

DRAFT Banyule Community Plan

2010 to 2012

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a Community Plan is to identify the community's vision for the municipality in 2020. In doing so, it seeks to articulate the things that need to change to achieve that preferred future as well as the things the community values now that should be retained or enhanced for the future.

An important feature of the Community Plan is that it is developed and owned by the community, and the community is responsible for its implementation.

A Steering Committee was formed in 2008 to guide the development of the Community Plan. The Steering Committee was comprised of 50% community representatives and 50% Council representatives. The following people served on the Steering Committee:

Community representatives – Geoff Baker, Mark Cuddon, Stephen Brackenridge, Ashley Ryan, Frank Beard, Julie Johnson, Lawrie Rigg, Cheryl Thomas, Deepa Bhatia.

Council representatives: - Cr Tom Melican, Cr Jenny Mulholland, Cr Wayne Phillips, Cr Peter McKenna, Cr Jess Paul, Cr Steven Briffa, Simon McMillan, Vincent Ryan, Peter Utri and Keith Yeo.

The Community Plan contains a Vision for the municipality by 2020. It describes the priority issues identified by the community through an extensive process of consultation and outlines the Projects that have been developed by the community to respond to these issues over the next three years.

The process of developing the Community Plan has also given Banyule Council an improved understanding of the things that are of central importance to residents, and the type of responses required.

This understanding will assist Council's planning and resource allocation decisions, and position Council to advocate more effectively on behalf of its community.

Cr Tom Melican
Mayor

Mark Cuddon
Community representative

PROFILE OF THE BANYULE COMMUNITY¹

The municipality of Banyule is situated to the north east of central Melbourne.

The estimated resident population of Banyule in 2009 is approximately 121,500 people. Banyule's population is projected to increase by a further 7,000 people in the period to 2020.

Due to changing family types and decreasing household sizes, it is estimated that an additional 6,000 private dwellings will be required by 2020 to accommodate the expected population increase.

Banyule has an aging population. Currently 15% of the population is aged over 65 years. This will increase to 20% by 2020. A significant contributor to the ageing of Banyule's population is older people moving into the municipality in their retirement, post retirement and senior years.

We are increasingly multi-cultural. Banyule is now home to people from 143 countries, 125 of which are non-English speaking. Almost 1 in 5 people speak a language other than English at home. An increasing proportion of new residents are coming from Asian countries.

More than 5,000 residents have a profound or severe disability. More than 10,000 people act as carers of other people, with the burden of caring falling most on people in their middle years.

Banyule's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population now exceeds 500 and is steadily increasing.

Registered marriage remains the principal form of marital arrangement within Banyule, though it is declining with associated increases in de-facto relationships and people who are not married.

Families with children remain the main family type, though the proportion is gradually decreasing as families without children and one parent families become more common.

Associated with changing family types has been an increase in lone parent households and households without children.

While Banyule is a comparatively advantaged municipality, it also contains within its boundaries some of the most disadvantaged areas in Victoria.

About 18% of people living in Banyule spend time doing unpaid voluntary work with a community organisation.

¹ This information is sourced from the ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006 and Victoria in Future 2008 – Population projections

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Community Plan was developed using an extensive process of community consultation.

The first stage was conducted between July and October 2008. Members of the community were asked to respond to some broad questions about what they currently like about living in Banyule, their view about how they would like Banyule to be in the future, what would need to change, and what their role could be in achieving this.

The information collected during the first stage of consultation was summarised in a document called a 'Themes and Ideas Paper' and used to provide the focus for the second stage of consultation that was conducted between April and June 2009.

The purpose of the second phase of consultation was to report back to the Banyule community on the outcome of the initial consultation process and to check with the community to establish whether the Vision Statement, themes and proposed actions contained in this document accurately reflected the views of the community.

Finally, a random survey of 585 Banyule households was undertaken based upon the content of the 'Themes and Ideas' Paper to gather a quantitative assessment of the most important issues for the Banyule community and an understanding of the appropriateness of the responses suggested to these issues.

More than 2,000 people participated in the development of this Community Plan.

WHAT YOU SAID

The issues raised during the consultation process were grouped into nine key themes. These themes are listed in the order of importance identified by the community.

A safe and clean city

The amenity offered by Banyule is significant to many. As an attractor, it lies in such things as Banyule's convenient location in respect to the CBD and key transport forms, its views to the hills and surrounds as well as the semi-rural character of parts of the municipality. When people think about the future, notions around amenity transfer into a concern about the level of graffiti in the municipality and a desire to live in safe, comfortable and clean surroundings.

