

myNeighbourhood



BUNINYONG

Council's Township Empowerment Program Community Update

When it comes to priority projects no one knows better what is needed most at the local level than the locals. That's the philosophy behind Council's Township Empowerment Program (TEP) which is investing \$300,000 into community-led projects and neighbourhood development plans at Miners Rest, Learmonth and Buninyong.

The Township Empowerment Program was a key initiative in Council's 2013-2014 Budget. It's designed to strengthen community links and build community confidence about the delivery of projects in your community.

Council has allocated \$100,000 to seed a number of community-inspired projects in each these townships.

Community consultation is underway and some community-led projects have started.

Suggestions have been made for specific projects in the townships, but common themes have also emerged relating to the need for revitalisation of park lands and recreational facilities, the provision of youth services and improvements to infrastructure.

What's happening in Buninyong?

The Buninyong community has embraced the Township Empowerment Program. More than 40 people attended a meeting at the Buninyong Town Hall in August 2013 where they had the chance to discuss local issues of interest and concern to them.

Issues highlighted during the community consultation included:

- Preserving Buninyong village
- Strategic traffic planning – including pedestrian infrastructure
- Parking
- De Soza Park and Royal Park
- Market and arts space
- Youth space
- Signage, planting, vines extension
- Catering better for tourists

Buninyong's \$100,000 was banked at the Bendigo Community Bank in Buninyong late November.

Buninyong Community Reference Group

A Community Reference Group has been set up to focus on the allocation of Township Empowerment Program funds to locally identified projects, to maintain links between community groups and Council, and to oversee project developments.

This group was established to steer the program and complement the existing groups in Buninyong, such as the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA). Groups such as the BDCA have a vital role to play in the Reference Group and the funds associated with the program will provide 'added extras' to the work already being done.

The Buninyong Community Reference Group will be supported and resourced through South Ward Councillors and Council's Community Engagement team.

A large group of people indicated their willingness to be actively involved, and after some discussion and a series of one to one meetings, a group consisting of the Bendigo Community Bank, the Buninyong and District Community Association and ten residents was formed.

Thanks to the following members for their contribution:

Amber Balzic, Andrew Paterson, Michelle Corcoran, Marilyn Morley Rowena Worth, Michael Ford, Barry Fitzgerald, Ian Salathiel, Bill Jolly, and Andrea Mason.



Buninyong Children's Centre

PROJECTS UNDERWAY



Library Outreach Expansion

- The Library Outreach Van will move to the Buninyong Children's Centre from the start of 2014
 - An additional half day service will be provided
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Town Hall Car Parking Works

- \$200,000 project currently going through the design and scoping phase
 - Design options will be circulated for public comment
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Bowling Club Redevelopment

- Discussions are currently being held with Council staff and club members
 - Design and other documentation to be completed for a March 2014 building commencement. September 2014 is the target completion date.
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Children's Centre Redevelopment

- \$688,300 project to be completed by the end of 2013
- Includes a two room kindergarten, maternal and child health and a community room.

Youth Activity Space

- The Youth Activity Space on the corner of Inglis and Forest streets, will be enhanced.
 - There is already a small skate park and a basketball hoop, but after some consultation with young people through Council's Youth Services team, there is now a plan to add to the facilities, improve the environment and follow through on the suggestions made by young people.
 - A Parkour activity space is being considered for the corner.
 - Even though the equipment is targeted at teenagers, it is designed to challenge users of all ages.
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PROJECTS DELIVERED: De Soza Park Poppet Head Removal

After 30 years standing as a representation to the gold mining heritage of Buninyong, the Poppet head in De Soza Park was removed recently.

The timbers used had deteriorated to the point where they presented a danger to park users, young children playing in the adjacent playground or functions within the precinct.

To ensure the area is safe for upcoming functions, such as Carols in December, family Christmas parties and neighbourhood picnics in the

Park, the Poppet Head was removed and the area cleared and repaired.

A De Soza Park Development Group met on the 28 November to start the process of creating community directed plans for the park. Local community members are encouraged to contribute their ideas and thoughts. This will ensure that the park reflects the needs and aspirations of all future users.



Community Consultation

During the Buninyong Good Life Festival, Council staff met with a number of residents to gather further information about their perceptions of Buninyong.

Of the surveys completed many residents said they were passionate about retaining its size, its historical attributes and its friendliness.

Other themes included the need to provide improved parking and traffic options, increased consideration of the needs of tourists, better recreational facilities and the featuring of the magnificent historical buildings and the natural elements of the mountain and gardens.

96 people shared their thoughts and ideas, which will be considered as the Township Empowerment Program gains momentum.

Want to get involved?

If you are interested in contacting the Buninyong Community Reference Group or want to find out more about the projects contact Council's Community Engagement Officer Graeme Kent on 5320 5861.

Buninyong and District Community Association

The Buninyong and District Community Association has completed three significant projects recently: four new township entrance signs, information plaques on 26 historical buildings and a 24 page colour guide to help visitors explore the Buninyong township.

For more information or to get involved with the Buninyong and District Community Association contact

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