



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

22 February 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 22 February 2024
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	Room 4.06 Griffin Community Meeting Room, 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Castaldo
Minutes	Laura Cattapan Community Connections Coordinator Jenna Gandolfo Community Connection Team Leader

Diversity Statement

Committee Member Attendance

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule City Council – Councillor Delegate Age Friendly Committee
Cr Tom Melican	Banyule City Council – Deputy Councillor Delegate Age Friendly Committee
Mary Stringer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Dianne Williamson	Age Friendly Committee Member
Karlene Lang	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcello D’Amico	Age Friendly Committee Member
Mona Salama	Age Friendly Committee Member
Andrea Dodd	Age Friendly Committee Member
Sunder Shivdasani	Age Friendly Committee Member

Council Officer Attendance

Attendee name	Position
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council – Resilient and Connected Communities Manager
Laura Cattapan	Banyule City Council – Community Connections Coordinator
Jenna Gandolfo	Banyule City Council – Community Connections Team Leader
Paula Ferronato	Banyule City Council – Age Friendly Community Development Officer
Paty Galan	Banyule City Council - Senior Urban Planner
Ryan Batchelder	Banyule City Council - Sports Recreation and Participation Officer
Nicole Maslin	Banyule City Council – Manager Healthy and Active Communities
Rowena Cairns	Banyule City Council – Community Climate Action Lead

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kath Bracket	Banyule City Council – Director Community Wellbeing
Jim Brewer	Age Friendly Committee Member

Marcus Wigan	Age Friendly Committee Member
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee Member
Veronica Lee	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jenny Dale	Age Friendly Committee Member

Items

1. Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Cr Castaldo opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians:

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wiradjuri 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.”

1.2 Diversity Statement

Cr Castaldo read out the Banyule 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.”

1.3 Introduction of new Committee Members Andrea Dodd, Mona Salama, Sunder Shivdasani

Cr Castaldo greeted the Age Friendly Committee and expressed that he is very pleased to be the new Councillor Representative on the Committee. He is aware that the Committee is very active and engaged on a range of Council initiatives including the Ageing Well Framework.

Cr Castaldo then welcomed new Committee Members Andrea Dodd, Mona Salama, Sunder Shivdasani to the Committee. The new Committee Members told a little bit about themselves and why they are interested in being a member on the Committee. Current sitting members then introduced themselves to the new members.

Cr Castaldo also introduced new staff member Paula Ferronato who is currently Acting in the Age Friendly Community Development Officer maternity leave position.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

Agenda Item	Action Arising and Outcome
2. Consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Charter Strategies Review	<p>Action:</p> <p>The Senior Strategic Planner and Community Connection Team will explore the potential to deliver an information session for older adults on downsizing.</p> <p>Further Action (9 November 2023)</p> <p>Older Adults Major Events Working Group to consider hosting an information session, workshop or seminar on housing options for older adults, and consider including Housing for the Age Action Group, COTA Vic and people with lived experience in residential aged care and retirement village.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Whilst this action continues to be explored in 2024 this item will remain in Actions section.</p>
2.2 Community Updates, Committee Members (9 Nov 2023)	<p>Action:</p> <p>Council’s Communications, Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator to be invited to a Committee meeting to provide an update on Council’s advocacy priorities and how the Committee can support the priorities that are relevant to older people.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>This Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator will be invited to present at the April Age Friendly Committee meeting.</p>
2. Consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Charter Strategies Review	<p>Action:</p> <p>Council’s Communications, Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator to be invited to a Committee meeting to provide an update on Council’s advocacy priorities and how the Committee can support the priorities that are relevant to older people.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>This Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator will be invited to present at the April Age Friendly Committee meeting.</p>

3.1.1 Draft Older Adults Framework Feedback - Laura Cattapan Community Connections Coordinator and Older Adult Framework Codesign Working Group members

Action

Community Connections Coordinator to follow up with Transport Planners regarding outcomes from the Access Audit that Committee reps attended earlier in the year.