A free moving city

Transport is a major theme to emerge through the consultation. While the availability of public transport is an important attractor for some people to live in the municipality, the operation of the public transport system is a source of almost universal condemnation. The frequency and reliability of bus and train services is most commonly identified as a major issue. Overcrowding on trains and car parking provision at train stations are also commonly identified as important issues to address.

Some people are turning to public transport in response to rising fuel costs and the increasing traffic congestion on our roads. Rosanna Road was most commonly identified as our worst traffic congestion hotspot.

There is considerable interest in the promotion of alternative transport options such as cycling, walking or car pooling.

A diverse, cohesive and happy community

People value the diversity and harmony of the Banyule community and want to see it retained in the future. Diversity means having a variety of age groups and a range of socio-economic groups and cultures.

Declining housing affordability is viewed as a strong threat to our ongoing socio-economic diversity, and a lack of diversity in housing forms is identified as the greatest threat for older residents who want to continue to live in the municipality.

A comprehensive range of services and facilities

The range of services and community facilities available within the municipality is a significant attractor for many people. These include Council-provided services such as aged care and child care, community based services such as neighbourhood houses and public services such as hospitals, schools and libraries. It is clear that the community wants this range of services to continue, with more attention paid to the needs of older people, children and young people in the future.

A sustainable city

The impact of climate change on the way we live is seen as very important. Many people express the desire to live more sustainably but said they need help to learn how to do this. Some people think that Banyule has the potential to become a leader in this area.

A vibrant local economy

A strong affinity is expressed about our shopping centres.

It is suggested that the larger centres (Heidelberg, Ivanhoe and Greensborough) need to focus on becoming more vibrant. There is a lot of

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interest in seeing more street-life and night life in these centres with associated restaurants, music and entertainment venues.

The smaller “village” strip shopping centres are also highly valued for the ‘human scale’ they offered to shopping. Not only do they provide a local solution to many shopping needs, they also provide an important function in defining local community identity and reinforcing a strong sense of community belonging.

A treed city

The significance of the natural environment is a major theme throughout the consultation. It is a strong attractor for people to live in Banyule, has become a symbol of Banyule for many, and there is a clear desire that this valued asset be maintained for future generations. Though highly prized, many also expressed the view that more could be done to improve the amenity of our parks for the people who frequent them, and to improve existing habitat and wetlands to support a greater diversity of plant and animal life.

An active, involved community

While the presence of family and friends is a significant attractor to people moving to Banyule, it is the strong sense of community that seems to keep people living here. The experience of community connection arises through things like involvement in children’s education at kindergarten and school, participation in sporting activities, friendships formed with neighbours, and shopping in the “village” shopping centres. There is also a sense that community doesn’t always just “happen”. Sometimes community groups need practical support to keep functioning effectively.

A valued heritage

Housing remains a key theme throughout the consultation process, with a number of important dimensions. Some respondents are concerned about the impact of higher density developments on the character of some residential areas. Others recognise that there is a role for higher density housing in the municipality in the future, focusing their comments on where they consider it to be most appropriate such as near shopping, public transport or commercial centres.

There is wide-spread recognition that Banyule has a significant architectural and artistic heritage. There is strong support for ways to be found to ensure that this heritage is preserved and enjoyed by future generations and that more be done to cement tangible links to the Australian Impressionist movement.

VISION STATEMENT FOR 2020

Banyule is identifiable for its diversity and social cohesion. It is an active and engaged community in which everyone has the opportunity to stay healthy and participate in a range of activities and cultural events. Expressions of the Arts abound and our artistic heritage is celebrated. Opportunities for education are life-long. It is a happy place for children to grow, where young people are valued, families supported and the elderly age gracefully.

A comprehensive range of health, educational, support, leisure and recreation services is available to the whole community, complemented by a range of well maintained, multipurpose, shared-use community facilities.

Banyule is a sustainable city characterised by its initiatives to conserve water and energy and reduce its waste and carbon emissions.

All open space is maintained in a sustainable way and has been preserved in perpetuity and our parks and bushland areas enhanced. The natural environment now blends harmoniously with the treed urban environment.

Wildlife has returned in abundance to our waterways, parks and gardens.

Banyule represents a truly world class alternative to urban sprawl. Our historic houses, buildings and estates have been preserved. There is a mix of housing types and densities, and housing costs. The locations of higher density housing have been restricted to maintain the character of our suburbs.

Banyule is a bike-friendly city. Our dependency on the motor car has reduced as we walk, cycle and use public transport more. Streets are quieter and traffic moves slowly. We walk more for both leisure and to access local services. Children play safely outdoors. Public transport is safe, clean, and reasonably priced, arrives frequently and reliably, and train, tram and bus services connect at transport hubs situated close to shops and services.

