

MINUTES

Council Meeting

Monday, 25 January 2021 commencing at 6:00 PM

Livestreaming at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/councilmeeting

*** Broadcast live on Phoenix FM 106.7 ***

VENUE:

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/councilmeeting

NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15 February 2021
Livestream

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This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 as amended by the COVID19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020 and Local Law Process of Municipal Government 2020

Council Vision

Greater Bendigo - creating the world's most liveable community.

Council Values

Six values inform everything we as Council do in working together to be the best we can for all of our community.

Seeking to achieve the best value for our use of the community's public funds and resources, by:

- We Lead;
- We Learn;
- We Contribute;
- We Care;
- We Respond;
- We Respect.

Goals

- Presentation and Managing Growth
- Wellbeing and Fairness
- Strengthening the Economy
- Environmental Sustainability
- Embracing our Culture and Heritage
- Lead and Govern for All

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2. TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE STATEMENT

3. OPENING STATEMENT

4. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

5. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Jennifer Alden
Cr Matthew Evans
Cr David Fagg
Cr Rod Fyffe OAM
Cr Andrea Metcalf
Cr Margaret O'Rourke
Cr Greg Penna
Cr Julie Sloan
Cr Vaughan Williams
Craig Niemann, Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance
Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth
Brett Martini, A/Director Presentation and Assets
Andie West, A/Director Health and Wellbeing
Ryan Millard, A/Manager Governance

APOLOGIES

Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing
Brian Westley, Director Presentation and Assets
Jessica Clarke-Hong, Manager Governance

6. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the conduct of the Community Recognition Section and Public Question Time.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Fyffe

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the conduct of the Community Recognition Section and Public Question Time.

CARRIED

7. COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

“Welcome to the community section of tonight’s meeting, where we reflect on recent local events and achievements.

I must say, there is a particular focus tonight on recent awards that have been won by individuals, businesses and organisations in our community. We are delighted to share in your success and extend our warm congratulations to you all.

First tonight, I would like to acknowledge our 2021 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year. This morning we announced Cathie Steele as our Citizen of the Year and Ma Aye Paw as our Young Citizen of the Year.

Cathie is the Chair of Bendigo Foodshare, an organisation that saw a 40 per cent increase in the demand for food relief since the onset of COVID-19. She led a small, hard-working team and army of volunteers to respond to the community’s need across Greater Bendigo and the wider central Victorian region.

Regardless of the pandemic, Cathie has worked tirelessly over many years to ensure everyone in our community has access to food, something many of us take for granted.

Ma Paw is a leading light in her community. She is the Karen people’s go-to person as they settle into the community and today’s recognition reflects her many years of service and helping others.

During the pandemic she helped to design and translate documents and other resources to ensure our Karen residents were aware of the pandemic’s important public health messages.

More broadly, she works hard to promote and preserve the language and culture of the Karen people – Bendigo’s largest cultural group with a population of more than 2,000.

We are delighted to congratulate both Cathie and Ma Paw on their selfless contributions and we look forward to supporting them in the year ahead as ambassadors for our city.

Speaking of Foodshare, the organisation along with Jackal Fencing in Long Gully were recently shortlisted as finalists in the Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards in the Business Achievement category.

Jackal Fencing won the award, with the business recognised for promoting quality Australian-made products and contributing to the future of the Australian manufacturing industry. They employ 23 local staff. Congratulations to Jackal Fencing on this achievement.

Bendigo Health has won the Premier’s Sustainability Award for 2020 for a project involving recycling bed screens and curtains into furniture and bollards, among other things.

The project has successfully diverted one tonne of curtains from landfill, so well done to the hospital on this wonderful recognition and effort to look after our environment.

“Congratulations to Eddie Jackson, a youth worker with Anglicare, who has been recognised for his work by the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

During the pandemic, Eddie worked as a residential house manager to support young people who couldn't live safely at home. He was nominated by his workmates, which makes the award particularly special.

Late last year Bendigo Community Health Services received the 2020 Victorian Multicultural Commission Excellence in Health Award for its great effort in looking after the health and wellbeing of our refugee and multicultural communities.

The Bendigo Food Relief Network partners also received a highly commended at the awards in the Excellence in Community Response and Recovery category.

Finally tonight we congratulate Justin See, who was named International Student of the Year (Regional) at the Victorian International Education Awards. The La Trobe University student was recognised for his community involvement, leadership skills and academic achievement.

His research has focused on how communities in the Philippines adapt to the impacts of climate change, and he recently published his research in the leading journal 'Global Environmental Change'. Justin is from the Philippines and is one of Council's Intercultural Ambassadors.

Our last item acknowledges the passing of former Mayor and Councillor, Paul Tomkinson.

Mr Tomkinson was a surveyor by trade and was first elected to Council in 1977 and was Mayor of Bendigo for the 1980/81 term.

At the end of his term, he reflected that he was surprised to learn of the many people who were doing work in their own way to support their community. I think anyone who has been a Mayor or Councillor has been impressed by this aspect of community life in Bendigo, which has only gotten stronger over the years.

Mr Tomkinson was also in favour of Mayoral terms of at least two years, a thought that was before its time and now supported under the Local Government Act.

Our thoughts are with Mr Tomkinson's family.

And that brings to a close tonight's community section”.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

9. RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

That Standing Orders be resumed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Fyffe

Seconded: Cr Andrea Metcalf

That Standing Orders be resumed.

CARRIED

10. CR FAGG'S REPORT

Cr Fagg presented his report on Council activities as outlined below:

"Before I begin, I want to mention that this report will be up on my website by the end of the week.

I want to start my report with a small anecdote which I think helpfully opens up a few of the opportunities and challenges of council over the next few years.

I had a request from a resident in the Whipstick Ward - let's call him Rob. Rob lives in an older house right next to a relatively new housing estate. Thus, the new asphalt roadside, and kerb and channel which the developer had been required to build, did not extend to his property, nor to the sweeping bend of road beyond the estate. Just a gravel edging was left. Rob contacted me with 2 concerns: a pothole was developing where the new and old road met. This was annoying for Rob as he backed out of his driveway, but he was also concerned about cars sweeping around the bend and losing control on the gravel. I visited Rob, put a request into the Council for information, and pretty soon Rob reported that someone from council had been out to assess the situation and hopefully action would be taken soon.

I think this small snapshot of a councillor's life shows a few things.

First, the simple things we do as councillors can have a large impact on people's trust in local government. Rob told me that he was so impressed by the quick response of council that he would be telling all his friends about it. It's by these small actions and large that we can begin to rebuild the trust that so many of our citizens seem not to place in council.

Second, I have been impressed by the professionalism of council staff, and their hard-working ethos. I know everyone will have a story about being disappointed by council, but disappointments always speak louder than the everyday work that council staff put in to make our city a better place.

“Third, we have a serious issue in Bendigo regarding the tension between population growth and liveability. Apparently, we will grow to about 200,000 people by 2050, made up of infill development but also many new housing developments. We need to be asking whether that is an outcome we want, and whether we can implement the kind of measures needed to ensure our city remains a healthy place to live.

On a day to day level, I have really enjoyed the first few months of being a councillor. The everyday issues that people contact me about may seem mundane from the outside - parking issues for their business, safety of road crossings, noise issues, pool opening hours, an idea they have for their local area. But these small things, along with the larger things, are what makes a neighbourhood tick. It's a privilege to try to help get a good outcome.

In particular, I have really enjoyed the listening posts Ward councillors have conducted - they are invaluable for allowing ordinary people to talk about what is important to them. I also look forward to our ward meetings this year which will allow people to come together for deliberative discussion and decision making on the issues that concern their area.

