



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

9 November 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 9 November 2023
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	Room 4.06 Griffin Community Meeting Room, 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Tom Melican
Minutes	Laura Cattapan Community Connections Coordinator Jenna Gandolfo Community Connection Team Leader

Diversity Statement

Committee Member Attendance

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Tom Melican	Banyule City Council – Councillor Delegate
Mary Stringer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Veronica Lee	Age Friendly Committee Member
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee Member
Dianne Williamson	Age Friendly Committee Member
Jenny Dale	Age Friendly Committee Member
Karlene Lang	Age Friendly Committee Member
Veronica Lee	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcus Wigan	Age Friendly Committee Member

Council Officer Attendance

Attendee name	Position
Laura Cattapan	Banyule City Council – Community Connections Coordinator
Jenna Gandolfo	Banyule City Council – Community Connections Team Leader

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Jim Brewer	Age Friendly Committee Member
Kath Bracket	Banyule City Council – Director Community Wellbeing
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council – Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Marcello D’Amico	Age Friendly Committee Member

Items

1. Introduction

1.1 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

“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 Member Marcus Wigan and Committee Member introduction

Cr Melican welcomed new Committee Member Marcus Wigan to the Committee and asked Marcus to tell the Committee a little bit about himself and why he is interested in being a member on the Committee. Committee members also introduced themselves to Marcus.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Agenda Item	Action Arising and Outcome	Progress
2. Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee	Further Action The Community Connections Coordinator will provide an update on this and the date for 2024 meetings at the next Age Friendly Committee meeting. Outcome: Population and Inclusive Banyule Committee meetings in 2024 have been scheduled. The Population Committee meetings will take place in February, April, June, and August. The Inclusive Banyule Committee meetings will take place on the alternate months to enable opportunity for reporting i.e., March, May, July and September.	Complete
2. Consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Charter 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. Outcome: Whilst this action continues to be explored this item will remain in Actions section.	In progress
2. Consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Charter Strategies Review	Action: 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. Outcome:	In progress

	This Action will remain on the Agenda until the Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator is invited to the first Age Friendly committee meeting in February.	
3.1.2 Community updates, Committee Members	<p>Action:</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator mentioned that it would be good to meet with Committee Member to discuss the issues that local Italian Clubs are experiencing.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Age Friendly team will arrange a time to meet with Committee Member later in the year or early next year to gain more insight and explore options.</p>	Completed
4.1.1 Draft Banyule Public Toilet Plan Update	<p>Action:</p> <p>If Committee Members would prefer to provide additional feedback to Community Connections Coordinator, she will collate it, share it with the Committee and provide it to City Assets Coordinator.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>No emails were received.</p>	Completed
4.1.2 Banyule Resilient and Safe Strategy Consultation	<p>Action:</p> <p>Community Impact Coordinator with the Community Connections Coordinator will provide crime stats on home invasions in Banyule.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator provided the following stats:</p> <p>In 2023 there were 470 burglary/ break and enter crimes recorded in Banyule. These may not only be related to private homes. Source Victorian Crime Stats.</p>	Completed

2. Standing Agenda Items

2.1 Councillor Update - Cr Melican

Cr Melican reported on the following:

- Committee members may have seen a recent article in The Age about Kelvin Chamber a famous Heidelberg resident and long-time member of the Banyule Bicycle Users Group (BBUG). Kelvin celebrated his 96th Birthday by riding to Mont Albert to attend his party put on by the BBUG. He is a regular bike rider.
- At the last Council meeting there were approximately 100 people in chamber regarding the Agenda Item on the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) External Audit Findings and Recommendations. A recent audit carried out on DCMC highlighted that although there was no inference of wrongdoing, questions were raised about the governance of the Committee. It also highlighted that there was no competitive tender process in place as per the Local Government Act, and the Committee did not have adequate financial plans or risk management procedures in place. There are three other councils that contribute funds to DCMC. The Council officer recommendation was made to cease Banyule's contribution to DCMC. This was not well received as the Committee is well loved by the community who recognise the work carried out to maintain the parkland. Cr Melican reported the outcome reached was to extend the arrangement for 18 months, in which time the Committee would comply with the audit requirements and rectify the issues. He felt this was a good outcome.

A Committee Member felt that the Council Report and recommendation presented didn't outline the issues regarding the funding to DCMC not delivering value for money, and the actual amount of funding Council was giving them. He felt that the Community were pleased that Council provided a further opportunity for some more community consultation and work to be conducted by DCMC.