Outcome:

The Lead Transport Planner will provide an outcomes report of the audit for our next meeting in April.

3.1.1 Draft Older Adults Framework Feedback

Action

Community Connections Coordinator/Team Leader will update the Draft Older Adults Framework to reflect the feedback provided by the Committee. The overall feedback provided through the consultation process will be included in the draft framework. The Codesign Working Group will then meet to finalise the draft prior to it going to Council in late February. The Committee will be provided the opportunity to also look at the final draft, however this may need to occur via email.

Outcome

The Draft Framework was updated in response to the feedback provided at the previous committee meeting. The Codesign Working Group and members of the Committee were invited to a meeting in January to analyse and finalise the draft Framework.

3.1.2 Seniors Exercise Park Complaint

Action

Community Connection Coordinator will investigate options for better signage and report back to the Committee with possible wording and design for Committee feedback and input.

Outcome

The Community Connections team met members of the Open Spaces team to discuss larger and better signage at the exercise park. They have also reached out to the National Ageing Research Institute to advise on appropriate wording for the signage.

Council officers in the Community Connections team will work with our internal Communications Team to guide us on the design and possible wording which will then be presented to the Committee for feedback.

3. Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Councillor Update - Cr Castaldo

Cr Castaldo reported on the following:

Proposed changes to the trial Community Bus timetable and route:

- Community Connections Coordinator advised that the changes to the Community Bus will be going to Council for adoption on the 26 of February.
- The proposed changes are based on feedback from current bus users and wider community that the current bus loop is too long. The proposed changes are to shorten the route so there are two bus routes, a North and South route, which operate on two days each.
- Some key locations across both bus routes will cross over both bus routes. They include the Austin Hospital, the West Heidelberg Mall and Bellfield Community Hub.
- The Community Connections Coordinator noted that Banyule is a large municipality and at the southern end of the municipality is a large area to service with the trial Community Bus.

Adoption of proposed Ageing Well in Banyule Framework 2024-2030:

- The proposed Framework will be going to Council for adoption on the 26 of February. The launch of the Framework will be held at the Active April Walkathon on 23 of April 2024. Committee members and the Older Adults Framework Codesign Working Group will be invited to attend the Walkathon and the Launch.

Seniors Exercise Park – Photoshoot:

- Cr. Castaldo reported that he will be attending the Seniors Exercise Park on Friday 23 of February for a photo opportunity to promote the park in the upcoming edition of the Banner.
- He encouraged members of the Committee to attend.

- A member of the Committee said that he would attend. He hasn't used the exercise park before and would like to try it as he lives close by.
- Cr Castaldo said that there has been a great collaboration with the Ivanhoe Croquet Club and Council's Seniors Exercise Program that operates every Monday and Friday at 10am.

3.2 Community Updates – Committee Members

A Committee member reported that the [Priority Care Clinic](#) is still running and open 7 days a week and Medicare bulk billed. The clinic takes pressure off the emergency department. The [Respiratory Clinic](#) is still running but has limited days and hours and is now only free for pensioners and concession card holders.

3.3 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee update- Glenn Swafford

Glenn Swafford was an apology and will report on the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee at the next Age Friendly Committee meeting.

3.4 Community Connections Program Update – Community Connection Team Leader

Community Connections Team Leader provided the following update:

- The Older Adults Major Events Working Group has reconvened, and planning has commenced for a number of major age friendly events in 2024. These include World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and Seniors Festival events including the Ageing Well Expo, Older Adults Art exhibition and Seniors Festival Morning Tea.
- The Volunteer Celebration evening for National Volunteer Week will be held on Wednesday 22 May and the Committee members are encouraged to attend.
- The Age Friendly team are hosting another Oz Harvest Nutrition Education Skills Training in April due to the popularity of the October 2023 sessions.
- The Older Adults Community Connections program is continuing with social lunches and bus trips.