As a big picture thinker, I have relished getting my teeth into council strategies, and to putting my mind to future plans and priorities:

- for the Peter Krenz Leisure Centre development*
- for a comprehensive walking and cycling network around Bendigo*
- for giving local people a voice through community plans in places like Long Gully and smaller towns*
- for a wide-ranging vision for how we work with young people in our city*
- the necessity to keep our eyes open when it comes to the real poverty in our city.*
- for the difficult and thorny issue of swimming pools across the municipality.*
-

I must also thank my fellow councillors for the way in which we have melded together as a group so far. The more experienced ones among you have been so generous with your advice and guidance, which has made my landing into council very smooth. I hope our current ability to work together continues into the future despite the inevitable disagreements that will come.

Lastly, I want to keep encouraging all my fellow citizens to positively contribute to our civic life in whatever way you can. Join a local club or committee, object to a planning application, come to councillors with a great idea for your local area, call up a councillor to ask us to explain a decision we've made. It's only by contributing in small and large ways that we will make our neighbourhoods and our city as a whole a better place for all of us.

Thankyou”.

11. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

The procedure for declaring a conflict of interest at a Council Meeting is set out at rule 18.2.4 of the Governance Rules.

Section 126 of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** or a **material conflict of interest**.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an *affected person* would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

Nil

12. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

12.1. Confirmation of Minutes

Purpose

The following items were considered at the Council Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2020 at 6.00pm:

Summary

Monday 14 December 2020

Report No.	Item	Recommendation
14.1	Planning Scheme Amendment C243 - Implement the Heathcote Flood Study 2016 - Consider Panel Report and Adoption of Amendment	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept the Independent Panel's recommendations except recommendation No.3. 2. Adopt Amendment C243 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme with the minor changes to the mapping of the Urban Floodway Zone and to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. 3. Forward the adopted amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval, together with the prescribed information pursuant to Section 31(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
14.2	24 Cannon Lane, Kangaroo Flat - 2 Lot Subdivision of Land	Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for 2 lot subdivision of land at 24 Cannon Lane, KANGAROO FLAT 3555 subject to the conditions at the end of this report.
14.3	38 Hicks Lane, Ladys Pass 3523 - Use and Development of The Land for A Place of Worship, Including Storage, Offices, And Associated Works	Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for the use and development of the land for a place of worship, including storage, offices, and associated works at 38 Hicks Lane, LADYS PASS 3523 on the following grounds: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal is incompatible with adjoining and nearby uses and will have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of surrounding residents through generation of noise and disturbance. 2. The proposal cannot satisfy the purpose and decision guidelines of the Rural Living Zone or the decision guidelines of Clause 65.

Report No.	Item	Recommendation
14.4	37 Barrell Street, California Gully 3556 - Construction Of 5 Dwellings, Associated Outbuildings, And Alterations to A Vehicle Cross-Over	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for the Construction of 5 Dwellings, Associated Outbuildings and Alterations to a Vehicle Cross-over at 37 Barrell Street, CALIFORNIA GULLY 3556 subject to the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The removal of the existing vegetation caused by the proposed development will have an adverse impact on neighbourhood character within the Eaglehawk Residential Character Precinct 7. 2. The proposal fails to respect the landscape character of the neighbourhood, pursuant to Clause 55.03-8 Landscaping objectives, for the following reasons: The removal of the existing vegetation represents a loss of a predominant landscape feature, and a loss of existing habitat. 3. The proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site.
14.5	50 Arnold Street, Bendigo 3550 - Demolition of Outbuildings, Removal of Trees, 3 lot Subdivision, and Construction of 2 Dwellings, Fencing and a Carport	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit for demolition of outbuildings, 3 lot subdivision, and construction of 2 dwellings, fencing and a carport at 50 Arnold Street, BENDIGO 3550 on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bulk, form, rhythm and appearance of the proposed development will have an adverse impact on neighbourhood character within Central Bendigo – Precinct 1. 2. The proposal represents an unacceptable response to ResCode as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bulk and massing of the proposed development does not comply with Clause 55.04 (Standards B17 and B18), with unreasonable impacts on the rhythm of development in the street, neighbourhood character and onsite amenity for future residents. • The proposal does not meet the objectives for private open space as indicated under Clause 55.05-4, with unreasonable impacts to onsite amenity for future residents. 3. The proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site.

Report No.	Item	Recommendation
14.6	46A Nolan Street, North Bendigo 3550 - Construction of Two Dwellings on One Lot	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for the construction of two dwellings on one lot at 46A Nolan Street, North Bendigo 3550 subject to the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal is inconsistent with existing neighbourhood character by reason of the siting and visual bulk of the development, and will be contrary to the objectives of Precinct 6 of the North Bendigo Residential Character Policy at Clause 22.20 of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. 2. The proposal is inconsistent with the Neighbourhood Character objectives contained at Clause 55.02-1 of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, and does not appropriately respect the existing and preferred neighbourhood character of the area. 3. The proposed development does not constitute an orderly planning outcome for the area pursuant to Clause 65 of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.
14.7	CA 9 Sec 3 - 170 Bradford Road, Shelbourne - Use and development of the land for a dwelling and outbuilding	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for the use and development of the land for a dwelling and outbuilding at CA 9 Sec 3 - 170 Bradford Road, Shelbourne, 3515 on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal is inconsistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Causing the fragmentation of agricultural land; and b. Encouraging the proliferation of dwellings in the rural landscape. 2. The proposal is inconsistent with local planning policy (Clause 22.02) regarding the use of unplanned lots for rural residential purposes.
14.8	175-177 & 179 Midland Highway, Epsom 3551 - Use and Development of a Convenience Restaurant, Including Display Signage, Associated Works, And the Creation/Alteration of Access to	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for use and development of land for a convenience restaurant, display signage, associated works, and the creation/alteration of access to a road in a Road Zone - Category 1 at 175-177 & 179</p>

Report No.	Item	Recommendation
	A Road in A Road Zone - Category 1	Midland Highway, EPSOM 3551 subject to the conditions at the end of this report.
15.1	Municipal Baths Redevelopment - Concept Design	That the Municipal Baths Redevelopment concept design be adopted by Council and design development commence.
15.2	Public Space Advisory Committee Appointment	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint the recommended candidates, as listed in this report, to the Public Space Advisory Committee for a 3-year term; 2. Adopt the amended Public Space Advisory Committee Terms of Reference; and 3. Write to all applicants thanking them for submitting an expression of interest and informing them of the outcome.
16.1	Bendigo Airport Lease of Lot IX23 and Lot O7	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acting under section 190 and section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Resolve that the statutory procedures be commenced to consider a proposal to lease the land comprising approximately 440 square metres of land, being part of the land in certificate of Title Part Lot 3 PS 422204F, Volume 10557, Folio 954, known as Lot IX23 at the Bendigo Airport situated on 35 Victa Road, East Bendigo, (Land) for the purposes of an airport hangar (Lease Proposal); b. Resolve that the statutory procedures be commenced to consider a proposal to lease the land comprising approximately 216 square metres of land, being part of the land in certificate of Title Part Lot 3 PS 422204F, Volume 10557, Folio 954, known as Lot O7 at the Bendigo Airport situated on 35 Victa Road, East Bendigo, (Land) for the purposes of an airport hangar (Lease Proposal); c. Directs that under section 223 of the Act public notice of the Lease Proposal be given in the Bendigo Advertiser and on Council's website; d. Authorises the Manager Business Services to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Act in relation to the Lease Proposal; e. Directs that any submissions received under section 223 of the Act about the Lease Proposal will be considered by the Council at its February

Report No.	Item	Recommendation
		ordinary meeting to be held at the Bendigo Town Hall; 2. Directs that a further report to Council in respect of the Lease Proposal include an assessment of all submissions received and of any submissions heard pursuant to section 223 of the Act.
19.1	Community Plan 2017-2021 - Q1 Annual Plan Quarterly Summary Report	That Council acknowledge the progress of implementing Annual Plan initiatives for 2020/2021, and receive the Annual Plan quarterly summary report.
19.2	Appointment of Representatives on Council and Community Committees	That Council endorse the appointments to the Council and community committees as outlined in the report, effective from December 15, 2020.
19.3	Quarter 1 Finance and Capital Management Report	That Council receive the report comparing budgeted and actual revenues and expenses to 30 September 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.
19.4	Council Meeting Dates 2020/2021 Mayoral Term	That the Council Meeting dates for January 2021 through to November 2021, as detailed in this report be confirmed and advertised.
19.5	Contracts Awarded Under Delegation	That the contracts awarded under delegation, as outlined in this report, be acknowledged by Council.
25.1	Section 66 Confidential Report	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 14 December, 2020, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Andrea Metcalf

