



Minutes Age Friendly Advisory Committee

17 August 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 17 August 2023
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	Room 403, 1 Flintoff St Greensborough
Chair	Cr. Elizabeth Nealy
Minutes	Jenna Gandolfo Community Connections Team Laura Cattapan Community Connections Coordinator

Committee Member Attendance

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Elizabeth Nealy	Councillor Delegate - Banyule City Council
Mary Stringer	Community Member
Jim Brewer	Community Member
Veronica Lee	Community Member
Glenn Swafford	Community Member
Dianne Williamson	Community Member – U3A Representative
Karlene Lang	Community Member

Council Officer Attendance

Attendee name	Position
Jo Wilson	Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Laura Cattapan	Community Connections Coordinator
Jenna Gandolfo	Community Connections Team Leader

Guest Speaker Attendance

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Emma Butterworth	Banyule City Council - Senior Strategic Planner
Emily Harris	Banyule City Council - Senior Strategic Planner

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Tom Melican	Banyule City Council, Councillor Representative
Jenny Dale	Age Friendly Committee Member
Marcello D'Amico	Age Friendly Committee Member
Kath Bracket	Banyule City Council, Director Community Wellbeing

Items

1. Introductions

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."

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 - 25 May 2023

Agenda Item	Action Arising and Outcome	Progress
Seniors Exercise Park	<p>Action: Community Connections Coordinator will see if members of the Open Space Planning and Design Team would be able to provide their proposal and potentially present the plan to the Committee for feedback.</p> <p>Outcome: There has been change over in personnel in the Open Space Planning and Design Team. The team have provided the following plan to address shading issues at the park.</p> <p>Key design recommendations in lieu of a shade structure and in the absence of a hard-edged fence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plant x 2 established large canopy trees on the Lower Heidelberg Rd side (as it presents to be empty and exposed)2. Plants understorey planting and bushes to that area3. Include x 2 new additional bench seating to increase seating in a shaded area (over time) with background understorey vegetation.4. Maintain rock edging.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Community Connections Coordinator to keep Committee updated on progress of this.</p>

5. Soft landscaping i.e., hedging around the entire perimeter (in the absence of a hard-edged fence)
6. Relocate the signage to the main entry point – to best define its use and user group

Draft Banyule Public Toilet Plan Consultation

Action: Cr Melican said that he would like to get an update of the planning issues around public toilets and follow up on what the regulations are for Cafes and public toilets.

Outcome: The provision of toilets within buildings isn't specified through the planning system but is covered under the building regulations. This is The Building Code of Australia. Cafés are required to provide public toilets if they service over 20 patrons, otherwise no requirement under the regulations.

In progress

Further Action

Coordinator and Manager to investigate timelines and phases of the Public Toilet Plan and invite Asset Management Team to a Committee meeting if possible.

Age Friendly Champion Relaunch – Age Friendly Champions Working Group and Community Connections Team Leader

Action: Community Connections Team will put a call out to previous Champions post the relaunch outlining what activities they can get involved in. This will act as a final call to participate.

Outcome: Community Connections Team Leader sent an email to the Champions on the 16 June encouraging them to sign onto working groups and update their police checks. They have also been contacted as part of the community engagement for the older adult framework.

Completed

3. Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Update from Council-

3.1.1 Councillor Update – Cr Nealy

Cr Nealy reported on the following:

7 August Council meeting -

- Banyule Youth Summit was held, 3 young people got up and talked to Council to express their views on what is important to them. Banyule doesn't have a Youth advisory committee but do have the Youth Summit as an avenue to report back to Council.
- Mayflower Development. Proposal for an Age Care residential development in Macleod. strong, passionate response from community and residents who are against the proposal. Residents don't like the size and scale of the development and believe it is not in the neighbourhood character. Council approved the development with amendments i.e., having more trees.
- Cr Nealy asked the Committee for feedback on this issue, this included:
 - A Committee member noted the difficulty for Council in deciding on developments and the need to consider trade-offs.
 - A Committee member is surprised by the opposition to the project and thought it would be preferable to an 8-story residential development.
 - A Committee member noted it's important there are residential facilities in local areas to allow older adults to age in place.
 - A Committee member mentioned the importance for residential aged care service to be located close to health services and hospitals.
 - Cr Nealy noted that Ibbott and Beale Wards represent the largest population of older residents.

- Cr Nealy reported that Councillors expressed their appreciation for the work of Banyule's Population Committees and acknowledged the diverse perspectives they bring to the table.
- Cr Nealy provided an update on the Montmorency Hub - 7 Wellington Street Montmorency.
 - There will be an expression of interest to operate a community hub in Montmorency.
 - Council is trying to balance the needs of various areas across Banyule.
 - The existing Monty Hub Group is going to move to Petrie Park Hall. The outcome may be more community groups and hubs in Montmorency.