Banyule's larger shopping centres are self contained and a true social and cultural alternative. They are economically vibrant with a diversity of shops, an obvious streetlife and attractive nightlife with cafes, restaurants, art, music venues and entertainment destinations. There are public spaces where people of all ages and abilities can sit, relax, talk or play.

The larger centres are complemented by thriving 'village' strip shopping centres which define local community identity, cement connection and provide a human scale to shopping for everyday needs.

A thriving local economy offers a range of local employment opportunities matched to local skills and abilities.

Banyule has a Council that consults and listens to its community and encourages involvement in local decision making and action.

2010 - 2012 ACTION PLAN

The community consultation process identified 38 potential actions for the Community Plan that are linked to the nine themes previously described.

It is not realistic to attempt to include all the actions in the first Action Plan. Some have very extensive timelines and others have large resource requirements. There are also actions that are more appropriately the responsibility of Council rather than the community.

Ten actions have been selected for the first Action Plan for the Banyule Community Plan. These actions were selected because:

1. They are actions that the community has the capacity to initiate and complete; in most cases some form of community involvement or commitment is already established.
2. The actions are capable of being achieved in the time period (3 years) of the first Action Plan for the Community Plan.
3. There is at least one action from each of the nine theme areas, with two actions in the most highly rated area.

It is envisaged that this will be the first of three Action Plans between now and 2020.

The success of the first Action Plan will be evaluated in three years time by a group jointly comprised of community and Council representatives.

A new Action Plan will then be developed.

All potential actions not included in the first Action Plan will be considered for inclusion in future Action Plans

THEME

A safe and clean city

PROJECT 1

Develop a street art program within Rosanna shopping centre that enhances amenity and reduces opportunities for graffitists.

Description

This Project continues the journey of the Rosanna mural project undertaken in 2009 by involving local schools, artists and young people in the creation of further mural images on street furniture throughout the shopping centre.

Benefits

This Project provides a response to a number of issues identified in the community planning process including a desire to support the operation of local shopping centres by improving their amenity and safety, concerns about the presence of graffiti in the municipality, and a desire expressed by young people to be respected and offered the opportunity to contribute to the community through legitimate street art activity.

Stakeholders

Rosanna Village Traders Association
Local secondary schools
Young people
Local artists

THEME

A safe and clean city

PROJECT 2

Improve the sense of safety and wellbeing around Olympic Village shopping centre

Description

This Project will examine the range of options available to improve the sense of safety and wellbeing at Olympic Village, particularly around the shopping centre and village green, and find ways to introduce the most effective responses.

Benefits

This Project builds on an emerging sense from residents in the Olympic Village area that, by working co-operatively, all residents of the area will be able to live, shop and enjoy themselves in a safe and secure environment.

Stakeholders

Local residents
Olympic Village Traders and Property Owners
Neighbourhood Watch
Victoria Police
Neighbourhood Renewal
Banyule Council

THEME

A free moving city

PROJECT 3

Improve timetable connections between bus and train services by participating in a review of bus timetables and services.

Description

The State Government has initiated a review of bus timetables and services in the southern half of the municipality. The project aims to optimise community involvement in the review process to increase the likelihood of improved bus services.

Benefits

The frequency and reliability of public transport services, and in particular the timetable connections between the two forms of transport, was a major source of dissatisfaction identified in the community planning process. Poor access to public transport impacts on access to employment, education, shopping and services and contributes to increased traffic congestion on local roads.

Stakeholders

Local residents
Department of Transport
Local Bus Companies
Banyule Council

THEME

A diverse, cohesive and happy community

PROJECT 4

Celebrate our cultural richness and promote harmony and understanding by featuring more of Banyule's diverse communities in our festivals and events.

Description

Banyule City Council currently conducts an annual series of festivals and events. Further opportunities will be found to showcase the diversity and richness of the range of peoples and cultures that call Banyule 'home'.

Benefits

Banyule is a very multicultural community with 143 countries represented. The community planning process highlighted the importance people placed on maintaining the diversity of the Banyule community. By celebrating the diversity of lifestyles and cultures within the community the Project will foster tolerance and understanding and contribute to a sense of identity and belonging.

Stakeholders

Banyule's diverse communities
Banyule City Council Festival Program.

THEME
A comprehensive range of services and facilities

THEME
A sustainable city

PROJECT 5

Undertake a joint project with a disability group to establish facilities within a designated park that are suitable and accessible for people with a disability.

