



Minutes Multicultural Committee

16 August 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 16 August 2023
Time	6:00 – 7:30pm
Venue	Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe Community Meeting Room – Upper Ground
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Fiona Mitsinikos
Minutes	Lisa King

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.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Fiona Mitsinikos	Banyule City Council
Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan	Community member
Louisa Ong	Community member
Samira Liban	Community member
Melina Linardatos	Community member
Hosein Gharavi	Community member
Alaa Elzokm	Heidelberg Mosque
Albert Fatileh	Victoria Police
Ansum Sadik	Victoria Police

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Mark Di Pasquale	Banyule City Council
Ginger (Lan) Jiang	Community member

Guest speaker

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Emily Harris	Banyule City Council

Council staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Nicole Maslin	Banyule City Council
Lisa King	Banyule City Council

Items

1. Introduction – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
Diversity Statement

The committee acknowledged the resignation of Naaz Fahmida and she was thanked for her contribution.

The committee welcomed a new member, Hosein Gharavi.

2. Minutes from previous meeting – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Understanding racism research project	Lisa to engage with Vic University	Included as an action in the 23/24 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan

3. Consultation – Emily Harris

Housing Discussion Paper

Banyule's population is changing and so too are our housing needs.

Council is currently undertaking a review of its Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies in preparation for future housing growth and changing housing needs.

To assist with this review, Council has prepared a Housing Discussion Paper which considers:

- Community feedback to the Preliminary Discussion Paper in 2022
- Feedback from Banyule's Population and Advisory Committees
- Analysis of Census data from 2021
- Data from the Housing Capacity Report (prepared as part of this review) which projects supply and demand for housing over the next 15 - 20 years
- State Government guidance and policy for housing and neighbourhood character

The Discussion Paper is based around three housing pillars which are:

- **Driving housing for all** – encouraging/supporting diverse and affordable housing in the right locations
- **Elevating good design** – encouraging/supporting high quality architecture that is sustainable and liveable for all
- **Valuing preferred neighbourhood character** – creating a sense of identity in our local neighbourhoods by protecting and enhancing valued attributes

Feedback received during community consultation will be used to inform the updated Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies. Further consultation will be undertaken with the community once a draft of both strategies is completed in 2024.

Emily presented background information about the discussion paper and facilitated a discussion with the committee. The following discussion points were noted:

Discussion

The Committee asked to understand how much of what is included in the Housing Strategy is enforceable by law.

- Feedback received during community consultation for the Housing Discussion Paper will be used to inform the updated Housing Strategy. This may result in changes to the Banyule Planning Scheme (e.g. land use zones) which is enforceable under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

How can Council guarantee affordable housing is of quality? Compromise is required to ensure costs are affordable.

- The Housing Discussion Paper identifies good design as a key priority in Banyule. The Discussion Paper explores ways in which Council can encourage the local development industry to improve the quality of housing in Banyule. This includes:

- Promoting good design by facilitating design forums with the community and local development industry
- Encouraging good design through the creation of design guidelines for residential development in Banyule
- Recognising good design through a design excellence program or similar

Committee asked why Council needs to develop a housing strategy?

- It has been 10 years since Council last updated its Housing Strategy. Since then, our population has grown and our households have become more diverse. It is important that we update our Housing Strategy to ensure we remain on track to accommodate projected population growth and changing housing needs.

- With a finite limit on space or available land there will be a limit to the number of new housing that is available.

- Some members of the community will not want to live in high density housing, they will still choose to have space, front and back yard, outdoor space.

- Parking in many areas can be challenging, increasing housing density, adding multiple dwellings will have an impact on parking.

- Families report challenges finding suitable housing for the size of their family.

- There are selective schools in Banyule and this results in more people wanting to live in specific areas.

- There is a need to ensure there is infrastructure to support population growth.

- Community members can choose to purchase in more affordable areas if they cannot afford prices in Banyule.

Community consultation on the Housing Discussion Paper is live until 31 August 2023. During this time, we are encouraging the community to provide feedback and engage in discussions through our online survey which is available on the Shaping Banyule page: <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HNC>

Action

Lisa King to distribute the Community Infrastructure Plan with minutes.

Lisa King to distribute the Housing Discussion Paper PowerPoint with minutes.