3.1.2 Community Connections Program Update

Community Connections Coordinator provided an update on the Banyule Community Bus trial:

- The Community Bus was launched on 12 July and commenced on 17 July.
- Committee members were encouraged to promote the bus to their networks.
- A Committee member said the Austin is promoting the bus, particularly the Occupational Therapists.
- The Bus Drivers are keeping track of the number of passengers for reporting and review purposes.
- A Committee member suggested Council provide supporting documents regarding places of interest at the major stops.
- A Committee Member commended Council for "having a go", acknowledging the complexities of the project, and the importance of the review process in improving the bus.
- A Committee member would like Council to advocate for circular routes that service the shopping centres.

Community Connections Team Leader provided an update on the following programs:

Coffee Connect program

- The Coffee Connect program has been restarted and advertised in the June/ July Age in Focus Edition.
- Age Friendly Champions have been engaged to assist Council staff in the delivery and promotion of the program.
- 6 were scheduled in June, 40 people attended.
- 5 were scheduled in July, 6 people attended.

Social Lunches

- June Social Lunch, 9 people attended.
- July Social Lunch, 14 people attended.

The Older Adults Community Connections Working Group discussed why the lunches are more popular than the coffee catchups and reasoned that coffee may not be enough of a draw card to leave the house, with people preferring longer activities. The Community Connections team are trialling pairing the coffee catch ups with an activity, i.e., coffee at Ivanhoe Library followed by a tour of the exhibits, or coffee at Bellfield and a walk around the community garden.

Seniors Exercise Park

- Seniors Exercise park – Considering options for the Community Bus program to align with the Exercise Park program.

3.1.3 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee Update – Glenn Swafford

Community Connections Coordinator thanked the Committee Member Representative, Glenn Swafford for providing a written update of the Inclusive Banyule Committee, which was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Glenn highlighted the discussion at Inclusive Banyule about the social and emotional wellbeing of First Nations peoples in lead up to the referendum.

Glenn would like for there to be a formal process where representatives from the Population Committees on the Inclusive Banyule Committee are able to update the Committee on current relevant issues that Population Committees are addressing.

Glenn would like the committee meetings to line up with policy consultation periods as currently this is out of sync. He would also like for the Inclusive Banyule Committee and our Committee meeting times to be more aligned.

Action

Manager Resilient and Connected Communities said that she will work with Council contact officers to better align meetings and provide a process for population Committees to provide feedback.

3.1.4 Older Adults Major Event Working Group

The Community Connection Team Leader said that the Banyule Seniors Festival has been planned in collaboration with the Major Events Working Group. She reported that planning is underway for Council's flagship Morning Tea Concert to be held on Tuesday the 17 October and that the Working Group and Community Connections team have been working on the Seniors Festival Program that is scheduled to be published in September.

3.1.5 Community Updates, Committee Members

A Committee member thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Joint Committee Yarning Circle featuring Uncle Charles. Other members of the Committee who attended also said they found the session very informative.

4. Other Business

4.1 Presentations/ Consultations/ Information

4.1.1 Consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Charter Strategies Review

Cr Nearly introduced Emma Butterworth Senior Strategic Planner and Emily Harris Strategic Planner to the meeting.

The Senior Strategic Planner advised that Council is currently undertaking a review of the Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies.

The [Housing Discussion Paper](#) and a Briefing was emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting.



**Briefing for Age
Friendly City Committ**

The Paper is setting up some of the foundations for Council to draft the new strategies.

The review is a multi-year project, last year there was a preliminary discussion paper to understand at a higher level what people value about where they live. Council is currently in stage 2 of the project, which will lead to development of the Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Strategy.

The Senior Strategic Planner presented a Powerpoint presentation to the Committee.



**Age Friendly AC
Powerpoint.pptx**

This included discussion on the following:

- Reductions of large dwellings due to increase in older and younger population.

- Affordability is a key issue in Banyule with no opportunity for low to moderate income families to buy a 2-bedroom apartment/house in Banyule.
- No rental opportunities for single adults, very low opportunities for moderate to low-income families.
- Of low to moderate income people/families in Banyule, 63% are in mortgage stress and 45% are in rental stress.
- Tiny Housing regulations have been considered.
- Banyule needs to elevate universal design.