Description

The Project involves members of the Ivanhoe Diamond Valley Centre for intellectually disabled adults working in conjunction with Banyule staff to plan and develop the facilities within a local park to ensure they accommodate the needs of all groups, including people who have a disability.

Benefits

The community consultation process revealed that Banyule's parks and reserves are highly valued by the community as places to meet, socialise, recreate and commune with nature. While highly valued, the community also identified that improvements were required to the location and range of facilities to ensure they enhanced the experience sought by people who used them.

Stakeholders

Ivanhoe Diamond Valley Centre
Disability Reference Group
Local residents
Banyule Council

PROJECT 6

Develop a program supporting community champions to assist residents to develop practical strategies to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Description

Funding will be sought for a 'Sustainable Homes and Communities project'. The Project will develop a pool of 'community champions' who will work within their own communities promoting sustainable lifestyles and helping residents make sustainable decisions in their daily lives.

Benefits

Residents frequently identified a desire to live more sustainability, but were also seeking information and assistance about how best to do so. By using 'community champions' the project empowers the community to live in a more sustainable way and provides a more efficient mechanism for reaching a greater number of people with an interest in this area.

Stakeholders

Community champions
Banyule residents
Environment and other community groups
Banyule Environment Advisory Committee
Sustainability Victoria
Banyule Council

THEME

A vibrant local economy

PROJECT 7

Enable the capacity to access modern communication technology by ensuring all properties in Banyule have access to Broadband internet.

Description

The Project will seek to remove all remaining Broadband 'blackspots' from within the municipality.

Benefits

Access to the internet via broadband and the range of communication technologies it offers has become a fundamental requirement for any modern business operation. The internet has also become a standard feature for how households communicate, recreate, receive information and undertake study and research. 'Dial up' internet access does not provide an acceptable standard of internet capability in our modern communications era.

Stakeholders

Macleod Traders Association
Affected businesses and residents
Telstra and other
telecommunication companies
Banyule Council

THEME

A treed city

PROJECT 8

Improve the 'greenness' of some parts of Banyule by undertaking complementary tree and shrub plantings on nature strips and private gardens.

Description

Banyule's green treed image was highly valued by residents, and remains an important symbol of the municipality. However some parts of Banyule are not as green as others and the project seeks to begin to redress this through a co-ordinated program of tree and shrub planting on nature strips and private gardens within selected areas.

Benefits

The presence of trees and shrubs have a positive effect on the amenity of an area, provide habitat for birds and play an important role in mitigating the effects of climate change by storing carbon, providing shade and creating more comfortable settings. The Project will ensure that appropriate species of plants and shrubs will be used in the plantings.

Stakeholders

Residents in selected areas
Banyule Council Parks and Gardens

THEME

An active, involved community

PROJECT 9

Promote physical health in children by promoting active transport strategies in local schools

Description

The project will explore innovative ways of working with parents and schools to identify and respond to the reasons why physical activity in many primary school aged children is limited.

Benefits

The relationship between increasing levels of childhood obesity and reductions in the level of physical activity by children is now well documented. The project seeks to work with parents and schools to identify the barriers to increased activity levels in children.

At the same time it has the potential to favourably influence the issue of traffic congestion associated with the trend towards parents driving their children to school rather than walking or using public transport.

Stakeholders

Local Primary Schools.
Banyule Community Health Service

THEME

A valued heritage

PROJECT 10

Capture the history of Olympic Village by recording the stories and experiences of people who have lived there.

Description

Olympic Village has a rich history that dates from the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne. The recollections of residents who have lived there since that time will be collected as part of an oral history of the area.

Benefits

Olympic Village plays a significant role in Banyule's rich heritage. An oral history approach will gather the recollections of older residents that would otherwise be lost with the passage of time. In doing so it will capture the rich history of the area and provide insight into the characters, events and community spirit that has shaped this community over time.

Stakeholders

Residents of West Heidelberg
Neighbourhood Renewable
Heidelberg Historical Society

FILL OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS SHEET TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

You can return the form by:

Posting it free of charge to: Community Plan
 Banyule City Council
 Reply Paid 51
 Ivanhoe 3079

By faxing it to: 9499 9475

By emailing it to: communityplan@banyule.vic.gov.au

PRIOR TO 13 NOVEMBER 2009

If you would like to be involved in the implementation of any of the Projects for the Community Plan please register your details below:

Name: _____ Postcode: _____

Email or postal address: _____

Project: _____

VISION STATEMENT

Are there any comments you would like to make about the Vision Statement?

PROJECTS

Are there any comments you would like to make about any of the Projects?

GENERAL COMMENTS

Are there any other comments you would like to make?