4. Inclusive Banyule – Lisa King

23/24 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan – Lisa King

Following the completion of the Year 1 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan, which included 26 inclusion actions, the Year 2 Action Plan was proposed to the committee. The plan includes 12 actions specifically related to multicultural inclusion.

The committee agreed with the proposed Year 2 actions.

1. We will investigate ways to connect newly arrived migrant residents to community supports and groups.
2. We will continue to advocate for further funding for the Salhdig project, focusing on supports for Somali-Australian young people and their families.
3. We will review and update the information on Council's website to ensure it is relevant and useful for multicultural communities.
4. We will continue to monitor refugee and asylum seeker arrivals in Banyule and distribute our Welcome to Banyule for refugees and asylum seekers resources through local community organisations.
5. We will promote the use of translation and interpreter services within Council services.
6. We will promote participation in cultural-based older adults groups in Banyule.
7. We will participate in a research project with Victoria University to understand reporting barriers and support needs of people experiencing racism.
8. We will convene bi-monthly Multicultural Committee meetings.
9. We will continue to elevate visibility and awareness of multicultural communities through events, advocacy and days of celebration.
10. We will review the Inclusive Business Guides to support businesses to uplift inclusive practice for multicultural communities.
11. We will promote community food initiatives that connect the community and builds sustainability and capacity in food security and access.
12. We will progress our Welcoming Cities commitment.

Days of Significance events 2023-24 – Lisa King

Committee were invited to comment on the proposed list of days of significance events and acknowledgements. A discussion was held with two additional dates noted.

The committee agreed that events should focus on Harmony Day/Week and Refugee Day/Week as they include everyone and build community inclusion and harmony.

It was noted that days of religious significance should also focus on opportunities to bring all people together to share and learn and not just the individual faith community.

Action

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust – 27 January to be considered as a day of significance.

Lisa King to check the inclusion of Nowruz – 20 March 2024, as previously discussed by Committee.

Racism project – Lisa King

Banyule will participate in a Victoria University anti-racism project called Understanding Reporting Barriers and Support Needs of People Experiencing Racism. This project is in collaboration with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) and the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV).

Committee members are asked if they can support by promoting the project and helping identify members of the community to be trained as facilitators.

- Identify 3-4 local people to be trained as facilitators and will invite community members to attend focus group sessions.
- The facilitators receive training from Victoria University to run the focus groups and are paid \$300 for their time on the project (approx. 5-6 hours of work).
- Committee support to identify potential facilitators and promote members of the community to complete the survey.

Action

Committee members to contact Lisa King with suggestions for members of the community to be trained as facilitators.

Extension of Committee Term – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Members would be aware the current committee term expired on 30th June 2023.

The Committee were thanked for their valued contributions over this time. Council is excited to announce that on 7 August, Council resolved to extend this committee term to September 2024, to create alignment with the Council's general election cycle.

What does this mean?

Lisa King will discuss the option to extend your membership on the committee. If you choose to finish term, Council will write to you to thank you for your contributions. If you choose to continue, your membership will automatically be renewed until September 2024.

Honorariums – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Over the past year, Council has investigated ways to better acknowledge and thank committee members for their time and contributions. After consultation with population committee members, Officers formally requested Council consider providing a small annual gift.

On 7 August, Council resolved to offer members who hold community positions on our committees an annual thank you gift.

What will be offered?

Council agreed to offer community members **one (1)** of the following gifts:

- A sitting fee of \$100 per year
- A \$100 Shop Local voucher
- A Multi-pass entry at a Council leisure facility (Ivanhoe Aquatic or Olympic Leisure Centre)
- A donation of \$200 per committee term period (two (2) years) to a local service support organisation or the Banyule Community Fund

It is important to be clear about the details of the offer. A gift will be offered under the following conditions:

- The member holds a community member position on the committee.
- The member attends 60% or more of meetings between September 2023 and September 2024, except in exceptional circumstances.

We acknowledge that some community members volunteer their time to participate in our committees without expecting a gift. There is no obligation to accept a gift.

Action

Lisa King to send Memo notifying Council's Advisory and Population Committees of the changes.

The Committee were thanked for their time and contributions.

5. Council updates – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

None

6. Any other business – All

Information share for committee members

None.

7. Close and date of next meeting

Wednesday 18 October 2023