

7.5.2 Community Engagement Update

Responsible GM: Debbie Tyson
Author: Emma Wilkinson

Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken in August 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 - August 2024			
Project	Project description	Date/s and details engagement	Business Unit
Neighbourhood House Service in Emerald.	Consulting the community about neighbourhood house services they would value from 2025 onwards.	Period of engagement: 29 July to 30 August 2024. Community engagement will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal drop ins at the Hills Hub to complete a survey • Posters located in prominent places with a QR code to the survey and information on the Creating Cardinia site. 	Active and Connected Communities.
Greenland Court Reserve, Garfield - Upgraded facilities.	Consulting the community about how they currently use this open space and playground and what they would like to see included in the upgrade design.	Period of engagement: 17 July – 14 Aug 24. Community engagement will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailouts to residents within 400m of the site • Letters to primary schools, playgroups, and local community groups • Signage on site and in the local area with a QR code to the survey and information on the Creating Cardinia site. 	Active and Connected Communities.

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.

Inform engagements – August			
Project	Project description	Details of how community will be informed.	Business Unit
Princes Highway intersections upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tivendale Rd • Bayview Rd. 	Council is continuing to provide regular communication updates to impacted businesses and the wider community regarding the progress of the Princes Highway intersection projects.	Supported through various communications channels and regular face to face engagement with impacted local businesses.	Community Infrastructure Delivery.
Installation of pedestrian crossings at Village Way, Pakenham.	Council is planning on installing pedestrian crossings on Village Way, Pakenham from September 2024. To improve pedestrian safety, these works will include 3 zebra crossings on all three legs of the Village Way and Park Orchard Drive intersection with flashing lights on both Village Way crossings.	Supported through various communication channels including signage and letters to surrounding businesses and residents.	Community Infrastructure Delivery.
Upgrade Roadworks Oxford Street, Lang Lang.	Upgrade works on Oxford Street during August 2024. Works will include the construction of the currently unsealed and unmarked section of Oxford Street into a dual lane access road with on street parking and a shared footpath, which once complete, will connect directly into Nellie Street.	Supported through various communication channels including signage and letters to surrounding businesses, residents and organisations.	Community Infrastructure Delivery.

Financial and Resource Implications

The activities undertaken fall within Councils existing budget and resourcing.

Conclusion

The tables 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.