- Chatsworth Park project has been complex for Council to negotiate. An agreement was reached for Ivanhoe Grammar to build new pavilions at the site.
- State Government and Council planning regulations are changing. In the past five years Council has had a total of 2400 approved applications that have never been built. Vacant blocks with multiple planning applications are sitting vacant for extended periods of time due to commercial reasons by developers, not due to Council planning regulations or a lack of approvals. The Government changes now include that a 60sq granny flat can now be built in backyards. Details of the conditions are yet to be released.
- The North East Link (NEL) project is ramping up with the announcement of the Urban Design for the Northern Package. There has been no detail on the planning for Watsonia carpark and station, amid Council concerns about the accessibility of the station, particularly the Elder Street crossing. Council is building the Watsonia Town Square and there is no information regarding NEL design and what impact this may have.

A Committee Member asked what communication Council has had with Local Members in relation to this matter. Cr Melican said that Council has not been able to get a meeting with Local members to discuss this.

2.2 Community updates, Committee Members

Committee member updates included:

- A Committee member advised that the Respiratory Clinic at the Austin Hospital is now charging a small fee for service, however, will remain free for pensioners. There has also been a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in the community.
- A Committee member raised concerns about the expansion of the Aged Care Facility and Retirement Village development in Macleod. She wasn't at the last Committee meeting and wanted to share community feedback regarding this development. She said that there was widespread community objection to the development from people who live in the neighbourhood due to the poor treatment of the previous residents by the Developers. Much of the previous accommodation provided was low-cost housing for residents. The residents moved on by the developer were low-income single pensioners who were moved completely out of the area.
- A Committee member highlighted the need for accurate information to be provided on retirement housing options. Retirement villages costs can be extremely high, and people need to be clear about the cost and contracts, which often favour the provider, not the residents.
- The Committee discussed hosting information sessions, workshops, or seminars next year that would provide information on housing options for older adults. It was suggested that advocacy groups should be engaged in this including the Housing for the Age Action Group and COTA Victoria. Another Committee member suggested that residents with lived experience should be included in the presentation to improve relatability.
- A Community member mentioned that only a certain number of community members will be able to attend a workshop or focus group. She suggested that housing information and resources should also be in libraries and other community places and also for the Age in Focus to provide information regarding housing options.

Action:

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.

2.3 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee Update, Glenn Swafford

Glenn reported that he has provided a one-page report on the Inclusive Advisory Committee for the Committee to review. Glenn mentioned that the Draft Gambling Policy was the main discussion item. The draft policy is currently open for consultation on Shaping Banyule. Other items discussed were NDIS changes, Life Connect suicide support group and Council mental health initiatives.

Action:

Include one page report on Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee with the minutes.



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2.4 Older Adults Major Events Working Group – Community Connections Team Leader and Working Members

Community Connections Team Leader reported on Banyule Seniors Festival Events:

- The Seniors Festival Morning tea and concert was held on Tuesday the 17 October with over 350 guests in attendance. It included a live band and performance by the Heidelberg Allstars. Feedback received from the event was overwhelmingly positive. The event was codesigned with the Older Adults Major Events Working Group.

A Committee member who attended the event and was on the Working Group said that the feedback overall for the event was very positive.

- Banyule Council produced a comprehensive Seniors Festival booklet promoting Council and community events throughout October.
- Other council-run Senior's Festival activities included Come and Try BBQ at Ivanhoe Exercise Park, the Brain fit Program, the NEST program and an Indoor Bowls Tournament with Whittlesea Council.

Community Connection Coordinator said the seniors' groups could apply for an Age Friendly grant to deliver these programs.

A Committee Member suggested "10 things to Do to Enhance your Life" workshop would be a good activity for Seniors Festival next year.

A Committee Member also suggested that Council consider more intercultural/multicultural and intergenerational activities be run during next year's Seniors Festival and for those events to be conducted by older people themselves.

2.5 Community Connections Program Update – Community Connection Team Leader

Community Connections Team Leader provided an update on the Community Connections Program:

- During October the focus was on Seniors Festival activities and events.
- We continue to try and activate the Seniors Exercise Park. As part of Seniors Festival, we had a come n' try session and BBQ. Forty people attended the event with many of them not having used the Exercise Park before. She is hoping this will help attract more people to use the park.
- The Coffee Connect program has not attracted many attendees, while the Social Lunches are better attended. The team are trialling an activity alongside the Coffee Connect to attract more people.

3. Other business

3.1 Presentations/Consultations/Information

3.1.1 Draft Older Adults Framework Feedback - Laura Cattapan Community Connections Coordinator and Older Adult Framework Codesign Working Group members (35mins)

Community Connections Coordinator explained that the Draft Older Adults Framework was emailed to Committee members prior to the meeting so they could provide feedback at the meeting.

The Coordinator provided an overview of the Draft Framework and outlined the following:

- The Older Adults Framework Codesign Working Group worked closely with Council to develop the Draft. They also assisted with developing the feedback survey questions.
- There are six representatives from the Age Friendly Committee on the Codesign Working Group.
- A final community feedback round is underway on the Draft Framework, which is available for comment on Shaping Banyule. Hardcopy surveys available at various community locations and there has been outreach to the nine senior's groups who participated in the initial consultation.