4. Other Business including Presentations/Consultations/Information

3.1 Public Realm Strategy Consultation – Paty Galan, Senior Urban Planner

Paty Galan, Senior Urban Planner, provided a presentation on the Public Realm Strategy. The PowerPoint presentation has been included as an attachment with the minutes.



PRS - Age Friendly
Committee2.pptx

Paty outlined the focus of the Draft Strategy as follows:

- That peoples' experience of our public spaces is safe, healthy, vibrant, and connected.
- That our natural open spaces are protected, maintained, and contribute to climate resilience.
- Development of our public spaces is well designed today and into the future.

Paty explained that the strategy is structured in four topologies. The First topology is Urban Spaces – Activity Centres (e.g., Shopping precincts), local roads, civic areas (Ivanhoe Library and Community Hub, parklets).

Paty asked the Committee to provide feedback on the following discussion prompt: What do you like about shopping areas of Banyule? Are there any shopping areas that you want to use, but you don't? What stops you from using them?

The Committee provided the following feedback and advice from the discussion prompts:

- A Committee member mentioned the need for more public toilets. Paty Galan advised that toilets are decided on the size of the activity centres, and this is included in the Public Toilet Plan.
- A Committee member commented that there are significant parking issues on Watsonia Road and the communication around the construction with the public has been poor. Locals are not sufficiently informed about what is happening and the impact on the shopping strip.
- Cr. Castaldo advised there are temporary works and road closures due to the construction of the Watsonia Town Square.

Action:

Council to investigate ways to better communicate with the public regarding construction on Watsonia Road moving forward.

- A Committee member requested better signage during periods of construction.
- A Committee member commented that she enjoys the local strip shops in her neighbourhood. The ones that are hidden and in residential areas. The locals in these areas appreciate and value their local shopping areas, they often know the shop owners by name. They provide a sense of community and belonging in the smaller local precincts that you don't get from big shopping centres.
- A Committee Member commented that they do not use the West Heidelberg Mall due to a lack of safety and cleanliness, unlike other shopping precincts in Banyule. She suggested it needs an upgrade.
- A Committee Member said there is a lack of public benches in the Bellfield Heidelberg area compared to their previous neighbourhood of Balwyn which has public benches every 10 to 20 metres. Benches are essential for older adults as they provide a place to sit and rest.
- Cr Castaldo said to include feedback for benches is to be included on the journey to and from activity centres.
- A Committee member suggested finding out why Balwyn has prioritised having lots of public benches.
- A Committee member added a suggestion for public benches to face each other to encourage people to stop, gather and socialise.
- A Committee member told an anecdotal story that before Northland Shopping Centre was built, the West Heidelberg Mall was a thriving local shopping precinct.
- A Committee member commented that they prefer large shopping centres over small local strip shops due to the wider variety of shops, convenience of everything in one place and ample parking.
- A Committee member praised their local shops on Burgundy Street in Ivanhoe and does not want redevelopment of local strip shops into large shopping centres.

Paty asked Committee members to provide feedback going for a walk in your local street. What makes you go for a walk or not? Does it have enough shade, lighting etc.

