

Street Party Policy

Responsible Directorate: Environment and Infrastructure

Authorised By: Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework to manage street parties in the municipality in a beneficial and equitable manner.

The policy, and its associated procedures, is to guide street party organisers in holding a street party in the City of Boroondara and Council officers in assessing street party applications.

1.2 Scope

The Policy provides relevant criteria for assessing street party applications that:

- Support community connections.
- Promote a safe environment for all users.

2 Background

A street party is a social event held outdoors in a street typically organised by and for local residents.

Street parties give opportunities to residents to increase familiarity with their neighbours and create a sense of community. This means by being more familiar with one another, neighbours are creating an environment that will encourage people to look out for one another, along with the potential to initiate, or join in on, enjoyable social exchanges.

The benefits of an increased sense of community include improved sense of safety, security, and friendliness for the local neighbourhood. It means residents can get to know their neighbours by name, stop and have an occasional conversation, have people they can swap holiday mail collection and pet minding with, or someone to call in an emergency.

There are also health benefits. Living in a friendly community is not only more enjoyable, research suggests it is also good for health. It might be that developing a sense of community in a street could assist someone who is currently feeling isolated.

Council recognises these social and health benefits attributed to residential street parties and supports them through permitting residential street parties.

2.1 Legislative context

Road Safety Act (1986) outlines Council's responsibility to provide for safe, efficient and equitable road use. The Act also sets out the general obligations of road users in relation to responsible road use.

Road Management Act (2004) outlines Council's responsibility as a road authority to manage and maintain the municipal road network and any part of an arterial road not used by through traffic (excluding freeways). The Act outlines roads are to be managed in a manner which minimises any adverse effect on the safe and efficient operation of the road and on the environment. Council has a duty of care to manage the type of traffic that can be reasonably expected to use roads of different character.

Local Government Act (1989) outlines Council's powers and responsibility to construct, maintain and manage roads including traffic and parking.

2.2 Corporate framework

The policy aligns with the Council Plan key themes of '*Strong and Engaged Communities*' and '*Enhanced Amenity*' to meet our community's future needs.

This policy supports the Council Plan through:

- Strategy 2 - Community inclusion: 'We will monitor and plan for the community's changing needs, aspirations and opportunities to contribute to community life'.
- Strategy 11 - Parking, traffic and transport: 'We will respond effectively and efficiently to community needs on parking, traffic and appropriate transport issues'.

3 Policy Statement

Council has a mandate to manage traffic on municipal roads.

It is policy that:

- Council will manage temporary road closures in keeping with the outlined principles.
- The Chief Executive Officer or his or her delegate will develop procedures for street parties within the municipality.

3.1 Principles

Notwithstanding Council's legislative responsibilities and strategies, this policy is guided by the following principles:

- Principle 1 - Promote a safe, accessible and sustainable road and street environment for all users.
- Principle 2 - Recognise the health and social benefits attributed to a residential street party and support the event in line with this policy.
- Principle 3 - Recognise that our streets are a shared resource that must support the safe and effective delivery of private street parties.
- Principle 4 - Engage key stakeholders regarding the event and any temporary road closure.

4 Implementation and monitoring

4.1 Accountabilities

For all queries or feedback regarding this policy document, please contact the responsible department below.

Contact	Contact number	Contact e-mail
Customer Connect	9278 4444	boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au

The responsible department coordinates the implementation and review of this Policy, arranging for the Policy to be made available on Council's website and hard copies at Council offices and libraries, to ensure stakeholders are aware of their accountabilities and the community informed of this Policy.

4.2 Financial implications

Council is responsible for installing and removing the road closure signage and barriers associated with street parties. The cost will be borne by operational budgets.

5 References

5.1 Related documents

- Road Safety Act 1986
- Local Government Act 1989
- Road Management Act 2004
- Boroondara Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-17
- Community Engagement Policy 2015