

Yea Community Planning

Meeting #3 at the Yea Community House: 6pm Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Attendance: 12 community members plus Murrindindi Shire Council staff Naomi McNamara, Stuart Coller, Anna Paix, Nerissa Carter

Apologies: 7 community members, plus Julie Kirkwood (MSC)

1. Feedback from Community Planning Dinner (May 16th) – ideas that were gathered and distributed electronically.

Anna noted that the ideas are raw data, have not been collated, analysed, cross-referenced for other themes that they relate to. Some ideas are big long-term projects, others are small activities and some are about different ways of working together and cooperating.

2. Recap from follow-up meeting at the supper room behind the Shire Hall (Jun 6th) – summary from the four workshop tables that were distributed electronically.

A brief overview was provided by Anna, noting that the activity to follow would be building on those specific summaries from the last meeting.

3. World-café style workshops around 3 topics. (Each group stayed at the table while the facilitators rotated amongst the groups, with around 10 minutes with each group per topic.)

i) Coordination – how the community planning group can coordinate and work together. (Anna)

- Two different groups at the second meeting had come up with similar concepts for a community council/coordination group with reps from each of the areas eg. Heritage, environment, sports etc. It was agreed by all groups that some kind of coordination between groups is needed in Yea.
- We will not be able to have a fully representative group up and running immediately, but working towards that could be a key activity of the community planning group. Therefore, an initial group of people interested in coordinating the work of community planning and beyond should be established with a goal to establishing a longer-term coordination group for the town.
- Wednesday evening was flagged as a suitable night for monthly meetings (acknowledging that of course it suited those that were there on a Wednesday!?) so feedback on this is being sought.
- What to call the group? Discussion about having a clear but not creative name “Yea Community Planning Group” versus something that is more positive and inspiring. This was not resolved so it will be referred to as the Yea Community Planning Group until a suitable alternative name is put forward and agreed.
- How would the group work? Need guidelines or a Terms of Reference also to help people understand what they would be committing to.
- Agenda for next meeting: very focused group-work with one group working solely on coordination concept and two other themes advertised, so that people interested in those topics might come without being drawn into the wider process if they aren’t able. (Easier to invite people from specific interest areas if they will be a focus on the night.)

ii) Next steps for gathering wider community input (Stuart)

- Survey: lots of thinking about having a simple survey that can be shared with community groups, at the market, on social media. ACTION: Anna is looking for

people to discuss this further with her prior to the next meeting, so that a draft survey can be brought for wider group input and approval. Also needs a communication plan designed.

- Importance of going to where the people are: schools, youth groups, sports clubs, skate parks, library, seniors group
- Need to consider who hasn't been well-represented to date.
- Do we design surveys around broad interest areas – so that it is more focused than at the community dinner? Eg. Arts, sport, environment etc.
- Need to identify key community members who might be the interface for the survey
- Could have shoe-boxes for feedback around the town

iii) What would we want to know to prioritise a project? (Naomi)

- Is there sufficient community support?
- Are key stakeholders aware and engaged?
- Is there definitely a need for this?
- Is it realistic/in the realms of possibility to achieve?
- Sustainability – including life-time costs for running and maintenance and are ongoing human resources required?
- Would it likely attract funding?
- Does it enhance the quality of life of the community?
- Evidence: has it been done elsewhere?
- What does it look like when working well?
- Could be good to spread activities across a range of areas so everyone sees the benefit
- What is the timeframe?
- Have some small and easier – quick wins/low-hanging fruit
- Governing group would need to support an idea
- ACTION: Need to consolidate these ideas into a simple form. It should not be overwhelming or off-putting – it is there to help people progress an idea and think through important things.

4. Resources and support. (Naomi)

Information was provided about the resources available to support this project. Project ideas may be able to be funded through the Council community grants scheme, or other Council processes for expenditure on an item of Council responsibility. Community Planning Officers (Anna and Julie) will be able to support the community to navigate these processes, or bring other Council officers along for more specific discussions. They may also assist with directing the community to other potential sources of funding and making appropriate introductions.

It was emphasised again that this is a community process that Council is supporting, but it does depend on the community wanting to move forward with it.

The Community Planning Officers are available to assist with admin to support the governance and other aspects of the process, for example, booking meetings and recording minutes.

5. 'Moving Murrindindi' promotion by Nerissa Carter: a short introduction to a new project that will provide transport for people to get to medical and other appointments or other needs. There is a new car to be based in Yea and volunteer drivers are being recruited. If you or someone you know might like to be a volunteer driver, please contact Nerissa: ncarter@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333
6. Wrap-up, questions and close meeting at 7.40pm