Seconded: Cr Greg Penna

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

13. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

14. PRESENTATION AND MANAGING GROWTH

14.1. 128 Victoria Street Eaglehawk

Author	Adele Hayes, Planner
Responsible Director	Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth

Summary/Purpose

Application details: Use of the land for a retail premises (sale, hire and associated storage of motor vehicles, trailers, machinery, portable buildings and shipping containers) and industry (construction and refurbishment of portable buildings); construction of a fence; display signage; and car parking to the satisfaction of the responsible authority
Application No: DI/451/2019
Applicant: Spiire Australia Pty Ltd
Land: 128 Victoria Street, EAGLEHAWK 3556
Zoning: Industrial 3 Zone, Road Zone 2
Overlays: Design and Development Overlay 15, Environmental Audit Overlay
No. of objections: 23
Consultation meeting: 6 March 2020 attended by the applicant, landowner, objectors and Councillors
Key considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the proposal is consistent with the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. • Whether the proposal would result in unreasonable amenity impacts. • Whether the traffic, parking and access arrangements are appropriate. • Whether the signage is consistent with planning scheme policy. • Objector concerns.
Conclusion: The proposal is an acceptable outcome with regards to the relevant Planning Scheme provisions and is recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for the Use of the land of the land for a retail premises (sale, hire and associated storage of motor vehicles, trailers, machinery, portable buildings and shipping containers) and industry (construction and refurbishment of portable buildings); construction of a fence; display signage; and car parking to the satisfaction of the responsible authority at 128 Victoria Street, Eaglehawk 3556 subject to the conditions at the end of this report.

MOTION

Moved: Cr David Fagg

Seconded: Cr Andrea Metcalf

That:

- A. Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for the use of the land for a retail premises (sale, hire and associated storage of motor vehicles, trailers, machinery, portable buildings and shipping containers), warehouse, and industry (construction and refurbishment of portable buildings); construction of a fence; display signage; and car parking to the satisfaction of the responsible authority at 128 Victoria Street, EAGLEHAWK 3556 on the following ground:
1. The proposal is not consistent with the purpose of decision guidelines of the Industrial 3 Zone and would result in unreasonable visual amenity impacts on the surrounding area.
- B. If an application to review the decision of refusal is not lodged with the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) within 60 days of the refusal being issued, the City is to commence enforcement action requiring cessation of the use.

CARRIED

Cr Metcalf called for a division on the voting for the motion.

Those voting in favour of the motion:

Cr Jennifer Alden (Mayor), Cr Matthew Evans, Cr David Fagg, Cr Andrea Metcalf, Cr Greg Penna, Cr Julie Sloan.

Those opposed to the motion:

Cr Rod Fyffe, Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Cr Vaughan Williams.

Policy Context

Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

- Goal 4 Presentation and managing growth
- Goal 6 Embracing our culture and heritage

Attachments

1. Planning Assessment Report

Attachment 1

PLANNING ASSESSMENT REPORT

Background Information

The application arose from a Planning compliance matter, with it being brought to the City's attention that the business was operating from the site without the required approvals in place. The application seeks retrospective planning approval for all aspects of the proposal.

24 objections were received prior to the application being lodged with the City, one of which was later withdrawn. The City made the determination at the time that these would be formally acknowledged as objections to a 'future application', despite there not being a planning permit application in the system at the time.

Following the advice of the City's Planning Compliance Officer, the application was lodged on 27 June 2019.

It is acknowledged that planning applications resulting from compliance issues are complex in nature and that the objector frustrations have been heightened by the fact that the business has continued to operate until such time as a decision is made.

Report

Subject Site and Surrounds

The site is irregular in shape with an area of 1.954 hectares and benefits from two street frontages with a northern frontage to Crowther Street of 39.98 metres and an eastern frontage to Victoria Street of 148.52 metres.



Figures 1 and 2: Photos of the subject site as viewed from Victoria Street



Figures 3 and 4: Photos of the subject site as viewed from Crowther Street



Figures 5 and 6: Photos of the site as viewed from Albert Roy Reserve.

The site contains a main building (approximately 1,871 square metres in size) which is located within the northern portion of the site fronting Victoria Street and contains offices, training rooms and a workshop. A small, freestanding shed (approx. 165 square metres in size) is located in the southern corner of the site.

A large sealed car park with 42 lined car parking spaces is located to the front of the building, with the remainder of the site vacant of permanent buildings having been utilised as external storage areas.

The site is relatively flat and is unsealed with the exception of the Victoria Street access, part of the internal driveway and the car parking area. Some vegetation surrounds the front of the building and car parking area. Access to/from the site is available via both Victoria Street and Crowther Street. A Colourbond and chain and wire security fence surrounds the boundary of the site.

The site is located within an isolated patch of land within the Industrial 3 Zone which is adjoined to the north by land located within the General Residential Zone. The site is adjoined by the following:

- North-east of the site is No. 126 Victoria Street which is a 944sqm (approximately) residential allotment containing a dwelling fronting Victoria Street and associated outbuildings.
- North-west of the site is Crowther Street (a local road), with a reserve area and residential development located further north.
- East of the site is Victoria Street, a Road Zone Category 2 Road (sub-arterial road). Further east is a mix of industrial and residential land use and development.
- South of the site is Albert Roy Recreation Reserve, a Council owned reserve containing baseball fields and a BMX track.
- West of the site is a largely vacant parcel of land, which is currently fenced off from the remainder of Albert Roy Recreation Reserve.

The broader surrounding area comprises of land located within both the General Residential Zone and Industrial 1 Zone. Industrial land is located on the eastern side of Victoria Street and to the west of Albert Roy Reserve.



Figure 7: Aerial map showing subject site



Figure 8: Location map showing subject site. Objectors' properties are marked with a star.

