



Maroondah Liveability Safety and Amenity Committee – Minutes

Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday 29 March 2023

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Location: Meeting Room 1 & 2, Realm

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Rob Steane (Mayor & Chair)
Cr Tasa Damante (Deputy Mayor)

Council Officers:

Kirsten Jenkins, Manager Community Safety
Chris Zidak, Manager Business and Precincts
Sharyn Davey-Sharman, Coordinator Local Laws
Nic Daws, Place Manager - Major Activity Centres
Rebecca Penrose, Asset Planner
Nicole Finkemeyer, Team Leader Asset Planning
Stefanie Black, Asset Planner
Annette Degenhardt, Project Officer - Free from Violence
Chloe Messerle, Senior Governance Officer (Minute Taker)

Community Representatives:

Ellen Mitchell
Mallory Healey
Linda Tubnor

Agency Representatives:

Sam Bartlett, Croydon Main Street Traders Association
Tim Malloch, QIC Eastland
Shaun Ruigrok, Metropolitan East Bicycle Users Group
Gavin Ryan, Victoria Police
Ray White, Victoria Police
Sally Fornaro, Eastern Regional Libraries
Carol Atkins, Yarra Valley Water
Kathryn Collier, METEC
Michael Bateman, Department of Transport
Berlyn Shelton, Department of Transport

Apologies:

Councillors:	Cr Linda Hancock
Council Officers:	Chris Zidak, Manager Business and Precincts Chris Riseley, Team Leader Community Development Robyn Williams, Safe and Liveable Communities Officer
Community Representatives:	Wendy Thomas Judith Lenthall
Agency Representatives:	Inspector Dean Grande, Victoria Police Jodi Long, QIC Eastland Melissa Carmody, Melbourne Water Rhonda Emery, Department of Transport Kate Gallagher, Yarra Valley Water Anthony Glover, Metro Trains

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community Representatives:	Nil
Agency Representatives:	Nil

Items Discussed

1. OPENING OF MEETING (Acknowledgment of Country)

Cr Steane opened the meeting and read the Acknowledgement of Country -

Maroondah City Council, in the spirit of Reconciliation, acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today, where Indigenous Australians have performed age-old ceremonies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

2. WELCOME

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2022

ITEM 3

Cr Steane called for the minutes to be moved by the committee and all attendees confirmed the minutes.

4. ITEMS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS - ORGANISATION UPDATES

ITEM 4.1

Cr Steane introduced the item advising that there were new members to the committee.

All members introduced themselves and the organisation that they represent -

Cr Rob Steane - Yarrunga Ward Councillor and Mayor.

Kirsten Jenkins - Manager, Community Safety which includes Health, Emergency Management and Local Laws at Maroondah City Council.

Senior Sergeant Ray White - Ringwood Police Station.

Acting Senior Sergeant Gavin Ryan - Ringwood Police Station.

Sam Bartlett - Events Manager for Croydon Main Street Traders Association.

Shaun Ruigrok - Metropolitan East Bicycle Users Group - a group enabling people to get on their bike more often.

Sally Fornaro - Manager Realm Library.

Nic Daws - representing Chris Zidak - Place Manager - Major Activity Centres.

Carol Atkins - Business Partnership role at Yarra Valley Water

Cr Tasa Damante - Wicklow Ward Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

Sharyn Davey-Sharman - Coordinator Local Laws at Maroondah City Council.

Mallory Healey - Community Representative

Linda Tubnor - Community Representative

Ellen Mitchell - Community Representative.

Tim Malloch - Operations Manager at Eastland.

Michael Bateman - Office Accommodation Manager at Department of Transport.

Berlyn Shelton - Workplace Solutions Manager at Department of Transport.

Chloe Messerle - Senior Governance Officer and minute taker for the committee meeting.

PLAY AND GATHERING SPACE DRAFT STRATEGY DISCUSSION

ITEM 4.2

Cr Steane introduced the item.

Kirsten Jenkins introduced the Rebeccah Penrose, Nicole Finkemeyer and Stefanie Black.

Rebeccah provided a powerpoint presentation - to be circulated with the minutes.

Rebeccah spoke about the 127 existing playspaces that have recently been assessed to include the following for the strategy -

- Identified need to expand provisions to include inclusive play (for all ages, abilities, genders, cultures) and to include gathering opportunities
- Acknowledgment of the importance of creating 'places'
- Establishment of Vision

The Vision for the strategy -

To provide inclusive places within our open spaces that aim to cater for all cohorts within our community. Places that promote gathering, interaction, connection, wellbeing and liveability,

that are thoughtfully and sustainably planned to honour Maroondah's natural environment and culture.

