural groups and meet ups – there is a need more information dissemination- finding out where to go
- Multicultural people may need to support to identify their needs -this could occur through education through cultural groups and connections

- Wait time are very long
- Stigma around labels of anxiety or stress - need differing words to destigmatise
- Reassurance, trust, community leadership support, erasing stigma, good food, exercise, education, small steps to better mental health
- Council can provide community volunteer service that identifies and supports people experiencing distress in the multicultural group. Volunteers can work on raising awareness in the community about mental health issues; to identify individuals experiencing distress and provide sessions of counselling.
- Pastoral care and religious institutions play an important role in providing supports. Empowering religious leaders to support community to understand supports available, including referring Mental Health practitioners
- Volunteers can also recognise people who may have a severe mental health condition to the public mental health service; and support people in need with access to social care benefits.

## Discussion

What are the key opportunities faced by populations and what opportunities would the population committee like Council to focus on to uplift access to local social and affordable housing?

- Supporting people living in larger homes to access smaller, suitable homes
- Barriers are translated documents - home buyer schemes/ other incentives
- When housing is offered in other area, it results in people leaving their communities, sometimes in communities that are lacking services and supports they need

## 5. Committee Survey Results – Lisa King

Summary of survey results – see Briefing Paper

Feedback is always welcome, please reach out to Lisa King for with any suggestions to improve committee meetings.

## 6. Standing Agenda Item – Lisa King

Information share for committee members

### **Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner 2023**

Date: Saturday 18th March

Time: 6.00pm - 11.30pm

Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Wharf

<https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/victorian-multicultural-gala-dinner>

Albert suggested it would be nice to have representation from the Banyule Multicultural committee attend.

### **Referendum on Voice to Parliament**

Baljit expressed the importance of education around the Referendum on the Voice to Parliament. Council acknowledges the importance of supporting First Nations people in ways that responds to local needs. Interest in progressing action around this topic was expressed from the committee.

## Inclusive Banyule Update

### Harmony Week

Save the date – Harmony Week event

Date: Tuesday 21 March 2023

Time: 11.00-1.00pm

Multicultural Committee

Venue: Bellfield Community Hub, 15 Daphne Crescent, Bellfield

This event is booked out however, spaces are available for committee members. Please contact Lisa if you would like to attend. Members invited to bring along cultural items to display on the day.

### Accessible Communication Guide

Project update Council is partnering with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Scope to produce a suite of resources to improve accessible communication for Council, service providers and community members.

Noted the Easy English version of the agenda as a representation of good inclusive practice. Council working on making meetings, activities and community consultations more accessible. Suitable for a diverse range of people.

### Inclusive Language and Meetings Guide

See Briefing Paper and attachments for draft documents.

Feedback and comments welcome to refine these documents.

## 7. Any other business – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos and Lisa King

### Updates from Council

- Banyule City Council Australian Citizenship Ceremony – on Australia Day at Centre Ivanhoe 170 residents became citizens from a range of countries. Many noted dignitaries attended. Uncle Charles attended. Cr noted it was a great opportunity to meet our newest citizens.
- Uluru Statement of the Heart – Council adopted the statement in full and will hold community information sessions to share the intent
- Proposal to extend the term of this Committee till November 2023 – Committee members felt that it was a good idea to extend the term to align with the Mayoral elections.
- A few Committee members have suggested meeting in Ivanhoe - members willing to try for the April meeting.
- On the 13 February, the Federal Government announcement to end the policy of temporary protection. This means that those who already have a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) will be able to apply for a permanent Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa.
- The unfolding earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria is incredibly saddening; and we know our connected communities in Banyule will be hurting. Our thoughts are with those whose loved ones are lost, injured or missing and to the emergency responders.

## 8. Close and date of next meeting

3 May 2023 – Please note date change

Meeting closed 7.37pm