



Minutes Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee

29 May 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 29 May 2024
Time	9.30 to 11.30am
Venue	Level 4, 1 Flintoff Street Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Tom Melican
Minutes	Sherryn Prinzi

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

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.”

Attendees

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Tom Melican	Mayor Banyule City Council
Shana Cammack	Yara Plenty Regional Libraries
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee
Tom Conley	RAP Committee- online
Uncle Owen Butler	RAP Committee- online

Council Staff

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Jo Wilson	Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Sherryn Prinzi	Coordinator Community Impact
Michelle Purtle	Advocacy Lead
Bianca Ellis	Social Equity Officer
Ellen Kessler	Community Partnerships Coordinator

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Alison Champion	Councillor Banyule City Council
Mick Geary	BCHS

Helen Riseborough	Women's Health in the North
Lauren Kerr	Department of Families Fairness and Housing
Sebastian Zeta	Department of Justice
Emma Couper	Department of Education and Training
Position vacant	Department of Health
Position vacant	North East Public Health Unit
Paul Byrne- Moroney	LGBTIQA+ Committee
Brad Byrne	Workforce Australia – Local Jobs NE Melbourne
Joseph Tabacco	Director Community Wellbeing
Meri Ivanovska	BNLLEN

Items

No quorum reached at this meeting.

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians by Cr Melican, acknowledging we are in Reconciliation Week, noting the range of activities occurring across the community, and the draft Self Determination Strategy open for public consultation.

Diversity Statement to be read by Cr Melican.

Introductions and apologies. Action items from previous meeting

Action items from previous meeting for noting only.

Action item	Action arising
Action 1: Zali to share the first draft of the strategy with IBAC for comment during the consultation period.	Complete
Action 2: Zali's contact details are to be shared with the Committee to facilitate opportunities for further conversations on self-determination.	Complete
Action 3: Sherryn to share Booboop Narrwarren Ngarra-jarra-noun Family Healing Centre contact details with committee.	Complete
Action 4: Sherryn to speak with Council's Sports and Recreation Team to determine what mental health first aid initiatives are currently offered and if further supports are required by clubs.	Complete
Action 5: Council to investigate train the trainer MHFA training model and report back to the committee.	Underway
Action 6: Sherryn to seek EOI's for Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan external planning partnership.	Complete
Action 7: The Community Impact Team to research racism related barriers to participation in community services like libraries	Underway

Action 8: The Community Impact Team to research needs of veterans in Banyule and connection opportunities.	Action deemed to fall within the remit of RSLs in Banyule. New veterans social housing in Heidelberg
Action 9: Advocacy priority slides to be shared with committee members.	Complete

2. Purpose of Meeting and Business Arising

3.1 Updates from Banyule's Population Committees

Council provided an overview of the end of the committee term ahead of the upcoming Council General Election period, including a review of the achievements of each of the committees.

The Committee will be invited to share thoughts and generate ideas on the future committee structures at the next meeting.

3.2 Cost of Living – our local response

The Committee discussed the escalating cost-of-living pressures and personal debt crisis affecting all Banyule residents. It is estimated 54% of Victorians experience distress beyond normal levels.

For some, like lower-income earners, having to spend more on essentials including food, utilities, transport and housing means it is harder to keep afloat.

The Committee participated in a workshop to identify meaningful and impactful ways of responding to the escalating cost of living pressures in Banyule.

Discussion

Impact on community - Increase gambling presentations, rate capping Council, consumption of drugs and alcohol, impact on small businesses - finding it harder to maintain viability. Negative mindsets.

Noting the concentration of poverty in the West Precinct, demonstrated by the VCOSS poverty map, but also noting the pressures across other areas in Banyule including communities and cohorts who have not experienced poverty in the past. Noting there are no areas in Banyule not impacted. A range of factors were noted.

Committee noting the advocacy priorities:

Food relief – funding local agencies and a space to warehouse material aid. Noting we need to do more to bring partners together to advocate together and share their stories. Michele noted a concern about the State Govt committing to warehousing support, suggesting we might need to consider what other strategies we can employ to achieve this goal. Big Group Hug has moved to a bigger premises. 3081 Angels remain in Banyule and received a grant to build a new shed. Noted that food relief agencies, like BANSIC, have times when they run out of food.

Cr Melican noted that not-for profits are struggling to survive, with the escalating cost of doing business and stress on individuals.

Libraries are undertaking food swaps and providing libraries after dark to divert from gambling.

Banyule Nillumbik emergency relief network has reconvened to bring providers together to share information and identify common themes, attended by at least 10 groups.