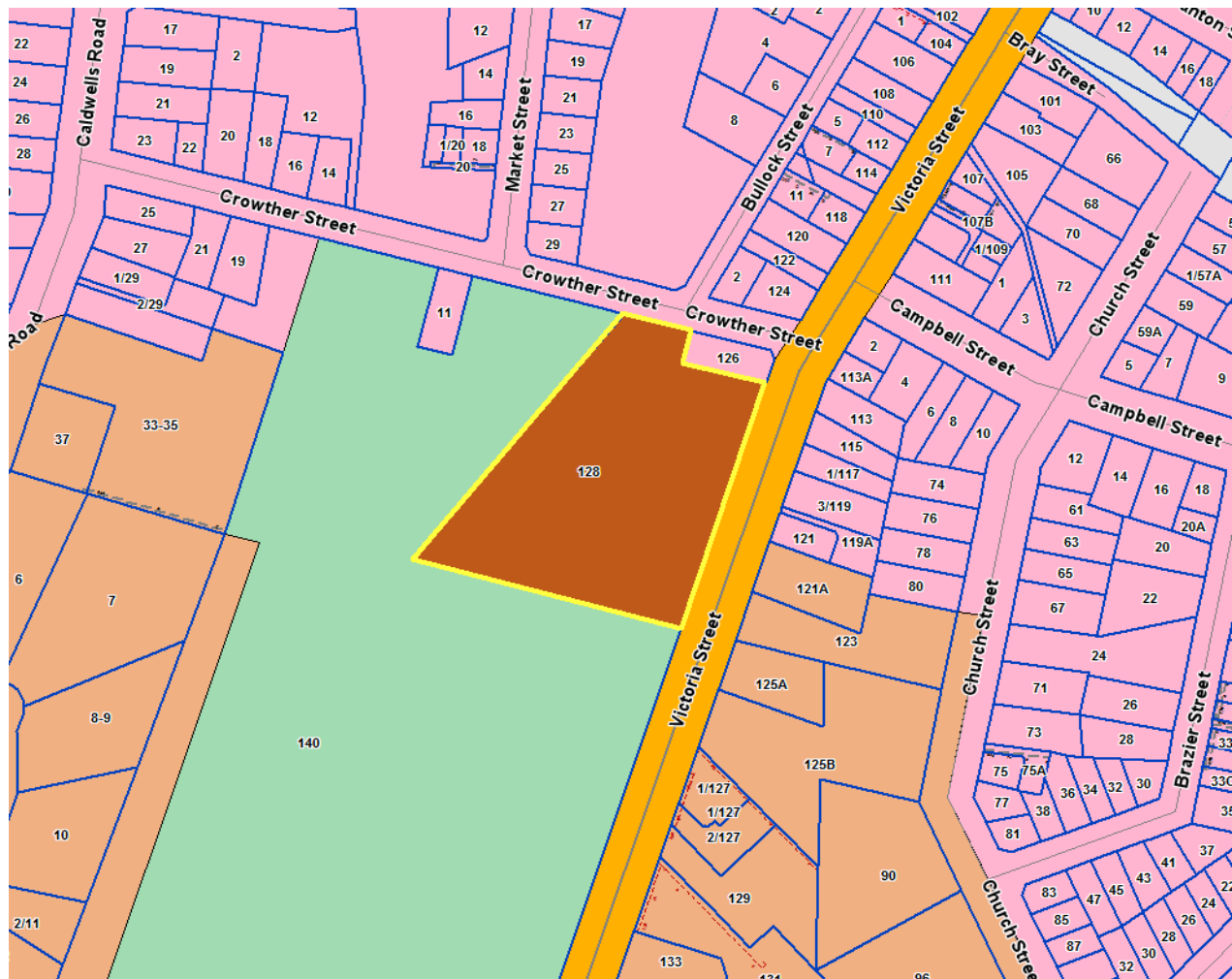


Figure 9: Zoning Map

Proposal

Use

The application proposes to retain and use the existing building on the site along with the external storage areas for the use of the land for a retail premises (sale, hire and associated storage of motor vehicles, trailers, machinery, portable buildings and shipping containers) and industry (construction and refurbishment of portable buildings) as follows:

- Retail premises (motor vehicle, trailer, portable building and shipping container sales) – sale or hire of shipping containers. These will be stored on the site.
- Industry – construction of portable buildings within the existing joinery/steel fabrication workshop:
 - New portable site cabins/offices are assembled on site from components manufactured offsite (i.e. the chassis, cabinetry etc. are made offsite and only the walls and roof are constructed onsite. The cabins are assembled within the workshop.
 - Used site cabins/offices that are leased to construction companies and builders and refurbished on site before being sent out again. This involves general maintenance i.e. painting and replacing or repairing any damage.

The primary trailer and shipping container storage area is located in the southern portion of the site. It is also proposed to utilise land along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site along with land to the rear of the main building for the storage of shipping containers, and a portion of land to the rear of the workshop for the storage of portable buildings. Shipping containers would often be stacked, with the maximum height being 3 containers (7.77 metres).

Vehicle access is proposed from both Victoria Street and Crowther Street. It is proposed that no trucks will enter the site via Crowther Street.

The use is proposed to operate Monday to Friday – 9.00am to 5.00pm with a total of 8 staff. Although 'walk in' customer access is available, the nature of the business is such that customer visitation to the property is typically by appointment.

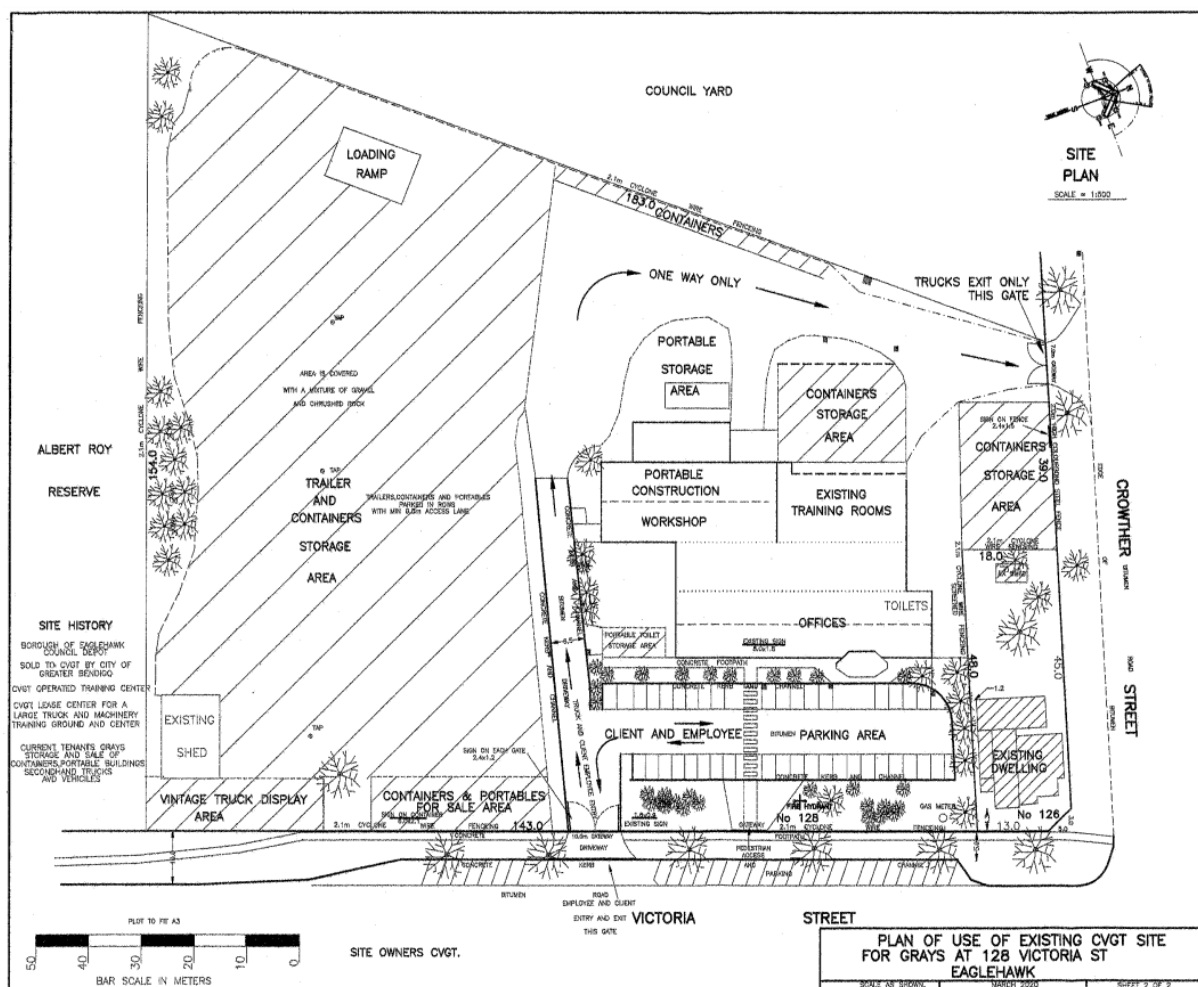


Figure 10: Proposed Layout Plan

Signage

The application proposes to display 3 business identification signs as follows:

- A 2.9sqm (2.4m x 1.2m) business identification sign will be located on the Victoria Street entrance gates.

- A 3.6sqm (2.4m x 1.5m) business identification sign will be located on the inside of the perimeter fence facing Crowther Street.
- A 12.6sqm (6m x 2.1m) business identification sign will be located on a shipping container inside the perimeter fence, facing Victoria Street.

Car parking to the satisfaction of the responsible authority

The application proposes to provide 42 car spaces available for staff and customer parking.