- A Committee member praised the Parklands in her area of Banyule and noted they are well maintained, feel safe and provide a community hub for locals to gather and socialise. This is a common sentiment in their neighbourhood with locals loving the Parklands and walking to one of the coffee shops. Also, Airlie Retirement Village in Ivanhoe is well located and accessible to the local shops.
- A Committee member said she lives in Briar Hills and walks to Montmorency shops, she praised Were Street as having a great park, ample trees, good lighting, and clean toilets which attract lots of families and outdoor activities such as picnics. The footpaths are in fair condition but noted some hazards.
- A Committee member noted that she likes to go on walks in the bushland areas of Banyule however feels she has to think about where and when she goes for safety reasons and bikes can also present a hazard for people on the shared bike and walkway parks, particularly on the weekends when it is busy. The Main Yarra Trail near the Greyhound Club has no parking available when the Club is in operation, which is a barrier to visiting.
- A Committee member commented on the Banyule Flats noting no public toilet and inadequate wayfinding signage.
- A Committee member noted the need for more water fountains for both people and their dogs along walking paths as this would encourage more people to walk, particularly young people and school kids.
- A Committee member noted that Rosanna shops and train station have ample water fountains.
- A Committee member noted the poor condition of the Olympic Park shops on Southern Road near Darebin Creek in comparison to other shopping strips in Banyule such as Montmorency.
- A Committee member mentioned that at the Olympic Park shops there has been a longstanding successful local vegetable swap group who meet monthly. Such groups also provide valuable social connection for socially isolated people.

Paty mentioned that the Public Realm Strategy will speak directly to Council's Open Space strategy.

- A Committee member noted that the plan did not include community gardens and suggested there is a significant need for an increase in community gardens in the municipality.
- A Committee member noted that Chelsworth Park walking track does not have sufficient public benches or wayfinding signage which discourages the use of the walking track due to fear of getting lost.

Paty said that that is useful feedback and that community gardens could be considered as part of the public realm strategy.

Paty discussed transport as another topology in the strategy. She said the Disability and Inclusion Committee provided good feedback on public transport accessibility and inclusion.

She asked the Committee to provide feedback on the following: Think about the car parks, trains stations or bus stops you use in Banyule, what do you like about them? Are there any car parks, trains stations or bus stops that you want to use, but don't? What stops you from using them?

- A Committee member noted that heat and a lack of shade is a barrier to using public transport and provided the example of walking from Greensborough Train Station to the Council office.
- A Committee Member commented that their local area of Ivanhoe had great public transport with ample bus stops within a short walk. They felt fortunate to have green spaces in their local area, particularly during Covid19 lockdowns. Walks in nature helped them to feel socially connected and maintain good mental health.
- A Committee member enquired about whether the bus stop timetables at bus stops had been updated with the new bus lines and if there was sufficient signage to inform the public of the changes.
- A Committee member suggested more signage for parks, green spaces and places of interest noting that this information is readily available online, but a lot of older adults are unable to access information online.
- A Committee member suggested more security cameras in parks and bushland to increase safety, noting a case of a local missing woman in Ballarat.
- Community Connections Coordinator highlighted Council's CCTV policy and noted that there is discussion both for and against public surveillance due to privacy concerns.
- A Committee member highlighted an issue with accessibility of the Plan, noting issues with the small print, graphics and colours that make it difficult to read.

Action

Community Connections Coordinator to provide information to the Committee on Council's CCTV Policy and will investigate accessible guidelines to provide to Paty to ensure the Strategy is an accessible document for all.

Paty thanked the Committee for their valuable feedback and if they had any additional comments they would like to make can they feed it back to Laura on Monday. Paty also encouraged Committee members to follow the project on the Shaping Banyule page <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/PublicRealm>.

3.2 Sport and Recreation Plan Consultation – Ryan Batchelder, Sports Recreation and Participation Officer

Ryan Batchelder, Sports Recreation and Participation Officer provided a presentation on the development of a new Sports and Recreation Plan. The presentation has been included as an attachment in the minutes.



Older Adults
Consultation.pptx

Ryan mentioned that the current Sport & Recreation Plan has expired, and Council is now developing a new Plan which Council is wanting to give more consideration to increasing participation with active recreation that is less structured compared to competitive sport.

The Committee provided feedback and advice from the following discussion prompts: What recreation opportunities do you want to participate in?

