



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

27 June 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 27 June 2024
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	406 – Griffin Room, 1 Flintoff St, Banyule
Chair/Facilitator	Mayor Tom Melican
Minutes	Laura Cattapan Community Connections Coordinator

Committee Member Attendance

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Mayor Tom Melican	Banyule City Council
Cr. Alida McKern	Banyule City Council
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee Member
Karlene Lang	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcello D'Amico	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jenny Dale	Age Friendly Committee Member
Mary Stringer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Sunder Shivdasani	Age Friendly Committee Member

Council Officer Attendance

Attendee name	Position
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council – Resilient & Connected Communities Manager
Laura Cattapan	Banyule City Council – Community Connections Coordinator

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule City Council – Councillor Delegate
Marcus Wigan	Age Friendly Committee Member
Andrea Dodd	Age Friendly Committee Member
Veronica Lee	Age Friendly Committee Member
Dianne Williamson	Age Friendly Committee Member
Mona Salama	Age Friendly Committee Member
Joseph Tabacco	Banyule City Council – General Manager Community Wellbeing
Jenna Gandolfo	Banyule City Council – Community Connections Team Leader

Items

1. Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Mayor Melican 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

Mayor Melican 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.”

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

Mayor Melican asked if committee members had any comments or queries relating to the actions and outcomes that were documented on the Agenda. The committee's comments have been documented as discussion.

Agenda Item	Action Arising and Outcome	Progress
2.1 Consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies Review	Action: The Senior Strategic Planner and Community Connection Team will explore the potential to deliver an information session for older adults on downsizing.	In progress
2.2 Community Updates, Committee Members (9 Nov 2023)	Further Action (9 November 2023) 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. Outcome: Major Events Working Group discussed on 27 March 2024 meeting. The group agreed this topic should not be absorbed into the Ageing Well expo and warrants a separate event. The Community Connection team will plan a housing seminar in early 2025 with the Major Events Working group. 2024 was not feasible due to 3 major Seniors Festival events.	
2.4 Seniors Exercise Park Complaint (22 Feb 2024)	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. Further Action (18 Apr 2024) Based on the feedback provided at the meeting the Community Connections team will update the wording and look at other images that could be used and email the	Completed

Committee with the updated versions prior to the next Committee meeting.

Outcome

The feedback provided on 18 April meeting by the Age Friendly Committee on the wording and sign design has been taken into consideration. The Community Connections team have now consulted with key internal officers including the Communications team to redesign the sign and are proposing that the new sign be installed at the Park.

Discussion

The Community Connections Coordinator presented the final design to the committee which was based on the feedback and advice they provided at the previous Committee meeting.



Seniors Exercise park
2024 A3 Landscape in

The Committee were happy with the final design.

A member of the Committee asked if there had been any feedback to the initial person who made the complaint. The Community Connections Coordinator said the signage has just been approved. Council's Community Connections officers have received several emails and verbal complaints/concerns raised by older users in addition to the initial complaint. Once the sign is installed Council officers will communicate to all community members who raised concerns.

4.2 Sport and Recreation Plan Consultation

(22 Feb 2024)

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 gaps.

Outcome

The Community Connections team has completed the mapping exercise and will present the outcomes to the Committee (Agenda Item 4.2).

Completed

4.3 Council's Climate Response Update

(22 Feb 2024)

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.

Outcome

Community Climate Action Lead advised the information sessions with community have concluded and advised that the public exhibition of the draft Climate Adaption Framework will be in August 2024 for the Committee consider.

Community Connections Team Leader will invite Council Officers to the August meeting for the Committee to provide final feedback on the draft.