Rebecca shared two vision board slides that incorporated ideas and themes for the type of visions included in the strategy -

- Play
- Wheels
- Sensory
- Games
- Fitness
- Picnic
- Calm
- Yarning
- Art
- Information Board / Interpretative Signage

Rebecca shared a brainstorming activity, allowing the group to separate into three groups and discuss a question each.

Q1 - Which Play and Gathering spaces in Maroondah do you feel best support feelings of safety currently? (physically, culturally, emotionally)

- CPTED - Passive surveillance
- Parking - volume and location
- Facilities maintenance
- Presence of toilets
- Seating and shelter
- Local parks from a liveability perspective
- Wyreena as a great example - cultural events, community centre, café, play space, central location, community connected
- McAlpin - accessible for all ages and abilities
- Ringwood Lake - well connected, balance of built and nature
- Croydon Dog Park
- Cheong Park - variety activities, many sports, good lighting
- Town Park - same as above
- Warrien Reserve and Wombolano Parks (some people are not aware of these)

Q2 - What elements do you feel could improve feelings of safety and liveability in Maroondah's play and gathering spaces?

- Lighting
- Well maintained paths
- Built and natural features
- Parks and open spaces are continuances of our backyards
- All abilities
- All access
- Clean
- No vandalism
- Events in local spaces
- Proximity to other attractions
- Parking
- Ability to get there by public transport
- End of trip facilities

- CPTED
- Encouraging use after hours
- Ongoing maintenance
- Possibility use of wifi stations and solar in the future
- Sensory movement
- CCTV surveillance

Q3 - How do you feel the Play and Gathering Strategy can increase liveability, safety and amenity for the Maroondah community?

- Encourage people to activate spaces
- Create inclusive safe spaces
- Encourage people to try new activities and new spaces
- Ensure rideability
- Ensure adaptation and new updates
- Open spaces not being single use
- Caters to all community
- Dog parks for other uses
- Different spaces to cater for the local community
- Looking at options for seating for elderly
- Engage people who may not use these spaces and figure out why
- Culturally relevant engagement
- Genuine consultation
- Genuine input
- Tangible actions to progress to constructions
- Community gardens
- Public toilets in terms of viability

Rebecca advised that feedback will form part of the consultation process.

Cr Steane advised how important the feedback is from this advisory committee in the consultation process.

Cr Steane requested an update from the representatives of Victoria Police.

Victoria Police Update

Senior Sergeant Ray White advised that there had been reports of aggravated burglaries occurring locally where home doors and cars were left unlocked.

Senior Sergeant Ray White spoke about the upcoming OMNI Operation which is a controlled weapons area project that will enable Police Officers to search the public to detect weapons. People will be selected at random and if they do not agree to the search, Police have the power to charge them as they are delaying the operation. The public will be provided an information sheet to inform them of why they are being searched. To be able to conduct this operation, Victoria Police have significant approval processes to go through. This is likely to not be a one off exercise and instead will be conducted regularly based on need.

Break - 10:30 - 10:45am.

Cr Steane introduced the item.

Kirsten Jenkins provided a powerpoint presentation (to be circulated with the minutes) and a verbal update since the last time she presented to this advisory committee.

Kirsten spoke about the purpose of the Local Law 11 with the sunset clause ending in 2025.

Documents as part of the review included -

- General Local Law Review - Report on Community Consultation
- Summary of proposed changes
- Community Impact Statement
- Draft Community Local Law 2023
- Waste Collection Guidelines (new incorporated document)

Key themes identified in the review includes the following -

- Ensuring walkways, footpath and nature strips are kept clear of obstructions
- Public smoking and extending smoking bans
- Drinking alcohol in public places (anti-social behaviour)
- Building site management
- Waste collection (hard waste, dumping etc)
- Safety around the use of bicycles, e-scooters and skateboards
- Maintenance of vacant/abandoned building and vacant land
- Responsible removal of animal faeces from Council land by pet owners

Kirsten spoke about the Proposed Changes which includes -

- Removed unnecessary duplications and administrative matters.
- Created a more user-friendly, 'Plain English' document which does not compromise Council's enforcement powers and functions.
- Summary of proposed changes document lists all significant (non- administrative amendments) and new clauses
- Waste Services guidelines developed as an incorporated document

The Next Steps include the consultation on the draft Local Law which will begin after Easter and be open for 4 weeks. This will be advertised on the Council YourSay website where there will be two options, the completion of a survey or a formal submission where the results may be made public.

[Your Say Maroondah](#)

Senior Sergeant Ray White advised that he and other members of the police force have used the Local Law in regards to drinking in public and smoking in banned areas.