- A Committee member noted the popularity of strength training programs for older adults and highlighted it was difficult to access due to there being limited numbers of programs available that were suitable for older adults. She used the Ivanhoe Leisure Centre program as an example as being very difficult for her friend to get into due to it being too busy. This was due to a loss of personnel at the Centre who was running the program. Her friend is quite distressed about not being able to continue doing this exercise class.
- A Committee member agreed noting issues with booking due to classes being too full and there not being enough programs specific for older adults and yet there is a high demand from older adults.
- Cr Castaldo said that he has had a number of people make complaints about this.
- A Committee member provided an example of a place in Orange County California in America where they provided health and fitness programs specifically for older adults, transport options were provided, and also social connections opportunities.
- Community Connections Coordinator mentioned that her team will be completing a mapping exercise on what exercise programs are currently available in Banyule for older adults. Exercise opportunities for older people came through strongly in the data received through the Older Adult's Framework consultation process that was conducted last year.
- A Committee member commented that dancing at Italian clubs was a popular activity.
- A Committee member noted that U3A have a wide range of activities and programs however there are large waitlists due to popularity.
- A Committee member suggested that retirement villages may have exercise classes and could charge a fee for service for non-residents to use the facilities.
- A Committee member mentioned that there is a lack of outdoor swimming pools in Banyule.

Nicole Maslin Manager of Healthy and Active Communities arrived and introduced herself. Nicole said that it was her Department that are responsible for developing the Sport and Recreation Plan.

- Cr Castaldo mentioned that Banyule has a large number of private gyms that are often empty during the middle of the day and suggested the possibility of discounted rates for older adults during quiet periods.

Manager of Healthy and Active Communities asked if there were barriers for Committee members to use Watermarc and Ivanhoe and Olympic Leisure Centres.

- A Committee member highlighted the issue of when using the hydrotherapy pool in the morning the aerobics classes take over the pool and make it difficult for others to use it, particularly with booming music.
- A Committee member raised the issue of not being able to book into classes at Ivanhoe as they were too busy.
- A Committee member mentioned all the great sports grounds that are empty during the day and suggested creating walking groups at ovals and sports grounds when they are not being used. He noted the need for this space to feel inclusive and welcoming when they are not being used.
- A Committee member mentioned Active April. Manager of Health and Active Communities said that Council is doing a whole range of activities during active April.
- Manager of Health and Active Communities said that this consultation has highlighted that some of the activities that Council is running need wider promotion as members of this Committee are not aware of the activities.
- A Committee member suggested that the Plan should include the promotion of our local Friends Of groups as these groups provide a good opportunity to be outside, physical exercise and social connection.
- Community Connections Coordinator mentioned the growing popularity of walking sports groups such as walking soccer and football.

Sports Recreation and Participation Officer mentioned that there is a Walking Soccer Program in Macleod YMCA that are wanting to build on it.

- A Committee member said that communication of all these opportunities needs to be considered.
- Cr Castaldo would like to know if there are statistics on organised and non-organised sport and recreation.
- A Committee member highlighted that lock in contracts are often a barrier to people attending gyms, suggesting that passes are better to allow people to try activities before they commit.
- A Committee member suggested facilities such as table tennis in public parks should be included.
- The group agreed there was a widespread need for more communication and awareness about the sports and recreation opportunities that exist.

Action

A Committee Member to provide Coordinator Community Connections with the promotional newsletters from the Orange County facility.

Action:

The Community Connections team to complete a mapping exercise of sports and recreation opportunities for older adults in Banyule to identify existing programs and find the gaps.

The next discussion prompt for the Committee was what are the barriers for older adults to participate in sport and recreation, including intersectionality?

- A Committee member highlighted the concern around injuries and knowing one's capacity to avoid injuries. Older adults benefit from having a trusted and trained professional to advise on what is safe, exercising with health issues and having tailored programs specifically for older adults.
- A Committee member suggested that cost is a common barrier to participation making exercise seem like a luxury rather than a necessity.
- A Committee member highlighted that transport is a common barrier to be able to access sport and recreation.
- A Committee member noted that carer availability is a barrier to participation. A suggestion was made to have classes specifically for carers and people they care for. Community Connections Team Leader mentioned the Support for Carers Program that provides support and resource to carers.