Completed

<p>3.1 Councillor Update (18 Apr 24)</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator to reach out to Council Officers for an update on how the Committee’s feedback on the Draft Housing Strategy has been included.</p> <p>Outcome</p> <p>An email was forwarded to the Committee on 14 May from Emma Butterworth Senior Strategic Planner regarding some of the ways the Strategic Planning team have responded to the Committee’s feedback for the draft Housing Strategy.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>3.2 Community Updates (18 Apr 24)</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Include additional health services information in Age in Focus. Committee Member to provide information on Victorian Virtual Emergency Service.</p> <p>Outcome</p> <p>Information on the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department service was included in the June/July 2024 Age in Focus newsletter.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>4.1 Consultation Council’s Advocacy Priorities (18 Apr 24)</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator to email the Transport team requesting the installation of a mirror on the Eastern side of Odenwald Road bridge.</p> <p>Outcome</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator contacted the Transport and Development Engineering team who will conduct a review.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator said that she contacted the Transport and Traffic team and was asked to put the request in writing. She is now waiting for their response, however, will also follow up.</p> <p>A Committee member expressed satisfaction that the issue had been addressed, highlighting it as an excellent example of consultation, action, and Council responsiveness. This was especially commendable given one of the Committee members who raised the issue is an expert in the field, and the Council listened and responded effectively.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>4.1 Consultation Council’s Advocacy Priorities (18 Apr 24)</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator to explore the possibility of setting up a separate session with Communications, Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator and Council Population and Advisory Committees to discuss collective advocacy.</p> <p>Outcome</p> <p>Refer to Agenda Item 5</p>	<p>In progress</p>

3. Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Councillor Update – Mayor Tom Melican

Mayor Melican provided the following updates:

- The Banyule Public Realm Strategy was adopted by Council at Monday night’s Council meeting. Age Friendly Committee

- Council has conducted a Cats and Dogs in public spaces review. This was quite contentious. He attended some of the consultations and there were a lot of differing opinions and passionate community members attending. Council managed the outcome well and at the Council meeting were applauded by people in the gallery on the evening.
- The 2024/25 Budget was approved with three speakers opposing it.
- Due to the Aged Care Reforms the Banyule Regional Assessment Service (RAS) will cease operating as of 30 June 2024, which the Committee has been informed about. At Monday's Council Meeting to address the service gap of Council no longer operating the RAS Council approved the establishment of a Council funded Service Navigation and Information Program to support older people and the broader community with navigating the service system.
- State Government has announced funding for Bell-Bardia Estate in West Heidelberg. Council has been very active in advocating for establishing housing development in West Heidelberg. There has been social housing developed however the issue is that they have not provided any additional services to support residents. The Mayor provided the Unison Housing estate in West Heidelberg as an example. He mentioned that the Libraries have been saying that there are lot of people staying at the libraries all day to stay warm because they can't afford the utility bills, and homeless people.
- A committee member said she didn't feel that this was a bad thing and that libraries are community facilities. She regularly uses the libraries and sees people from all backgrounds and walks of life and she sees this as a good thing. Another committee member said that at Ivanhoe when it gets very busy it can sometimes be hard to find somewhere to sit.
- The Mayor mentioned the new partnership with Latrobe University. The Manager Resilient and Connected Communities spoke to this initiative. She said that Council is in the process of establishing a partnership with Latrobe at our Shop 48 The Harmony Centre in West Heidelberg, which houses many of Banyule's welfare services. Council has seen a sharp increase in people needing support including filling in forms, however, there is no resource to assist with this. The partnership with Latrobe will result in social work students being based at Shop 48 to do this work as part of their curriculum. A date of commencement is still to be determined.
- Cr McKern wanted to mention that she has received complaints from community members about the black mould on the Seniors Exercise Park equipment. She followed up with Council's Parks Assets to clean up the black mould. Community Connections Coordinator is aware of this issue and her team is also monitoring and following up on this issue.

Action

Community Connections team will continue to follow up with the Parks Assets team to address this issue and will provide an update on the progress of this issue at the next committee meeting.

3.2 Community Updates, Committee Members

A member of the Committee provided the following update:

- A committee member mentioned [The Adaptation Game \(TAG\)](#) which she felt could address social isolation experienced by older residents providing them an opportunity to connect. Currently [Merri-bek Council](#) is offering this to their residents. The Committee member mentioned that there is a video explaining the game that is worth viewing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0hFCak5zMk>. The

Committee member contacted Council and was put through to the Environment Coordinator who has been exploring this initiative.

The Manager Resilient and Connected Communities said that she would like to ensure the Emergency Management team was included in any future development of the game.

Cr McKern mentioned that she attended the Climate Emergency Australia Conference and there was a presentation at the conference, and she was approached about the game. The Environment Coordinator has been looking into it however, there is both a human resource cost along with purchasing of the actual game that Council would need to consider.