3081 Service Provider Network - share information, discuss common themes regarding the needs of the community and what services can be provided.

Neighbourhood Houses and Strategic Partnerships - food relief, gardening and programs to support the community, including community lunches.

Community Gardens Network - for information sharing, support gardens like Buna Reserve to maintain.

West Heidelberg Key Partnership Group - high level strategic engagement.

Noting the Community Navigator roles commencing at Council.

Ideas - being more proactive in finding vacant spaces in Banyule.

Ideas for consideration noted:

- Scan of vacant warehouses in Banyule
- Better communication to ensure understanding of what is occurring to support community efforts
- Promote what is happening across Banyule, connecting people to what is available - food relief, community lunches
- Community bus promotion

Action

Action 1: Banyule/Nillumbik Emergency Relief Network to support the development of advocacy priorities related to food relief.

Action 2: Strengthen communications to the community on what is available to support/ services and how to connect - libraries, neighbourhood houses, posters, flyers, community organisations with older adults, support services, Opp shops, food swaps, Age in Focus, single point of contact for information.

3.3 Family and Gender Based Violence

'We all deserve a world where we can live and love freely and fully, where families and relationships are safe and respectful, and people have everything they need to thrive' Safe and Equal 2023.

Family and gender-based violence is a serious and widespread problem (Our Watch 2024).

It is preventable.

The committee deliberated on the question of how might we leverage our prevention roles to shift societal attitudes in Banyule and beyond?

Discussion

The Committee noted the Northern Council's Alliance advocacy campaign. Michele spoke about the advocacy for a Free From Violence Officer role- to create a team of people across the North to generate and drive social change. 'We seek government investment to fund a 4-year position for Violence Free Officer to coordinate early intervention for family violence support services and a 4-year position to deliver on our Gender Equity Action Plan and Gender Impact Assessments.' <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/About-us/Advocacy-priorities/End-family-violence>

The Committee noted the Our Watch's Change the Story, the national plan. It is acknowledged FV is the outcome of a range of conditions that lead family violence. Prevention means addressing the conditions that condone behaviour, addressing our unconscious actions. Noting rigid ideas and stereotypes present in the community. Committee noted the issue of failing to recognise the connection between behaviour and family violence, and the need to address these conditions.

Bianca noted Council undertaking Gender Impact Assessments on new and updated policies, strategies and programs. Helping Council identify and address gender-based barriers. Specifically relevant to physical spaces. Council participates in the annual Walk Against Violence and provides a program of activities for the 16 Days of Activism Programs.

Actions planned for Early Childhood spaces to address gendered stereotypes and norms in early childhood settings.

Council has an ongoing relationship with Banyule Community Health Services and collaborates on actions.

Council has successfully embedded gender sensitive design into the Public Realm Strategy.

WHIN regional partnership continues with Banyule an active partner.

Uncle Owen reminded the committee to ensure cultural considerations are front of mind.

Ideas for consideration noted:

Working with sports clubs - Community Clubs Victoria - with templates. Noted the massive change that is happening in the sector. Built commitment to tackle drivers of family violence into leases for sporting clubs.

Grants programs - aiming at building relationships, maybe include in criteria.

Gender friendly champions like age friendly champions model - recognise that it is not a one size fits all approach.

Elder abuse is family violence.

Glenn commented on language - need to have a shared and consistent understanding of language.

Ensure the need for community to understand what is going on to address the issue - highlight great practice and invite others to come on the journey. Bianca showed the intersectional oppression slide.

With fixed resources, it is acknowledged that we need to be strategic about where we put in our efforts.

Address the outcomes of power and control in the community.

Helping the community understand what it looks like and how to respond.

Where do we encourage men to talk about this? Helping men talk about their feelings and pressures - like through Men's Shed.

Uncle Owen stated that there is a weekly men's group at BBAGP to engage and share problems. 'A problem shared is a problem halved'. Opportunity to learn from this program.

YPRL addressing conversations through panel discussions during 16 days of activism.

Noting there are a range of resources already available.

Action

Action 3: Council to investigate options to address FV through sports.

Action 4: Council to explore a gender equity champion model and engage with WHIN for subject matter expertise.

Action 5: Council to consider the use of the Banyule Banner to promote collective action, with the option to consider the message of 'who is changing the story in Banyule'.

Action 6: Council to consider ways to use grants programs to promote local action.

Action 7: Michele to engage with Vicki Ward MP to discuss local action to address family violence.

4. Meeting Close

Meeting closed 11.28pm

Share slides with minutes.

Next meeting Wednesday 31 July 2024, Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.

Final meeting Wednesday 11 August 2024, location to be confirmed.