

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Strengthening Notting Hill 2019-2024



Notting Hill's Story

Notting Hill is like an island. It is a community bounded by major roads, which has created some advantages and some disadvantages to the area.

Developed in the 1950s Notting Hill was the first planned residential community by AV Jennings (the Westerfield Estate) and it maintains a strong sense of community pride amongst its residents. It is a pleasant pocket to live in with reduced traffic flow through the area creating a quiet residential haven.

There is also an industrial part of Notting Hill, separated by Blackburn Road, which has a significant daytime working population and is a successful location for a number of businesses.

In the residential area, the only shopping strip is largely vacant, with some small offices and limited retail outlets. Following the closure of Notting Hill Primary School and Monash High School there are limited opportunities for the community to interact socially. Residents need to travel out of the Neighbourhood to access other areas for schooling, sports, shopping and other services.

Notting Hill is one of the closest residential communities adjacent to Monash University. It is also close to the Monash Freeway, significant industrial areas and the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster.

Notting Hill would benefit from stronger links to adjacent suburbs, an increase in diverse open space activities and more opportunities for residents to build social connections with other local residents.

What did you tell us? What do we know?

Notting Hill has a business/industrial area to the West and a residential area to the East surrounded by major roads. It is close to Monash University and the Monash Freeway.

Notting Hill has 3,475 residents. The residential community can be identified as predominately students in the West and families in the East.

The Western side of the Notting Hill residential area has a median age of 26 to 29. More than 25% of residents are attending University. More than 50% of properties are rentals and more than 60% of residents were born overseas (the majority from China). The Eastern side of the Notting Hill residential area has a median age over 32, with more children and older residents living in the Eastern area of Notting Hill.



Through consultation Council has built up a picture of the local community and the issues and actions that could be further explored to improve the liveability in Notting Hill. Many of the actions within this plan are reliant on further resources and budget. Partnerships with state government, business, community organisations and community members will be developed to seek further resources and financial support for the implementation of the plan.

Insights;

- Notting Hill is a proud community and the majority of residents regard it is a pleasant place to live.
- There are strong associations between Monash University and Notting Hill, and the University is driving change in Notting Hill by a regular turnover of students who live in the area.
- The suburb is somewhat isolated by major roads and there is a lack of opportunities for the community to interact socially and build connections.
- There is a need to provide better links outside Notting Hill and Projects need to focus on refining the use of open space and community facilities.
- As the Notting Hill Community Association (NHCA) no longer operates. A local leadership group could be re-established to replace the Notting Hill Community Association.

Projects that could be developed to provide a significant change to liveability in Notting Hill;

- ✓ Establish better pedestrian links across major roads to suburbs surrounding Notting Hill.
- ✓ Establish a Community Leadership Group to identify issues or opportunities and develop places and programs for greater community integration and social connection.
- ✓ Improve the existing public spaces by providing better places for people to interact, with infrastructure such as seating, all weather paths and gardens as well as flexible designs that allow new activities to be introduced.

What we need to work on:

The following table is a list of potential place making improvement projects for Notting Hill. This list will remain active and open with additional projects added as the need arises. Project work, completion and priority order are all dependent upon future funding decisions by Council as part of its annual budget decision-making process ability to successfully secure external grant funding.

What we need to work on;	How we will approach it this project;	Who will work on this?
Consider the provision of recreation infrastructure, landscape and activities across existing and potential open spaces in Notting Hill.	<p>Consultation with residents regarding open space and recreation activities and reference to the Monash Open Space Strategy suggests spaces need to have additional trees, gardens, seats, lighting and paths. More flexible use of the area behind the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House needs to be developed to encourage greater community interaction.</p> <p>Consideration of existing and potential open space to allocate remaining recreation activities is needed. Prepare an integrated site plan for all spaces in the Notting Hill Precinct.</p>	Neighbourhood and Place Making (N&PM), Urban Design and Active Monash, City of Monash.
Investigate the development of a mentoring program where established residents assist new international students with orientation / community connection.	<p>N&PM and the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House will work with Monash University to determine the best support that local residents may be able to provide to new International students living in the area.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood House continues to provide program activities for a variety of groups. Assessment of all activities and user groups is ongoing.</p>	N&PM, City of Monash, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House, Monash University.
Improve the wider areas biodiversity and habitat links.	Investigate further.	N&PM, Sustainability Monash and Horticulture, City of Monash.
Diversify and expand the activities of the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House,	The Neighbourhood House continues to provide program activities for a variety of groups. Assessment of all activities and user groups is ongoing.	N&PM, City of Monash, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.