The Coordinator thanked the Codesign Working Group members for all their support, commitment, advice, and guidance.

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the goals and commitments outlined in the draft. Their feedback included:

- A Committee member highlighted a concern that the goals were aimed at community groups, with individuals not being represented in the Framework. It was discussed that the word 'individual' would be included in Goal 4 under Commitment 2, to ensure it didn't just focus on clubs and community groups but for Council to also consider the social participation and connections for individual community members.
- The Committee discussed how Council could engage individual community members. One Committee member provided an example that Council could consider an information wall in areas such as Eaglemont. It was suggested that Council officers discuss this with the Communication team.
- A Committee member highlighted the need for Council to be more upfront about the budget considerations and implications on decision making which would impact what is achievable re the Framework.
- A Committee member suggested that under Commitment 3, Goal 5 that the word 'through' be included to state '*Remove barriers to enable safe, convenient, and confident local travel through and within Banyule*'.
- A Committee member asked to remove the word service system under Commitment 4, Goal 2 to make it clearer and to also include the word 'range'.
- A Committee member suggested an executive summary be included in the final framework as a clear and accessible way to present the framework to the public.
- A Committee member highlighted the need to be more prescriptive about the digital divide and ensure information is accessible to older adults who are not online.
- A Committee member suggested changes to Commitment 4, Goal 4 to make it clearer. The Committee changed the goal to state '*Communicate more effectively with older adults, by using a variety of methods that are accessible and/or preferred by older adults i.e., digital or traditional*'.
- The Committee discussed the recent Access Audit, highlighting the need for more street furniture, facilities and resident difficulties with unsafe roads and bridges.
- A Committee member commented that the goals outlined in the draft were tangible, action oriented, and will lead into yearly action plans.

Action:

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

This and other issues raised including budget transparency and resident difficulties with unsafe roads and bridges will be included as an agenda item in 2024.

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.

3.1.2 Seniors Exercise Park Complaint – Cr Melican

Cr. Melican raised a recent complaint that was made to Council by an older resident who uses the Seniors Exercise Park in Ivanhoe.

The complainant was aggrieved that young children were using the space, presenting a safety issue for older adults and requested a fence be erected around the equipment.

The Committee discussed the benefit of intergenerational connections.

The Community Connections Coordinator said that the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) designed the seniors exercise park and advocated strongly for Council to build our Seniors Exercise Parks next to a children's playgrounds for the intergenerational benefits.

A Committee member said that herself and several other older people attend the exercise park every Monday afternoon. There are nearly always kids at the park but generally only one or two and that it was great to have the children there.

The Committee discussed that it is a public park, and that parks and public spaces are open to all.

The Community Connections Coordinator said that there have been other older adults that have raised this concern and stated that the park has been specifically designed for older more frail individuals to gain strength and balance. She acknowledged that young children could present a trip hazard.

The Committee discussed the need for parents to be aware of children's movements and provide an appropriate level of supervision.

The Committee discussed signage as a potential solution. A larger, clearer sign with a visual element could increase the effectiveness of the signage.

A Committee member commented that risk aversion shouldn't override the community benefits of the park.

The Committee reached a position on the Seniors Exercise Park. The Committee acknowledges the safety concerns raised regarding small children using the exercise park. The Committee valued the intergenerational benefit of children using the space, and the right of all people to use a public space. The Committee are supportive of improved signage and better landscaping at the park to give older adults priority access of the equipment. The Committee agreed to monitor the progress moving forward.

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.

3.1.3 Age Friendly Champion update – Jenna Gandolfo Community

Community Connections Team Leader reported that the Age Friendly Champions Program will undergo a revitalisation in 2024, with a recruitment drive planned to recruit new volunteers to build on the existing programs.

4. Committee Meeting Recommendation to Council

4.1 Previous meeting recommendation outcomes

The Community Connections Coordinator said the recommendation from the previous Committee meeting has not yet been presented to Council.

4.2 Meeting Recommendations

No recommendation was made by the Committee at the meeting.

The Committee did however want to acknowledge and thank Kim Phu Age Friendly Community Development Officer who is going on Maternity Leave and wish her well and look forward to her return.

Committee members also thanked all Council staff who have contributed to the work of the Committee during 2023

5. Close and date of next meeting

5.1 Next meeting date is 22 February, 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough 10am to 12pm.

The Community Connections Coordinator said that the Committee meetings in 2024 have been scheduled to fall on the same month as the other population committees. The Inclusive Banyule Committee will be held on the alternate month.

Action

The Community Connections Coordinator will include the 2024 Meeting Schedule with the minutes.

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		