Action

The Community Connections Coordinator will reach out to relevant Council Officers regarding TAG and will also follow up with the Environment Coordinator to ask that this be raised at the Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee for further discussion.

3.3 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee Update, Glenn Swafford

Glenn mentioned that his report on the Inclusive Banyule Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting and was pleased that the Community Impact Coordinator had circulated the key discussion items ahead of time which enabled him to circulate this to the Committee to highlight our priorities. Glenn was pleased to say that our Committee was the only representative group who had provided priorities. He thanked members who responded.

Glenn said that at the meeting there were lots of different ideas that were workshopped, and key priorities will be outlined in the minutes of the meeting which have not yet been circulated. Glenn said that he raised elder abuse to be included as part of any family/gender-based violence actions.



GLS Report to AFC
June 2024 meeting.doc

The Mayor mentioned that Cr Castaldo, Cr Nealy and he will be attending the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Assembly in Canberra next week and will be meeting with Commonwealth Ministers. Banyule Council is part of the seven councils Northern Region Councils Alliance, and the alliance will be putting in a bid for each council to gain funding to engage a family violence and inclusion officer.

A committee member asked that elder abuse be considered as part of the family violence action.

3.4 Community Connections Program Update – Community Connection Team Leader

In the Community Connections Team Leader's absence, the Committee members who are on the Older Adults Special Events Working Group provided the following updates:

- The planning for the 2024 Banyule Seniors Festival is ongoing for the Seniors Morning Tea, the Arts Exhibition and Ageing Well Expo.
- A Working Group member said that in past exhibition committee members had the opportunity to review the work prior to it being selected and would like for this to happen for this year's exhibition. Community Connections Coordinator said she would ask the Community Connections Team Leader for this to take place, however the curator of the gallery will have the final say on how and what will be exhibited.

4. Other Business including Presentations/Consultations/Information

4.1 Older Multicultural Community research paper and discussion – Community and Social Planner

The Community and Social Planner introduced herself to the committee and mentioned that she is the contact officer for the Multicultural Population Committee.

The Community and Social Planner mentioned that as part of their Inclusive Banyule Actions for 2023/24 they wanted to look at the benefits of participating in the culturally based seniors' groups, including barriers. The officer provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee.



Age Friendly
Committee presentati

The Community and Social Planner asked for Committee member's feedback on what do you think we can do with this information. What promotional opportunities exist to share this information? How do we get in touch with the community to expand on what we know?

The Committees feedback included:

- A committee member mentioned that the Italian Pensioners of Victoria's office is in Watsonia and has been going for 43 years. This is an independent organisation that is the peak body of Italian groups across Victoria. In Banyule we have two Italian clubs in Bundoora and Macleod. The Council supports these clubs. The current issue for the clubs' sustainability is finding committee members who can replace the current members.
- Cr McKern mentioned that older community members have said that access to activities and events is a barrier for older people being able to attend i.e., evening/night activities, and transport. Having confidence to go into a group activity if you are on your own. Cr McKern mentioned the idea of having new members events where people can come along not feeling like they are the only new person attending.
- A committee member provided 3 points:
 - Come n Try session which Council has worked with community groups to deliver provide a good welcoming environment for people to try activities and he would like Council to do more of them. He provided the example of the Men's Health Week at Banyule Aquatic Centre which he attended and found it to be a good introduction.
 - U3A could consider doing a new members event. Although he has heard membership intake is currently closed.
 - Council's webpage only provides 13 clubs (Council Assisted Clubs) for older adults, and he would like Council's webpage to include a broader list of clubs in Banyule. He provided the Boroondara Council webpage directory as an example of providing a more extensive list for their older residents to access. He would like Council to look at providing a directory and consider appropriate search terms that people from multicultural backgrounds would potentially use.
- The Mayor asked Manager Resilient and Connected Communities to discuss the CERGE app that is currently on the WaterMarc website and will be trialled at Ivanhoe Library.
- A committee member mentioned Golden Rainbow and wanted to know more about how the group was established. The Manager Resilient and Connected Communities said that the Golden Rainbow group was established by the LGBTIQA+ Population Committee, which established a working group.
- The Age Friendly Committee would like to know more about the group and how they may be able to support it.