Planning Controls - Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme

The following clauses are relevant in the consideration of this proposal:

Planning Policy Framework

- Clause 11 Settlement
- Clause 11.01-1R Settlement – Loddon Mallee South
- Clause 13.05-1S Noise abatement
- Clause 13.06-1S Air quality management
- Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility
- Clause 17.01-1S Diversified economy
- Clause 17.02-1S Business
- Clause 17.03-1S Industrial land supply
- Clause 17.03-2S Industrial development siting

Municipal Strategic Statement

- Clause 21.02 Key Issues and Influences
- Clause 21.05 Compact Greater Bendigo
- Clause 21.07 Economic Development

Local Planning Policies

- Clause 22.05 Industrial Policy
- Clause 22.29 Advertising and signage policy

Other Provisions

- Clause 33.03 Industrial 3 Zone
- Clause 52.05 Signs
- Clause 52.06 Car Parking
- Clause 53.07 Shipping container storage
- Clause 65 Decision Guidelines
- Clause 71.02-3 Integrated decision-making

Consultation/Communication

Referrals

The following internal departments have been consulted on the proposal:

Referral	Comment
Traffic & Design	No objection subject to conditions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of Detailed Drainage Plans and the construction of underground drainage works.
Drainage	No objection subject to conditions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring pedestrian sight lines • Sealing of the Crowther Street accessway • All vehicles must enter and exit the site in a forwards direction
Health	No objection.

Public Notification

The application was advertised by way of two notices on the site and letters to adjoining and nearby owners and occupiers.

Given the unique situation of this application and the acknowledgement that, given the objections were received prior to an application being made, there may have been misunderstandings in relation to what was being proposed, the advertising process was modified with notice also given to every person that had lodged an objection.

The grounds of the 24 objections are as follows:

- The land use requires planning approval.
- Not in accordance with the purposes of the Industrial 3 Zone.
- Not in accordance with the purposes of the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 15 and the Neighbourhood Character Overlay.
- Drainage.

It is noted that the 24 objections were those received prior to the application being lodged. No further objections were received as a result of the advertising period, however one objection was withdrawn.

The issues raised in the objections are discussed in the assessment below.

A consultation meeting was held on 6 March 2020 between the applicant, objectors and Ward Councillors.

Following the consultation meeting, the application material was amended as follows:

- The construction of a colorbond fence along the Crowther Street boundary.
- Prime movers will no longer be displayed within the existing car park at the front of the office.

The amended plans were circulated to all objectors.

Planning Assessment

Whether the proposal is consistent with the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme

Clause 71.02-3 Integrated decision making recognises that society has various needs and expectations, and states that planning aims to meet these needs and expectations by addressing aspects of economic, environmental and social wellbeing affected by land use and development. It goes on to state that:

“Planning and responsible authorities should endeavour to integrate the range of planning policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations”.

It is evident that the proposal presents a conflict between supporting industrial land use and business, and protecting residential amenity. As such, the outcome of this assessment must be to seek to strike a balance between the competing policy objectives.

There is clear policy support for the proposal with regards to the need to support industrial and commercial growth and economic development as recognised in Clauses 17.01-1S (Diversified economy), 17.02-1S (Business), 21.02 (Key issues and influences), 21.07 (Economic development) and Clause 22.05 (Industrial policy) of the Planning Scheme.

Clause 21.07 (Economic growth) recognises that supporting new industries and economic growth is fundamental to the economic prosperity of Bendigo. This clause has a number of objectives including to facilitate a strong and diverse economy, and encourage diversification and expansion of the municipality's industrial base. The application seeks approval for Grays Bendigo Pty. Ltd. to utilise the previously unoccupied industrial site and existing infrastructure for commercial and industrial land uses.

Both the Municipal Strategic Statement and Clause 22.05 recognise the important role that the industrial sector plays in the Greater Bendigo economy, with industrial development remaining one of the strongest generators of economic growth and employment in the municipality. Clause 22.05 outlines a number of objectives in favour of the proposal relating to facilitating economic development, however this should not be achieved at the expense of unreasonable built environment or amenity outcomes. The potential amenity impacts are discussed later in this assessment.

Planning policy through clauses 11 (Settlement) 13.05-1S (Noise abatement), 13.06-1S (Air quality management) and 13.07-1S (Land use compatibility) requires consideration to be given to preventing environmental and amenity problems created by siting incompatible land uses close together and potential amenity impacts such as noise and airborne emissions. Strategies to alleviate or manage such potential impacts include using a range of building design and operational measures, and ensuring compliance with the relevant guidelines.

In this instance, consideration should also be given to the previous use of the land. The site has a long history of light industrial land use dating back to approximately 1975, having most recently been used and developed for a Trade Training Facility by Central Victorian Group Training (CVGT) and Radius Disability Group. The training facility included a construction industry and driver training (truck/earthmoving machinery) facility, a steel manufacturing workshop and a joinery workshop. Prior to this the site was the former Borough of Eaglehawk Council Depot.

The site is located within the Industrial 3 Zone which includes relevant purposes to:

- *Implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework;*
- *Provide for industries and associated uses in specific areas where special consideration of the nature and impacts of industrial uses is required or to avoid inter-industry conflict; and*
- *Ensure that uses do not affect the safety and amenity of adjacent, more sensitive land uses.*

Given the policy support from a broader planning policy perspective, attention should be drawn to the specifics of this proposal and whether the proposal is acceptable having regard to the site context and the applicable planning controls and policies. In this instance, consideration must be given to potential amenity impacts, traffic, parking and access arrangements, and the concerns raised by objectors.

Whether the proposal would result in unreasonable amenity impacts.

Concerns were raised by objectors with regards to amenity impacts of the proposal on the surrounding residential area.

Clause 13.07-1S (Land use compatibility) seeks to safeguard community amenity while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial or other uses with potential off-site effects. The City's Industrial Policy through Clause 22.05 seeks to ensure that appropriate levels of amenity are provided by new and existing industries and the decision guidelines of the Industrial 3 Zone also require consideration to be given to the effects of land uses on residential areas and the interface with non-industrial areas.

The Industrial 3 Zone, by reference to its purposes, is intended to be used as a buffer between the Industrial 1 and 2 Zones and local communities by allowing compatible industrial and associated uses, and to seek to avoid inter-industry conflict.

The Industrial 3 Zone includes an automatic requirement throughout the zone, substantially in the form of a general amenity condition. Clause 33.03-2 of the Industrial 3 Zone specifically states that a use must not adversely affect the amenity of the neighbourhood, including through the:

- *Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land.*
- *Appearance of any stored goods or materials.*
- *Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, odour, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil.*

This consideration is somewhat complexified by the widely accepted principle that one must accept a varied level of amenity in a residential area adjoining the Industrial 3 Zone, to that which could be expected in the heart of a residential area.

The site is located in a 'transitional area', with other industrial and commercial land use and development occurring to the south-east and south-west, compared to the established residential area to the north. Consideration must be given to the industrial/residential interface that is present.

As such, the desired outcome in this instance is to strike a balance between allowing the use of the land for industry to occur, within reasonable parameters, without unnecessarily compromising the amenity of adjoining residences.

The primary potential amenity impacts resulting from the proposal are considered to be noise, dust, appearance of the site and traffic, some of which were concerns raised by the objectors.

Noise

Concerns were raised by objectors in relation to noise.

Clause 13.05-1S (Noise abatement) seeks to assist the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses. Possible noise sources relating to the proposal include the industry component (construction and refurbishment of portable buildings), air compressor, movement of vehicles (trucks and forklifts) and loading of vehicles.

The applicant was required to provide a Noise Assessment in order to demonstrate compliance with the relevant noise policies being *Noise from Industry in Regional Victoria* (major urban centres) (which follow State Environment Protection Policy – Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade No. N-1 procedures). These policies are put in place to manage the impacts of noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises on residential and other noise-sensitive users, and sets out parameters for what is considered acceptable noise levels.

