

2.3 NOTTING HILL AND MULGRAVE COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS 2019 - 2024 (SMcG)

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans were considered by Council in March 2019, prior to a further round of community consultation. This community consultation was undertaken in July and August 2019. A number of issues were identified and further data was gathered on residents' views on how to increase local community connections. The community feedback has not changed the Community Action Plans and they are now ready for final Council endorsement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to outline information gathered as part of the second round of consultation and to seek endorsement of the Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans (see Attachment 1 & 2).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

The second round of consultation has identified several additional opportunities to further strengthen the communities of Mulgrave and Notting Hill;

- Over 1500 surveys were sent to residents across Mulgrave and Notting Hill. Site signs and Council's website were used to publicise the second round consultation process and seven community meetings were held. There was broad support for the plans that were extensively developed and consulted upon in 2018. 85 residents provided feedback as part of the second round consultation.
- As a result of the second round consultation 11 people have offered to join local leaders groups across Mulgrave and Notting Hill.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no funding allocation for these projects other than through usual ongoing maintenance and renewal budgets. Projects will be the subject of budget bids as part of Council's annual budget process. External funding through Federal and State grants will also be pursued.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

A second round of consultation has identified how the community want to work with Council to strengthen the community. Council are now invited to endorse the Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans.

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans and notes that key projects total \$1,275,000 for both plans combined and will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process through the life of the project. Federal and State Grant funding will also be pursued.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to outline information gathered as part of the second round of consultation and to seek endorsement of the Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans.

BACKGROUND

The Draft Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans were considered by Council in March 2019 prior to a further round of community consultation. This community consultation was undertaken in July and August 2019. A number of issues were identified and we gathered further data on residents' views on how to increase local community connections. The community feedback has not changed the Community Action Plans and they are now ready for final Council endorsement.

DISCUSSION

The draft Community Action Plans for Notting Hill and Mulgrave were developed in 2018 and considered by Council in March 2019 prior to undertaking final community consultation and engagement. The draft plans highlighted the following;

- Notting Hill has limited places to meet (schools, sporting facilities, shops) therefore projects to improve local interaction are needed. Key projects suggested included; a directional and measured walking loop (completed in May 2019). Additional infrastructure to encourage people to interact in local public space is also needed, (Funds have been identified in the 2019/2020 financial year to establish a local meeting point).
- Mulgrave has six residential areas all separated by major roads and early work identified that more local involvement was needed to build a greater sense of community and sense of place. Key projects suggested included; development of a local community leaders group to prototype new social programs, neighbourhood based

pedestrian and place making plans, improving access/safety, identifying places to rest, meet and interact.

The second round consultation has identified several additional opportunities to further strengthen the communities of Notting Hill and Mulgrave;

- Over 1500 surveys were sent to residents across Mulgrave and Notting Hill. Site signs and Council's website were used to publicise the second round consultation process and seven community meetings were held. 85 residents provided feedback as part of second round consultation. There was broad support for the plans that were extensively developed and consulted upon in 2018.
- Notting Hill residents are interested in Monash University's long term development plans for the land between Normanby Road, Martin Street and Duerdin Road as they currently use this area for dog walking. Council Officers will contact Monash University to discuss the long term development plans for the Notting Hill site.
- Notting Hill residents like the lower density of residential development across the suburb. They would like to see more shops and open space. Residents had a poor perception of crime and safety and raised the poor amenity of some residential properties. The local neighbourhood house and environs is seen as a place that could be developed into a new local meeting point with seating and some public art space. Residents would like to meet others through food based activity, gardening and public art projects as well as via events such as street parties, markets and food trucks
- Council has liaised with a local trader to organise two street market events in Notting Hill in late 2019.
- Mulgrave residents like the community feel of their neighbourhood, the local parks and that the area is close to other locations of interest. Residents would like to see better streetscapes and a light rail connection in the future. The most significant problems are traffic management and a poor perception of crime and safety. Residents meet others through the Neighbourhood House and would like to also meet others via a series of newly created local meeting places in each neighbourhood in local parks and reserves. Residents show interest in attending local gardening, arts and craft, food and woodworking activities. They are also interested in attending events such as food trucks, street parties and market events. The preferred form of communication amongst the local community is a local newsletter or blog where interesting people, groups or events can be highlighted.
- As a result of the second round consultation eleven people have offered to join local leaders groups across many of the seven different neighbourhoods across Mulgrave and Notting Hill.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans support the key actions within Council's, 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021'.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Notting Hill and Mulgrave Draft Community Action Plans are a strong advocacy tool for local change. The plans seek to build a sense of community, provide stronger links to community services, improve health and wellbeing, education and skills through the delivery of project work.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Notting Hill and Mulgrave Draft Community Action Plans are strong advocacy tools for the protection and progression of human rights at a local level.

CONSULTATION

Identification of local community issues and the development of plans (phase one of plan development) was via a wide range of consultative methods including listening posts, interception surveys, discussions with local providers and several online/ mail surveys.

Following Council consideration of the draft reports in March 2019 a second round of consultation using on-line and mail out surveys and several meetings indicated broad support for the plans as well as providing further information about resident's interests and preferences to strengthen their community. As a result 85 residents provided feedback as part of the second round consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no funding allocation for these projects other than through usual ongoing maintenance and renewal budgets and they will be the subject of officer bids as part of Council's annual budget process. External funding through Federal and State grants will be pursued.

CONCLUSION

Further consultation on the Notting Hill and Mulgrave Draft Community Action Plans has been undertaken. Additional information was gathered about residents views on their local community and a number of residents offered to join local leaders groups. There is strong support for the plans and Council are now invited to endorse the Notting Hill and Mulgrave Community Action Plans.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Action Plan: Strengthening Notting Hill
2. Community Action Plan: Strengthening Mulgrave