The Sports Recreation and Participation Officer thanked the Committee for their feedback and encouraged members to provide input on the Shaping Banyule webpage and to promote the survey through their community groups.

<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ActiveBanyule>

Action:

Age Friendly Committee

Community Connections Team Leader to provide contact details for the Support for Carers Program Officer.

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Community-services/Carer-support-program>

Action

Council to consider having a healthy ageing focus in Age in Focus newsletter that features sport and recreation opportunities in Banyule and includes the community bus stops that stop at Ivanhoe and Olympic Park Leisure Centres, Nets in Macleod and also Ivanhoe Seniors Exercise Park.

Link the Age Friendly Community Development Officer and Sports and Recreation team to cross promote sports and recreation opportunities.

3.3 Councils Climate Response Update – Rowena Cairns

Cr Castaldo introduced Rowena Cairns, Community Climate Action Lead, who showed a short video on two Plan's Council is developing in relation to our Climate Response. The video has been included as an attachment.

https://youtu.be/0JhS1FtL_kY and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The Community Climate Action Lead asked Committee members to provide feedback on what their concerns in relation to climate change for yourself, family, community, animals, natural environment etc.

The Committee provided the following feedback and advice:

- A Committee member suggested Council run information sessions for environmental advice, noting that trust is an issue in the community with doorknockers and scam phone callers. Also suggested a resource outlining grant opportunities and a preferred supplier list.
- A Committee member echoed this statement and suggested evening environmental information sessions would be beneficial.
- A Committee member highlighted that renting is a barrier as tenants don't have any choice to make upgrades, depends on the landlord. Enquired as to what support Council could provide renters.
- Cr. Castaldo mentioned the State Government grant for landlords to make environmentally sustainable upgrades to their rental properties.
- A Committee member recalled the oppressive heat in the lead up to Black Saturday. A suggestion was made to open libraires 24/7 during extreme heat waves. They also noted the benefits of getting to know your neighbours.
- A Committee member mentioned the issues with not having power in emergency situations and highlighted the need to be well prepared for emergencies. Suggested having a list of evacuation centres on the Council website.

Action:

The Community Climate Action Lead will provide a list of information sessions that are available for community members to participate in on Climate action.

The Community Climate Action Lead thanked the Committee for their contribution and encouraged Committee members to fill in the survey and also encourage others to fill in the survey on Shaping Banyule.

[Community survey | Responding to Climate Change | Shaping Banyule](#)

4 Committee Meeting Recommendation to Council

4.1 Previous meeting recommendation outcomes

No recommendation from previous meeting

4.2 Meeting Recommendations

No recommendations

5 Close and date of next meeting

5.1 Next meeting date is 18th April at Shop 48 The Mall West Heidelberg 10am to 12pm

The next Age Friendly Committing will be held on the 18 April, 10am to 12pm, at Shop 48 the West Heidelberg Mall. For people driving there is plenty of parking however it is only 2hrs. Council will provide you with a parking permit for the meeting. Can you please arrive 10 minutes early and you will be issued with the permit that you will then need to put on your dashboard.

The 2024 Age Friendly Committee schedule is as follows:

BANBYULE AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE 2024 MEETINGS SCHEDULE			
Meeting Date	Time	Location	Meeting Room
Thursday 22 February	10am to 12pm	1 Flintoff St, Greensborough	Room 4.06, Griffin
Thursday 18 April	10am to 12pm	Shop 48 The Mall West Heidelberg	Main Meeting Room
Thursday 27 June	10am to 12pm	1 Flintoff St, Greensborough	Room 4.06, Griffin
Thursday 22 August	10am to 12pm	Ivanhoe Library Community Hub	TBC
Thursday 26 September	Committee to decide whether they would like an additional meeting prior to caretaker period		