

6.5.2 Community Engagement Update

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Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken in April/May 2024.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

This report provides a monthly update on Council's community engagement opportunities commencing or continuing.

Background

Community engagement is a process whereby Council uses a variety of methods to proactively seek out information and feedback from the community, including their values, concerns, ideas and aspirations. Where possible and when required by legislation, Council will include the community in the development and delivery of identified initiatives and projects. This practice establishes an ongoing partnership, ensuring that community members continue to shape Council's decision making and implementation process.

Council's Community Engagement Policy (Policy) sets out Council's accountability for community engagement practices. The Policy meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's commitment to undertaking best practice, high quality community engagement activities to receive input, feedback and ideas from the community on Council projects, services, plans, policies, strategies and other Council decisions.

Council uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (see below) as the model for its community engagement activities depending on the nature of the project, legislative requirements affecting the project and level of influence the community can have on the project, the risk and level of complexity of the project and available resources.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advise and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory committees • Consensus building • Participatory • Decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated • Decisions

Policy Implications

Community engagement is undertaken in line with Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate emergency considerations as part of this report.

Consultation/Communication

This month, the following Engagement Plans are being implemented:

Community engagement activity 20 April 2024 – 13 May 2024			
Project	Project description	Proposed consultation date/s and details	Responsible Business Unit
Community Engagement Policy	Consultation with community on the draft community engagement policy and supporting guidelines which guide Cardinia’s engagement strategies.	25 th March - 28 th April 2024 Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey • QR code posters • Pop-up events and drop-in sessions for community to provide feedback face-to-face. 	Communications and Engagement
Naming of Officer District Park	Consultation with community to vote on a new name for the Officer District Park currently under construction.	15 th April – 12 th May 2024 Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey • Pop-ups (locations TBC)* • QR code posters around the park and relevant areas. *Details to follow on the Creating Cardinia page.	Active and Connected Communities
Renaming of Officer Recreation Reserve	Consultation with community to vote whether they support the Officer Recreation Reserve to be renamed after Rob Porter	15 th April - 12 th May 2024 Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey • QR code posters around the reserve and in the sports pavilion • Letters to the reserve’s sports clubs and committee. 	Governance, Safety and Property
Pakenham East Renaming	Consultation with community and key stakeholders to vote on the new name for Pakenham East suburb. Also to inform community of road name changes.	15 th April - 12 th May 2024 Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey • Letter to residents of the suburb and the affected boundary • QR code posters within key areas of the suburb, the property sales office and other relevant surrounding areas. • Pop ups (TBC)* *Details to follow on the Creating Cardinia page.	Governance, Safety and Property

Amendments to the Governance Rules	Consultation with community on changes to the Governance Rules.	10 th April - 8 th May Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey • QR code posters within relevant areas. 	Governance, Safety and Property
Gambling Policy Review - Phase 3.	Consultation with community on the Draft Gambling Policy.	2 nd April - 28 th April Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey. 	Community and Family Services.
Draft Council Budget 24/25	invite comments on the draft Council Budget for 2024/25.	16 April - 17 May Consultation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia page with survey. 	Finance

Some projects will involve more than one stage of engagement. The relevant Engagement Plans for each project will document the stages and purpose of engagement.

Financial and Resource Implications

The activities undertaken fall within Councils existing budget and resourcing.

Conclusion

The table above outlines projects for engagement that can be promoted to the community this month to support its awareness and involvement and will assist Council in the delivery of the Council Plan action.