

SERVICES DELEGATED COMMITTEE



MINUTES

(Open to the public)

Monday 12 December 2022

Online - via Webex Events

Commencement 6.32pm

Attendance

Councillor Di Gillies (Chairperson)
Councillor Felicity Sinfield (Mayor)
Councillor Jim Parke
Councillor Wes Gault
Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth
Councillor Jane Addis
Councillor Cynthia Watson
Councillor Susan Biggar
Councillor Garry Thompson
Councillor Nick Stavrou

Apologies

Councillor Victor Franco

Officers

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Phillip Storer | Chief Executive Officer |
| Daniel Freer | Director Places and Spaces |
| Carolyn McClean | Director Community Support |
| Scott Walker | Director Urban Living |
| Mans Bassi | Director Customer and Transformation |
| Amy Montalti | Chief Financial Officer |
| Bryan Wee | Manager Governance and Legal |
| David Shepard | Manager Environment and Sustainable Living |
| Nick Lund | Manager Strategy and Performance |
| Michael Hutchison | Head of Strategic Property and Revenue |
| Kirstin Ritchie | Coordinator Governance |
| Mathew Dixon | Coordinator Environmental Sustainability |
| Liam Merrifield | Senior Governance Officer |
| Alana Smith | Senior Economic Development Officer |
| Katherine Wright | Senior Coordinator Social Planning and Research |
| Thomas Cybula | Senior Transport Engineer |
| Lucinda Bakhach | Local Economies Lead |
| Nancy Multari | Coordinator Local Economies |

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1. Adoption and confirmation of the minutes

MOTION

Moved Councillor Biggar

Seconded Councillor Gault

That the minutes of the Services Delegated Committee meeting held on 14 November 2022 be adopted and confirmed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer

Nil.

3. Presentation of officer reports

3.1 Draft Economic Development and Tourism Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution from Council to undertake community consultation from late January 2023 on the draft Economic Development and Tourism Plan (draft Plan - **Attachment 1**).

Background

The draft Plan outlines the vision, key priorities and associated strategic objectives to be delivered through an annual set of actions to support and facilitate the maintenance and growth of a thriving economy and contribute positively to Boroondara's liveability. It is also designed to support tourism through the growth of the visitor economy, including the promotion of Boroondara as a desirable destination for visitors.

The development of the draft Plan has included significant engagement with the Boroondara community, business, industry partners / stakeholders and Victorian and Australian governments. The draft Plan focuses on maximising Boroondara's competitive advantages and opportunities, while addressing and responding to challenges and external trends which have informed the development of the draft Plan.

The draft Plan identifies a range of challenges facing the City's economy into the future and provides a focus on recovery and resilience building with priorities and actions to mitigate factors such as:

- the impact of COVID-19
- workforce skills shortages in key industries
- the rise in remote and flexible work arrangements
- the increase in online shopping and the changing role of shopping precincts
- growing demand for health and aged-care services
- the rise in inflation and cost of living pressures.

These challenges bring with them opportunities for Boroondara to maintain and enhance the existing economy, provide targeted support to businesses, grow the visitor economy, and promote new ways of working.

A range of annual actions are proposed which will enable Council to progress implementation of the draft Plan, initially to be undertaken by Council in 2023-2024 and in accordance with the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31 (BCP).

Key Issues

Preliminary consultation for the draft Plan and the extensive consultation undertaken in the development of the BCP, highlight the importance of the local economy to the community. BCP Theme 6: Local Economy, states community sentiment as: “We value our shopping strips, including places where we can shop, socialise and dine out close to home. We strive to support locally owned businesses and want to attract more diverse businesses to our neighbourhoods. This will allow us to live locally and contribute to a thriving local economy.”

The draft Plan responds to community feedback by incorporating economic development and tourism actions which aim to deliver positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.

The statistical data within the draft Plan **Attachment 1** and **Appendix 2 of Attachment 1** (“City of Boroondara Profile (2021)”) relates to data derived from the 2016 Census and other official sources of information. This data will be refreshed with the new 2021 Census data by early 2023, when the final Census data sets are scheduled for release. However, due to extensive public consultation, which helped to inform the draft plan and initial statistical indicators, the new Census data is not likely to result in a need to change the future direction and key priorities of the draft Plan.

Any Census data updates will be communicated to the public during the proposed public consultation period from late January to March 2023 via Council’s Engage Boroondara website and other communication channels.

Next Steps

Prior to public consultation officers will:

1. Develop an accessible version of the draft Plan to ensure inclusivity and equal access.
2. Update statistical data within the draft Plan **Attachment 1** and **Appendix 2 of Attachment 1** (“City of Boroondara Profile (2021)”) that relates to data derived from the 2016 Census and other official sources of information (this is dependent on the release date for 2021 census data).

There were no speakers wishing to make submissions to Council for this item.

MOTION

Moved Councillor Watson

Seconded Councillor Addis

That the Services Delegated Committee resolve to:

- 1. Release the draft Economic Development and Tourism Plan (draft Plan - Attachment 1), which includes a draft Action Plan 2023-2024 (Appendix 3 of Attachment 1) for public consultation from late January 2023.**
- 2. Consider the findings of the consultation and the finalised Economic Development and Tourism Plan at a future meeting of Council.**

CARRIED

3.2 Future Use of Creswick Street South End Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the full or partial closure of Creswick Street at its southern leg between Denham Street and Burwood Road in Hawthorn and options for use of this space.