<p>especially to support people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse and senior community members.</p>	<p>Work with the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House to determine the best support for local residents.</p>	
<p>Investigate self-help / community support approaches to property and garden maintenance – including a gardening tool loan scheme through the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood House continues to provide program activities for a variety of groups. Assessment of all activities and user groups is ongoing. Work with the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House to determine the best support of local residents.</p>	<p>N&PM, City of Monash, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.</p>
<p>Facilitate activities in Notting Hill to encourage local leadership and community building.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood House continues to provide program activities for a variety of groups. Assessment of all activities and user groups is ongoing.</p>	<p>N&PM, City of Monash, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.</p>
<p>Continue to promote youth activities and programs, as well as Monash Youth and Family Services to engage young people and families in Notting Hill.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood House continues to provide program activities for a variety of groups. Assessment of all activities and user groups is ongoing.</p>	<p>N&PM, City of Monash, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.</p>
<p>Establish a Community Leadership Group to develop ideas for events,</p>	<p>The NHCA (Notting Hill Community Association) is no longer active. A new group needs to be established to identify local scale issues and</p>	<p>N&PM, City of Monash.</p>

and projects to improve local liveability.	opportunities. This needs to be established in a way that encourages participation and is convenient to local residents.	
Work with Monash University as they develop land at 700 Blackburn Road.	Maximise collaborative opportunities to protect and enhance co-use of open spaces by Notting Hill residents, as well as the local working and university communities, creating a campus style walk and shared public domain connecting Notting Hill and the University.	N&PM, Urban Design, City of Monash.
Consider the needs of dog owners in Notting Hill.	The provision of a fenced dog off lead area in Notting Hill was investigated but cannot be provided. There is no suitable open space where a fenced dog off lead area could be established without impacting other recreation activities or adjacent residents.	N&PM, City of Monash.
Develop a walking loop around the Neighbourhood.	Residents enjoy walking in the local area. A walking route was identified and ground signs with directions and distances were provided to encourage more walking. The addition of extra seating for resting will encourage more walkers. Further path development would provide more walking opportunities.	Urban Design, N&PM, City of Monash, Health Agencies.
Improving pedestrian links out of Notting Hill.	Notting Hill would benefit from better links for pedestrians where they cross Ferntree Gully Road, the Monash Freeway on and off ramps and Blackburn Road. A higher level of pedestrian separation and safety at crossings would improve the confidence of parents or carers and their children accessing services (schools, shops) independently. The proposed Westall Extension by Vic Roads is an opportunity to include higher grade pedestrian infrastructure such as pedestrian bridges, better protected / higher priority pedestrian signals along Ferntree Gully Road. The key access point into Monash University is at Duerdin Street, better links to the South and infrastructure, such as wider paths, protected crossing points, lighting, wayfinding and seating is needed. Additional warning signs and other Traffic Management Devices to improve safety for Pedestrians will be investigated.	N&PM, Transport Planning, City of Monash, Vic Roads.

Introducing wayfinding and place signs.	Additional signage will improve a sense of place and identify commonly used routes.	N&PM, City of Monash.
Identification of cycling routes and their enhancement within the context of the Monash Walking & Cycling Strategy.	Cycling paths and linking points to be considered and incorporated into Monash's Walking and Cycling Strategy. Also consider way finding signage, a connection to Mile Creek and the feasibility for cycle infrastructure on Duerdin Street and the South side of Normandy Road between Blackburn and Gardiner Roads.	N&PM, Transport Planning, City of Monash.
Identification of possible events and programs in Notting Hill to increase community interaction.	Research what programming and events could be established via the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House and at other locations to increase community interaction. Look to support events such as; the dogs' day out market, a food truck night and build other events on this model. Other programs such as a fruit harvest team or a "meet the street" trial could be considered and tested.	N&PM, City of Monash, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House and Local Leaders.
Improving the open space in Business Park Drive.	Workers in business industrial areas need either opportunities to rest or interact with others. Consider the improvement of open space in this area to refine use by local workers.	N&PM, Horticulture and Active Monash, City of Monash.
Develop a local community art project plan	Locations need to be identified for mural and art commissions as well as community art work events.	N&PM to identify locations and work with Arts and Culture and Urban Design to develop a community art location map. Work with Local Leaders to prototype test programs. City of Monash.
Identify local interaction locations and develop local programming.	These locations could be established or enhanced with new uses and infrastructure. Additional programming can also be added. Examples include community harvest teams, hobby programs, also a "Place mat Program" (Signs in public places which act as a start off point i.e. meet here at 7am to walk the dogs together).	N&PM to identify locations and work with local leader's to prototype test programs. City of Monash.
Consider the provisions and projects of the Open Space Strategy.	Use the Open Space Strategy to improve community interaction outcomes.	N&PM, Active Monash, Horticulture, City of Monash.

Consider all relevant Strategic policy (and policy being developed) to consider the impacts and opportunities for the Notting Hill area.	Ongoing.	N&PM, City of Monash.
Assess the provision of social services (youth, aged, CALD etc.) and programming in Notting Hill.	Investigate further.	N&PM, City of Monash.
Improvement of road reserve landscaping.	Investigate locations for renewal and enhancement of local and arterial roads landscaping. Expand the street tree strategy implementation.	Horticulture, Engineering, Urban Design and N&PM, City of Monash.
Continue to seek funding and partnership opportunities with other agencies to improve the area.	Consider and seek funding and partnership opportunities with other agencies to increase programmes to meet identified needs as they arise.	N&PM, City of Monash.