Action

Invite a member from the Golden Rainbow Working Group to attend the next Age Friendly Committee meeting to provide an update on the group and how our committee may be able to support it.

4.2 Age Friendly Sport and Recreation Opportunities in Banyule – Community Connect Team (10min)

Deferred to next meeting.

Action

The Committee will be provided with a report on the Age Friendly Sport and Recreation Opportunities prior to the next committee meeting.

4.3 Age Friendly Inclusive Banyule 2023/24 Actions & Achievements - Community Connections Coordinator

Due to time constraints the Community Connections Coordinator briefly outlined the Age Friendly Inclusive Banyule 2023/24 Actions and Achievements and said that she would include the report with the minutes.

Action

Community Connections Coordinator will include the Age Friendly Inclusive Banyule 2023/2024 Actions and Achievements Report with the minutes.



Inclusive Banyule -
Age Friendly Actions 2

4.4 Ageing Well in Banyule Framework – Inclusive Banyule Actions 2024/2025 - Community Connections Coordinator

The Community Connections Coordinator said that the Committee will need to begin to consider the development of new actions for the Inclusive Banyule Plan 2024/25 based on the Ageing Well in Banyule Framework's four Priority Areas and their respective goals. She said that today's meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to begin workshopping some ideas, however, would like to hold a separate meeting in the next few weeks with members of the Committee and the Codesign Working Group to consolidate the actions.

The Committee agreed to participate in an additional meeting.

Action

Community Connections Coordinator will set up an additional meeting to finalise the Age Friendly Inclusive Banyule Actions and invite both committee members and the Codesign Working Group members.

The Committee provided the following ideas to be considered:

- Awareness raising and information provision on what opportunities are available for older people to socially connect i.e., Opportunities on how people find out about information.
- The establishment of Council's Service Navigation and Information Program will address priorities and goals in the Framework.
- Establishment of an Information and Service Directory that could be printed on demand.
- Raise Elder Abuse Awareness.
- Intergenerational programming e.g., young people making videos with older people.
- Look at Playback Theatre as an awareness raising tool for elder abuse, social connection etc.

The Coordinator mentioned that as part of establishing the actions it would be a good process to consider what would be the required costs to achieve the actions.

- Consider advocacy for support services/advice for older carers/grandparents who are looking after grandchildren.
- Consider actions that focus on open and public spaces i.e., footpath maintenance, street furniture, public toilets.
- Aged care services and independent living.
- Benchmarking marking with other councils on what seniors groups exist.

4.5 Regional Assessment Service (RAS) End of Contract and Service Navigation and Information Program, Community Connections Coordinator

The Community Connections Coordinator explained that due to the Banyule Regional Assessment Service State Government Department of Health end of contract with Council, on 24 June Council endorsed the establishment of a Service Navigation and Information Program.

The Service continues to engage two full time Community Connector officers who will provide service navigation and information to community members on what services are available. The two officers will be responsible for mapping what services are available to the community and will be responsible for updating the service navigation and information database/directory. They will also be responsible for continuing to maintain the intelligence and relationships with Aged Care, Disability, Mental Health and Welfare Service providers which the RAS officer had previously established.

5. Committee Meeting Recommendation to Council

5.1 At the 3 June Council meeting the Committee's recommendation was passed.

- 4c) Notes the Age Friendly Committee recommends that Council note a session is offered to all Councils Population and Advisory committee to discuss potential collective advocacy actions.
- 4d) Notes that in line with recommendation 4a) a session will be offered to all Council Population and Advisory Committees to discuss collective advocacy actions and councillors will be invited to this session if they wish to attend.

5.2 Meeting Recommendation/s

Recommendation

Council to consider establishing some form of community directory that would include service/community group information on the Council webpage that can be printed on demand.

6. Close and date of next meeting

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	ILCH -Tom Roberts Rm TBC
Thursday 26 September	Committee to decide whether they would like an additional meeting prior to caretaker period		
Thursday 26 September	10am to 12pm	1 Flintoff St, Greensborough- <u>cancel if not meeting</u>	Room 4.06, Griffin confirmed