The Noise Assessment demonstrates compliance with SEPP N-1 and NIRV, having found that noise levels received at the nearby noise sensitive areas were calculated as being compliant at all periods of the day.

Based on the above, the proposal is in general accordance with the relevant policy and will not result in any unreasonable amenity impacts, subject to the ongoing compliance with permit conditions. The inclusion of an hours of operation condition on the permit will ensure that there are no noise related impacts outside of the hours of Monday to Friday – 9.00am to 5.00pm

Dust

Clause 13.06-1S (Air quality management) seeks to assist the protection and improvement of air quality, as air pollution may impact on health and wellbeing and the environment.

Whilst dust and dirt does not appear to be an issue at present and has not been raised by objectors, consideration must be given to an appropriate way in which to manage any potential future impacts.

It is considered that any potential impacts can be mitigated through the construction of the fence along the Crowther Street boundary, the sealing of the Crowther Street accessway and the provision of a Management Plan for the use, which will be requested via a permit condition.

Appearance/visual amenity

Given the residential interface of the site, consideration must be given to the visual appearance of the site. Before giving consideration to the visual amenity impacts, it is important to firstly clarify the scope of consideration.

Clause 22.05 seeks to improve the image and quality of all industrial areas within the municipality and the decision guidelines of the Industrial 3 Zone state that the responsible authority must consider the interface with non-industrial areas and landscape treatment.

The Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 15 is a site specific planning control which was created with objectives to “*promote development of a scale that respects the scale of surrounding development; ensure development provides an attractive interface to Victoria Street, the Albert Roy Recreation Reserve and residential areas; and to protect the adjoining Albert Roy Recreation Reserve by incorporating a landscape buffer on the southern boundary*”. Planning approval is only required under this Overlay for the construction of a fence and to display a sign, and as such the objectives of this policy are limited to those aspects of the proposal.

Given that the proposal seeks to utilise the existing buildings on the site with no further development proposed, opportunities to improve the visual appearance of the site are confined to the storage of materials, boundary treatments and landscaping.

The external storage of materials, primarily the shipping containers, was a concern raised by the objectors. Consideration must be given to what is considered to be a fair and reasonable outcome.

Clause 53.07 of the Planning Scheme specifically applies to land used for shipping container storage. It is evident that this policy was intended to deal with such a situation where multiple shipping containers are being stacked on top of each other. The decision guidelines of this clause require consideration to be given to the context of the site and surrounding area; the location, height and setback of shipping container stacks, particularly near road boundaries, and the need for landscaping and fencing to screen or soften the appearance of shipping container storage areas, particularly near road boundaries.

Giving consideration to the surrounding context and the nature of the land use (being that the goods are for sale) it is considered reasonable for goods to be displayed along the Victoria Street frontage as shown on the application plans.

Crowther Street and the shared boundary with 126 Victoria Street are considered to be the most sensitive interfaces. The site also adjoins public open space to the south and west.

Whilst the application proposes for shipping containers, portables, trucks and trailers to be stored on the site, the primary concern is in relation to the appearance of the shipping containers.

From inspections of the site on a number of occasions, it is evident that the stacked shipping containers can be viewed from Crowther Street. However, it must be determined whether the appearance goes beyond being merely visible to becoming unreasonably visually dominant.

It is also evident that the location of the shipping containers in proximity to the property boundaries and the stacking of the containers are both factors which are contributing to the visibility and dominance.

The *City of Greater Bendigo - Good Design Guide for Industry* states that “*storage areas should be at the rear of buildings, and that where outdoor storage areas would be visible from adjacent roads, properties or public open space, they must be screened from view*”. Given the layout of the site and the extent of visibility from Victoria Street, Crowther Street and Albert Roy Reserve, it is not possible to achieve such an outcome.

Whilst the external storage of materials on an industrial site can be expected, given the context of the surrounding area and the opportunities for materials to be stored elsewhere on the site, it is considered that the stacking of shipping containers along the property boundaries is not appropriate and does result in unreasonable visual bulk.

Following the consultation meeting and in response to concerns raised regarding the appearance of the site as viewed from Crowther Street, the applicant amended the application to include the construction of a 2m high colourbond fence along the Crowther Street boundary. A site visit has confirmed that this fence has already been constructed. This goes some way in reducing the visibility of material storage areas from Crowther Street and improving the overall appearance of the site within the streetscape.

A solid fence along the southern and western boundaries of the site is not a desirable planning outcome as the DDO15 states that “*fences along the western and southern lot boundaries should be transparent and of a dark colour*”.

It is, however, acknowledged that there are reasonable opportunities for additional landscaping to enhance the appearance of the site in accordance with the *Good Design Guide for Industry*.

The *Good Design Guide for Industry* states that “*industrial sites must contain a landscaped buffer of at least 6 metres to any house in a residential zone in order to screen the activities on the site and that buildings are not to be constructed nor materials stored closer than 10 metres to any house on adjoining land*”.

Giving consideration to the above requirements, the following changes will be required via an amended plans condition:

- The ‘containers storage area’ to the west of 126 Victoria Street must be reduced in size to allow for a 6m wide landscaping strip and for no storage to be located within 10m of the shared boundary.
- Shipping containers stored along property boundaries must not be stacked.

- Provision of a Landscaping Plan which includes landscaping surrounding the property boundaries, adjoining the residential property at 128 Victoria Street and within the Crowther Street Road Reserve. These requirements have been developed in consultation with the City's Parks and Open Space team.

Turning to the relevant policy framework, the above changes achieve the following desired outcomes:

- Presenting a balance between supporting industrial land use and business, and protecting residential amenity.
- Reducing potential amenity impacts to an acceptable level, primarily through distancing the views from the adjoining and surrounding residential area.
- Enhancing the overall appearance of the site through landscaping.

Whether the traffic, parking and access arrangements are appropriate

With regard to car parking, car parking rates for the use of the land for industry are specified within the Planning Scheme, with car parking for a retail premises being to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. 42 car spaces are provided within the existing car park. Given that there are a total of 8 staff and visitors to the site would likely be by appointment only, the number of car spaces far exceeds the likely demand generated by the use.

The application material states that given the nature of the business, access to and from the site by large trucks is not continuous or significant. Concerns were raised with regards to the trucks entering/exiting the site from Crowther Street.

In response to these concerns, the applicant amended the application to restrict Crowther Street to an exit. 'No entry' signage will be placed on the Crowther Street gate. This will have the effect of reducing the number of truck movements through Crowther Street and ensure that during the infrequent times that more than one truck is to be loaded/unloaded at any one time, the trucks waiting will queue inside the property, avoiding the potential need to queue in Crowther Street. This is considered to be an acceptable outcome, noting that these access arrangements are also consistent with the prior planning approvals for the site.

The application was referred to the City's Traffic Engineers who have supported the proposal subject to conditions, with the most notable being requiring the Crowther Street crossover to be sealed.

Whether the signage is consistent with Planning Scheme policy

The proposed signage is generally in accordance with the relevant policy framework. The City's local advertising and signage policy (Clause 22.29) discourages the use of shipping containers as a structure for advertising signage, and as such a condition will be included on the permit requiring the sign to be relocated to the fence, or a stand alone supporting structure.

Objector concerns

The following concerns were raised by objectors, in addition to those discussed above.

Concerns were raised in regard to the drainage of the site, however as no specifics were provided it was unclear as to the particular area of concern. There are no wash bays proposed on site, with vehicles washed off site. It is understood that the City and the EPA have conducted an investigation into the inappropriate discharge of contaminants into the drainage system from within the general Victoria Street area. However, it is understood both the City and the EPA have concluded that this contaminated discharge did not originate from the land subject to this application. It is also noted the City's Drainage Engineers have indicated they have no concerns with the drainage within the property.

The objectors have stated the land is subject to the Neighbourhood Character Overlay which is incorrect. The subject land is not within the Neighbourhood Character Overlay and as such this Overlay is not relevant to this application.