Committee member feedback and discussion of the question “what are the barriers community face in accessing housing with universal design?” included:

- There is a Lack of Occupational Therapists to be able to modify homes.
- Developers are getting sign off remotely and allowing “minor” issues to pass through, however these are not minor for accessibility i.e.. a little step. Regulations are not tough enough and Council needs to advocate for stronger regulations.
- Need to raise the bar higher and set a higher target than 10% as accessible dwellings.
- In addition to planning controls for a wider range of housing types, explore ways to better support the community to live in place in suitable dwellings.
- Downsizing or moving into a retirement village should be made simple. People are confused about what this involves. Suggestion for Council to deliver information sessions or workshops, 2 to 3 times a year on this topic.
- Suggestion to consider guidelines for developers. Committee agreed this was a good idea but would need authority to be successful.
- Standards Australia already has these standards, Council needs to develop procedures around how these standards are being met.
- Need to advocate for the State Government to have satisfactory building inspections in place and not allow online inspections.
- Banyule planning policy is quite restrictive, and the Committee feel that tiny housing dwellings should be considered for secondary dwellings.
- A Committee Member mentioned that the Inclusive Banyule Committee was given an update on advocacy priorities from Council and that Council should utilise the Age Friendly Committee to support these priorities.

Action

Include Shaping Banyule page and Senior Strategic Planner details in minutes.

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

Action

The Committee would like to know the percentage of people renting, people who live in own their homes outright and people with a mortgage.

Action

The Senior Strategic Planner and Community Connection Team will explore the potential to deliver an information session for older adults on downsizing.

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.

4.1.2 Population and Advisory Committee Notification of Changes

Community Connections Coordinator mentioned the memo that was emailed to the Committee with the Agenda outlining the Extension of the Committee Term and the Introduction of a thank you gift from members.



**Memo to Council's
Advisory and Populati**

The Manager Resilient and Connected Communities advised that on the 7 August Council meeting Council endorsed the following:

Extension of Committee term

The Population and Advisory Committee term has been extended until the 20 September 2024.

Introduction of thank you gift.

The thank you gift has been endorsed by Council. A small gift will be offered to acknowledge the work of the Committee members.

Action

Community Connections Coordinator will email Committee members asking them to confirm whether they would like to continue as a member of the Committee.

4.1.3 Older Adults Framework Development Update from Working Group

Community Connections Coordinator provided an update on the Older Adults Framework:

The Older Adult Framework Codesign Working Group have been working collaboratively with Council in the development of the Framework. The Age Friendly Committee is well represented on the Working Group with 5 members participating and 3 Age Friendly Champions. The draft Framework is expected to be completed and be endorsed by Council to go out for community consultation in November.

The Committee will be provided the draft Framework to review prior to the next Committee.

Council, with the support of the working group, have engaged in a community engagement process to gain insights into how Council can be more age friendly. This feedback will help shape the Older Adults Framework. This includes a Shaping Banyule survey available online and in hard copy, face to face consultations with harder to reach groups, and a community focus group which will be taking place tomorrow 18 August.

The Committee discussed being invited to a Working Group meeting to discuss the draft policy and came to the conclusion that presenting the Committee members with the draft Framework would be a sufficient level of consultation.

Action

Community Connection Coordinator to email Committee members the draft Older Adults Framework to be discussed at the next meeting on the 28 September.

5. Committee Recommendation to Council

5.1 Previous meeting recommendation outcomes

Age Friendly Committee recommendation outlined in 25 May 2023 minutes:

The Age Friendly Committee would like to recommend that Council extend the Inclusive Employment Program to include older people as a target group.

Community Connections Coordinator has been provided a response from the Inclusive Enterprise and Local Jobs Coordinator in relation to this recommendation. Due to time constraint, she will include the response with the minutes. Please see response below:

Banyule's Inclusive Employment Program supports residents who face barriers to employment to gain a 6-month job opportunity within Council.

You can apply for this program if you:

- *are a Banyule resident*
- *face barriers to suitable and meaningful employment*
- *identity as a member of one or more of the following community groups:*
 - *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*
 - *culturally and linguistically diverse people*
 - *people living with disability*
 - *young people (age 16-25).*

We recognise that within these community groups, people may have overlapping identities or experiences. LGBTQIA+ people, older adults and people affected by the justice system who meet the above criteria are encouraged to apply. As such, older adults are encouraged to apply for the IEP if they also identify in one or more of the four target population groups.

Every two years, Council reviews the four target population groups of the program, to ensure the program is still supporting those experiencing the more significant barriers to work. In July 2023, this review was conducted, which identified that the four target population groups are still those facing the most significant barriers to work.

Council's Inclusive Local Jobs Strategy is coming to an end in June 2025. At this time, Council will be conducting community consultation and research to determine the best approach for Council to continue supporting people experiencing barriers to employment into work. This will include consultation with all Population and Advisory Committees and may include a review of the eligibility criteria of the IEP, including consideration of opening the program to all people experiencing barriers to work.

5.2 Meeting Recommendation/s

Recommendation

The Committee would like to note the importance of residential age care facilities existing in local communities to allow people to age in place.

The Committee would like to thank Council for the honorarium gift.

6. Close and date of next meeting

The next Age Friendly Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 28 September, 1 Flintoff St Greensborough