Background

Since February 2021, important sewer replacement works have been underway involving the replacement of the Hawthorn Main Sewer Siphon at the southern end of Creswick Street near Denham Street. As a result of the works, the short section of Creswick Street had to be closed between the one-way Burwood Road access point and Denham Street. The sewer replacement works have been completed and Melbourne Water are due to complete the reinstatement works by the end of 2022.

During the sewer replacement works, requests were received from local community members to keep the one-way access from Burwood Road into Creswick Street permanently closed. Through the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31, the community valued and indicated that parks and green spaces are a priority.

Council officers identified an opportunity to explore increasing open space in this area once the sewer works were completed and carried out community consultation between Thursday 16 June 2022 and Sunday 10 July 2022.

The community engagement was primarily facilitated through the Engage Boroondara website which included key information on the proposal, proposed options, a link to the online survey and contact details for written submissions or further queries.

The aim of the engagement was to obtain input from the community about permanently closing the southern end of Creswick Street, including:

- What advantages and/or disadvantages they see in permanently closing the entry to Creswick Street at Burwood Road.
- If they have a preference for the future of this part of Creswick Street. This includes their preference for a partial or full closure to expand the open space. Or, if they want to see this part of Creswick Street returned to its previous condition after works are completed.

With both options, provision would be made for occasional access into Creswick Street from Burwood Road for events such as the annual Head of the Yarra event where Creswick Street is used for access and boat trailer parking.

The results of the online survey indicated majority support for the closure of Creswick Street in one form or another.

A summary report outlining the key consultation findings has been developed and is provided as **Attachment 1**.

Key Issues

Several comments and concerns were raised by the community during the consultation period. The key issues raised by the community during the consultation period were:

- Safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.
- Diversifying use of the increased green space.
- Minimising impacts on:
 - The Hawthorn Rowing Club and loss of parking.
 - Adjacent streets and residents.
 - Emergency services.
 - Congestion and localised rat-running.
- Improving:
 - Local amenity, health, and mental well-being.
 - Pram and wheelchair access to the parks.

Further to the above, several respondents who preferred Creswick Street re-opened raised the following items.

- The expanded/merged park land area was not required as there is adequate park land already.
- There is little in the way of added value to the community by the closure.
- No traffic study or concept plans had been provided prior to the online community survey.

Traffic Study

A Traffic Impact Assessment has been undertaken to better understand the impact this possible permanent closure. Officers carried out traffic surveys in this local area bounded by Burwood Road, Church Street and Barkers Road and compared them with previously available traffic survey data and whether the traffic volumes were within the thresholds in Council's Traffic Management Policy and associated Procedures.

The comparison of the traffic survey data indicates that the closure resulted in an average decrease, between 0.3% and 14% on the local road network, except for Lawes Street and Findon Street, where the traffic volumes increased between 2.2% to 2.7%.

Traffic levels in all the 12 local access streets were well within the threshold of 3,000 vehicles per day for local access streets.

Options under consideration

Three concept plans were subsequently prepared:

- A full closure of Creswick Street between Burwood Road and Denham Street with no parking (**Attachment 2**).
- A partial closure of Creswick Street between Burwood Road and where the car park commences that retains 26 of the 32 parking spaces (**Attachment 3**).
- A partial closure of Creswick Street between Burwood Road and Denham Street that retains 15 of the 32 parking spaces with a greater level of open space (**Attachment 4**).

The third option (**Attachment 4**) was developed upon review of the first two options and community feedback, that increases open space but also minimises the loss of on-street parking.

Melbourne Water is due to complete their works and the opportunity will be available to either keep Creswick Street closed to traffic or to re-open Creswick Street to traffic.

Next Steps

Should Council resolve to proceed with any closure of Creswick Street, the next step in the process will be for Council officers to engage the community and key stakeholders in 2023 on the preferred concept plan for the closure and how the space is to be utilised.

Funding for the implementation of the preferred option would be subject to Council's annual budget process.

*One speaker opposed to the officers' recommendation addressed the meeting.
One speaker in support of the officers' recommendation addressed the meeting.*

MOTION

Moved Councillor Gault

Seconded Councillor Biggar

That the Services Delegated Committee resolve to:

- 1. To keep Creswick Street closed to traffic between Burwood Road and Denham Street.**
- 2. Proceed with closure of Creswick Street, allowing for a small amount of permanent parking at the north end of the closure (as detailed in Attachment 3.2.4) but detailed to properly allow for occasional parking and access such as that required during the Head of the Yarra event (as detailed on Attachment 3.2.2).**
- 3. To engage with the community and key stakeholders during 2023 in further developing the design of the Creswick Street closure in line with Option 3.**
- 4. Refer consideration of funding from the Open Space Reserve for development of Creswick Street as a new open space as part of the Annual Budget Process for 2023/24.**

CARRIED

4. General business

Nil

5. Urgent business

Nil

6. Confidential business

Nil

The meeting concluded at 7.22pm

Confirmed

Chairperson _____

Date _____