Conclusion

It is evident that the proposal presents a conflict between supporting industrial land use and business and protecting residential amenity. However, as outlined above, the proposal is in general accordance with the relevant Planning Scheme provisions and as such it can be concluded that the proposal presents an appropriate balance between the competing policy objectives.

It is recommended that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit is issued, subject to conditions.

Options

Council, acting as the responsible authority for administering the Planning Scheme, may resolve to: grant a permit, grant a permit with conditions or refuse to grant a permit.

Attachments

- Objections

Proposed Notice of Decision Conditions

1. MODIFIED PLAN REQUIRED

Within 2 months of the date of this permit (or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the responsible authority), amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to responsible authority for approval. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:

- (a) The 'containers storage area' to the west of 126 Victoria Street must be reduced in size to allow for a 6m wide landscaping strip and for no storage to be located within 10m of the shared boundary.

- (b) The Crowther Street accessway to be sealed in accordance with the requirements of Condition 8.
- (c) The sign on the shipping container fronting Victoria Street to be relocated to the fence or a stand alone structure.
- (d) Zoning areas on the plans to indicate that shipping containers stored along property boundaries must not be stacked (i.e. can only be one container high).
- (e) A Landscape Plan in accordance with the requirements of Condition 4.

Once the plans are approved, the required works/changes must be implemented within a 2 month period, or by such later date as is approved by the responsible authority in writing.

2. NO LAYOUT ALTERATION

The development permitted by this permit as shown on the endorsed plan(s) and/or described in the endorsed documents must not be altered or modified (for any reason) except with the prior written consent of the responsible authority.

3. SITE IMPACTS MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED

Within 2 months of the date of this permit (or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the responsible authority), a Site Impacts Management Plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must outline the management procedures to reduce amenity impacts, and must include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Details of the measures to be implemented in the event that dust particles are travelling beyond the site.
- (b) Management of vehicles entering and exiting the site (including that drivers must be informed that entry to the site via Crowther Street is prohibited).
- (c) Storage of chemicals or other potentially polluting materials.

4. LANDSCAPE PLAN REQUIRED

Within 2 months of the date of this permit (or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the responsible authority), a landscape plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plan must show:

- (a) A survey (*including botanical names*) of all existing vegetation to be retained and/or removed
- (b) Details of surface finishes of pathways and driveways
- (c) Details of the method in which the landscaping areas will be maintained and watered
- (d) Planting schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs and ground covers, including botanical names, common names, pot sizes, sizes at maturity, and quantities of each plant
- (e) A 6m wide (measured from the common boundary) landscaping strip to the west of 126 Victoria Street which includes plantings of an appropriate height to screen the activities on the site.
- (f) A minimum 3m wide landscaping strip along the southern and western boundaries of the proposed 'Trailer and Containers Storage Area' comprising primarily of taller native shrubs in order to improve the overall appearance of the site, and conceal the external storage areas.

- (g) An additional native canopy tree located between the two existing native trees in the Crowther Street Road Reserve.

All species selected must be to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

5. COMPLETION OF LANDSCAPING

Once the Landscape Plan is approved, the landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be completed within 2 months, or by such later date as is approved by the responsible authority in writing. The landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

6. LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE

The landscaping shown on the endorsed plans must be maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, *including that any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced.*

7. HOURS OF OPERATION

Except with the prior written consent of the responsible authority, the use permitted by this permit (including deliveries to/from the subject land) must operate only between the following times:

- Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

8. CAR PARK CONSTRUCTION

Within 2 months of the plans having been approved, or by such later date as is approved by the responsible authority in writing, the area(s) set aside for the parking of vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must be constructed to meet the following requirements and standards:

- (a) The exit driveway in Crowther Street between the property boundary and the edge of the sealed road must be constructed in accordance with the Infrastructure Design Manual SD 250.
- (b) Any vehicle crossing must be constructed in accordance with AS 4970: the protection of trees on development sites. A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) shall be established for the duration of any works in proximity to a Council tree. A TPZ is calculated by multiplying the diameter of the tree at 1.4m above ground level by 12. (i.e.: a tree with a diameter of 30cm will have a TPZ of 3.6m)". Any driveway within the TPZ requires approval from Council's Parks Department.
- (c) Vehicle crossings must be at 90° to the road and the property boundary.
- (d) All vehicles must enter and exit the site in a forwards direction.
- (e) Provided with appropriate signage for one-way traffic. eg. one way; no entry; left only.
- (f) Disabled persons parking bays where required by the BCA, must be provided in accordance with AS/NZ 2890.6-2009, section 2 and must be signed in accordance with AS/NZ 1742.11-1999 and linemarked in accordance with AS/NZ 2890.6-2009, section 3.

The car parking and access areas must comply with the requirements of clause 52.06 of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme and meet all other applicable Australian and New Zealand Standards unless otherwise agreed in writing with the responsible authority.

Car spaces, access lanes and driveways must be kept available for these purposes at all times.

9. PEDESTRIAN SIGHT LINES

The minimum sight line for pedestrian safety must be provided at the exit lane frontage so as to accord with Clause 52.06-9 of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

10. LOADING AND UNLOADING

The loading and unloading of goods from vehicles must only be carried out on the land and not within the road reserve.

11. DIRECTIONAL SIGN

Within 2 months of the date of this permit (or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the responsible authority, a sign to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be provided as follows:

- (a) Directing drivers that truck access from Crowther Street is prohibited.

The sign must be located and maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The sign must be in lettering that is clearly visible to road users. The area of each sign must not exceed 0.3 square metres.

12. NOISE CONTROL

- (a) Noise levels emanating from the premises must comply with the recommended levels as set out in the guidelines for Noise from Industry in Regional Victoria (major urban centres) (which follow State Environment Protection Policy – Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade No. N-1 procedures) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. In the event that the responsible authority has reasonable cause for concern that the business is not complying with the specified noise requirements, the responsible authority may request the operator to provide an Acoustic Report to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, in order to demonstrate that the business is operating within the specified noise limits. Such report is at the full expense of the operator/permit holder.
- (b) In such case that the Acoustic Report determines that the business is not operating within specified noise limits, the operator/permit holder must immediately implement the recommendations of the Acoustic Report and/or any instructions from the Responsible Authority to bring the operations into alignment with specified noise limits. Such changes may include (but not be limited to) changes to operating procedures, operating hours, or implementation of works such as fencing, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

13. BAFFLED LIGHTING

External lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

14. AMENITY OF THE LOCALITY

The use permitted by this permit must not, in the opinion of the responsible authority, adversely affect the amenity of the locality by reason of the processes carried on; the transportation of materials, goods or commodities to or from the subject land; the appearance of any buildings, works or materials; the emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, or oil; the presence of vermin, or otherwise.

15. EXPIRY OF PERMIT

This permit will expire if the development permitted by this permit is not completed and the use permitted by this permit is not commenced within 2 years from the date hereof or if the use is discontinued for a period of 2 years. The time within which the development must be completed and the use must commence may, on written request made before or within 12 months after the expiry of the permit, be extended by the responsible authority.

City of Greater Bendigo Engineering Note

A Works within Road Reserves permit must be obtained from the City of Greater Bendigo Engineering Department prior to any work commencing in the road reserve.

CONSENT FOR WORK ON ROAD RESERVES

The applicant must comply with:

- (a) The Road Management Act 2004,
- (b) Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) Regulations 2005, and
- (c) Road Management (General) Regulations 2005

with respect to any requirements to notify the Coordinating Authority and/or seek consent from the Coordinating Authority to undertake "works" (as defined in the Act) in, over or under the road reserve. The responsible authority in the inclusion of this condition on this planning permit is not deemed to have been notified of, or to have given consent, to undertake any works within the road reserve as proposed in this permit.

15. WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS

15.1. Sport and Active Recreation Grant Opportunities

Author	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Manager Active and Healthy Lifestyles
Responsible Director	Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing

Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement to submit a range of grant applications to Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Summary

Late November 2020 the State Government announced significant funding programs as part of the State budget. Since this time, funding programs have been released outlining the focus and funding criteria for these grants.