Kirsten advised that if any committee members wished to discuss this further that they could contact her by email Kirsten.jenkins@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Cr Steane introduced the item.

Annette Degenhardt provided a powerpoint presentation - to be circulated with the minutes.

Annette read an Acknowledgment of Country and also acknowledged individuals who may have experienced violence in any form.

Annette advised that if you needed to leave the conversation due to personal experiences or feelings relating to the topic, please feel free to leave. Consideration should be given to the relevance of sharing personal stories and if required to, contact 1800RESPECT.

Annette provided some background to the domains of influence -

- Council as a workplace
- Council as a service provider
- Council as a connector
- Councillor as leaders and decisions makers

Primary Prevention includes recovery, response, early intervention and primary intervention. Primary intervention is the basis to start, to stop the violence occurring in the first place.

Annette provided a clearer understanding on what are the drivers of family violence.

The committee broke up into three groups and discussed ranking the following methods of delivering primary prevention activities from the most effective to least effective. The discussion included the following words to be the prompt for further conversations as to how to manage the idea of breaking the cycle of violence -

- Community partnerships
- Community education
- Respectful relationships
- Providing meaningful resources
- Stopping the cycle of violence and the reoccurrence of it
- re-education to be taking charge of your life
- assistance with life skills such as budgeting, understanding how to grocery shop, cooking lessons etc

Acting Senior Sergeant Gavin Ryan advised that he had previously been a detective in child abuse field and this was a topic that he felt very passionate on and was able to share a different perspective on.

Annette to provide further updates to the group as the project continues.

Cr Steane expressed interest in representatives sharing what is currently occurring in their workplace -

Sam Bartlett spoke about the recent Chin Festival held on the 18 March 2023 as well as the upcoming Easter Hunt parade this Saturday on Main Street Croydon. She spoke about an increased Victoria Police presence and an increased number of switch over of shops with more service shops are moving into the area ie: mental health services rather than clothing stores or cafes.

Sam also advised that 300 LXR staff would be working out of the old FoodWorks building located along Main Street Croydon for the next few years whilst the LXR Project is underway.

Shaun Ruigrok spoke his role on the LXP construction liaison group - Bedford and Dublin Road crossings, multiple projects with Council including Ringwood Lake that includes a short term fix and long term planning, two way bike path along Bedford Road with Council seeking funding for construction, a continuous bike path from Mooroolbark train station to Chirside Park Shopping Centre. Shaun advised anyone with questions around the LXP project to contact him.

Sally Fornaro spoke about the Autumn events happening at the Library with planning completed for winter events. She advised of an increase in the number of visitors at the library compared to pre covid numbers. Sally also advised of internal structure changes that are currently happening.

Nic Daws spoke about the upcoming BizWeek in May that includes a brunch with Samuel Johnson, The Sebel Wine Down and other events include training and workshops.

Cr Damante advised of the 40km p/h flashing lights out the front of the old Croydon Community School on Mt Dandenong Road that has since closed down. Some drivers slow down when they see the sign but other drivers do not and this is causing traffic issues. This issue to be followed up with Vic Roads.

Carol Atkins spoke about her new role at Yarra Valley Water and the Business Partnerships in conjunction with hardships. She advised of works happening in Brushy Creek, new projects about to start, the proposal of new recycle water pipeline to supply Chirside Park and the commencement of the Bagenong water project.

Sharyn Davey-Sharman spoke about the draft local law review, an upcoming communications campaign to support road safety around schools and reducing risks for school crossing supervisors.

Kathryn Collier spoke about the changes to P plate laws, changes in mobile phone laws and fines, the MG Car Club holding an event, filming for Road Safety Victoria and then return of school groups to the METEC facility.

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/new-vic-road-rules-2023>

Tim Malloch provided an update on sustainability projects throughout Eastland in terms of installing solar panels on as many roofs as possible, the purchase of a waste master for organics which turns waste into power to be used for electricity, the dirt car park on the side of Eastland being used by employees of the LXP Project, the Myer lift/escalators currently being replaced, the Mini&Me events coming up for Easter and Mother's Day and the introduction of more cleaners and more security for school holidays. Tim advised that there had been conversations with Victoria Police in terms of safety over the two week school break.

Michael Bateman advised of the renaming of the Department of Transport and Planning. He also advised that there would be scope to utilize the DoT building further.

Senior Sergeant Ray White spoke about road safety on the upcoming long weekends and school holidays. He also advised of roadside alcohol and drug testing which will be out in force during these times.

Nic Daws spoke about the Staley Gardens Consultation and advised that you can share your thoughts on the YourSay website - [Your Say Maroondah](#)

The Meeting concluded at 11:55am.