The former Community Sports Infrastructure program which has been available to Council for many years will not proceed in 2020/21 but there are a number of targeted funding programs available aimed at supporting community cricket, soccer, Australian Rules Football, female friendly facilities and infrastructure stimulus.

This report outlines a number of projects which most strongly meet the objectives of these programs, are sufficiently designed/costed to ensure successful delivery and have been supported by adequate stakeholder engagement.

It is proposed that applications are supported to:

- Upgrade the AFL lighting at Barrack Reserve, Heathcote;
- Upgrade the soccer lighting at Spring Gully;
- Upgrade the change rooms at White Hills Recreation Reserve; and
- Deliver Stage 2 of the Ewing Park Redevelopment.

The application for Ewing Park Redevelopment is part of the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program (CSISP) which is a selective grant program. Ewing Park Redevelopment was identified as a strong project by Sport and Recreation Victoria and invited to apply for funding. It is a mandatory requirement of the CSISP that a Council resolution is provided supporting the application for Ewing Park Redevelopment and confirming the necessary local contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse submitting grant applications for:
 - a. Barrack Reserve lighting upgrade;
 - b. Spring Gully Soccer lighting upgrade;
 - c. White Hills netball change room upgrade;
2. Submit an application to the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus package for Ewing Park Redevelopment – Stage 2;
3. Commit the necessary financial contribution from the City as part of the 2021-2022 Budget if the grants are successful;
4. Acknowledge the considerable contributions from the Spring Gully Soccer Club and Heathcote Football & Netball Club towards the projects and the importance of partnerships to deliver community infrastructure for the benefit of Clubs and the Bendigo Community; and
5. Retain as confidential items the Attachment to this report pursuant to Section 3 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020 as they contain business information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Andrea Metcalf

Seconded: Cr Rod Fyffe

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Policy Context

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal 1	Lead and govern for all
Objective 1.3	Be innovative and financial responsible
	Advocate on priority issues including public transport, regional development, planning for liveable communities and population growth
	Ensure value for investment on behalf of the community
	Actively seek more funding opportunities from Federal, State and private investors.

Goal 1	Lead and govern for all
Objective 1.4	Be accountable and efficient in its use of the community's money
	Allocate resources to meet needs that strengthen communities and improve the quality of people's lives
Goal 2	Wellbeing and Fairness
	Inclusive policies, partnerships and projects that increase access, improve health and learning opportunities, by building better connections and quality of life for all.
Objective 2.1	Create a much healthier Greater Bendigo.
	Implement the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
	Plan for fairer health outcomes.
Objective 2.2	Promote positive wellbeing across the Greater Bendigo community.
	Prioritise efforts to promote physical and mental wellbeing.
	Design settings and environments that can create better health outcomes.
Objective 2.3	Promote community connection
	Support the development and implementation of local community plans.
	Partner to encourage opportunities that enable community access and inclusion.
	Ensure there are facilities that allow people to come together for social and learning purposes and to have fun.
Goal 4	Presentation and Managing Growth
Objective 4.4	Keep Greater Bendigo attractive with good quality public facilities and places.
	Ensure open spaces are accessible and fit for purpose.

The project also aligns with the following:

Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021

Goal 3	Able to participate
Goal 5	Liveable

Background Information

These funding programs align with the City's commitment and recognition that strong, active and healthy communities need high-quality, accessible, well-designed and well-managed infrastructure to conduct sport and active recreation activities.

The City is currently delivering successfully funded projects including cricket nets at White Hills Recreation Reserve, redevelopment of Club Court change rooms to be female friendly, lighting at Strauch Reserve Huntly, a regional cricket training facility, new bowling green at Kangaroo Flat, and Kennington Recreation Reserve Pavilion. This is in addition to other recently completed projects including Dower Park tennis/netball courts, Dower Park cricket nets, QEO netball change rooms, Bendigo Athletics lighting, Eaglehawk lighting and scoreboard, Harry Trott scoreboard and Garden Gully Regional Hockey Complex redevelopment.

The City previously applied for funding as part of the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Package in June 2020. These applications were supported by a Council resolution at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 July 2020 (p.62). The projects submitted were Ewing Park – Stage 2, Catherine McAuley College - Stage 2 and Ken Wust Pavilion. These applications were not successful.

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/20200715%20Council%20Minutes%2015%20July%202020.pdf>

Acknowledging the ability of the sector to deliver capital investment stimulus into the economy, the Victorian Government recently announced a further investment of \$110M for Round 2 of this program. 65 selected projects which were not funded in Round 1 will be invited to submit applications for this funding program. Ewing Park is one of the 65 projects invited to resubmit an application to Sport & Recreation Victoria but is not guaranteed to be funded.

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 20 September 2020, Council resolved to support the partial closure of Havlin Street West in order to facilitate redevelopment and expansion of Ewing Park (p161) in accordance with the development plan.

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Council%20Minutes%2016%20September%202020.pdf>

Report

The City regularly seeks opportunities to partner with the community and other levels of government in order to deliver infrastructure and services which meet the needs of the community. Over recent years the City has been working collaboratively with clubs to prepare projects for delivery and as a result, upon announcement of funding opportunities from the Victorian Government, there are a number of projects which are shovel ready and strongly align with the objectives of the funding programs.

It is proposed that applications are supported to:

- Upgrade the AFL lighting at Barrack Reserve, Heathcote;
- Upgrade the soccer lighting at Spring Gully;
- Upgrade the change rooms at White Hills Recreation Reserve; and
- Deliver Stage 2 of the Ewing Park Redevelopment.

It is also proposed that no application be submitted to the Community Cricket Program.

Barrack Reserve Oval Lighting

The City has been progressively upgrading the recreation reserve at Barrack Reserve, Heathcote in accordance with the site master plan. Upgrades completed over the past decade have included bituminising of the car park, behind goal safety netting, new netball court, renewed/expended pavilion, new scoreboard, new cricket training nets, new player benches and an upgraded play space.

The lighting system is beyond its useful asset life and parts are difficult to obtain due to old technologies being utilised, as a result blackouts occur at this site and replacement parts can take a number of months to procure. Over the past 2 seasons the Club has experienced blackouts or safety concerns resulting in training relocating to Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve which is approximately 50 minutes travel time by car from Heathcote. This project is a priority for the City to upgrade in order to sustain and grow participation, particularly at a junior level. The Club has a significant financial contribution toward the project which is designed by the City, has been referred to the 2021/22 budget and is shovel ready for construction.

Upgrade of Soccer Lighting at Spring Gully (Stanley Avenue)

Spring Gully Soccer Club is the largest soccer club in Greater Bendigo with over 530 registered participants (pre-COVID). The club utilises both Stanley Avenue and Spring Gully oval for training and matches. In recent years the City has installed female friendly facilities at Stanley Avenue and a mini roos/training synthetic pitch to support participation.

Of the two natural turf soccer pitches, only 1 and a half pitches are lit. This lighting arrangement is not compliant with Australian Standards or State Sporting Association (SSA) guidelines and creates wear pattern issues for the City's sports field maintenance team due to the limited lighting areas and the tendency for clubs to focus training on the fully lit main pitch.

This project will renew and expand the lighting on the second pitch creating additional training space and bringing this facility up to compliance with standards. The Club has fundraised a significant contribution toward this project as detailed in attachment 1.

White Hills Recreation Reserve Change Room Upgrade

The City is currently finalising designs to upgrade the AFL, umpires and netball change rooms at White Hills to meet current SSA standards for those sports and provide female friendly facilities. This project involves renovation, new fit-out and expansion of some areas to meet the guidelines and ensure fairness/equity of access to appropriate facilities.

White Hills Football & Netball Club and White Hills Junior Football Club provides opportunities for AFL participation in Auskick, under 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, Reserves and Seniors. The club has female teams from under 12's onwards and netball competes in grades Primary, 15, 17, B Reserve, B, A Reserve and A grades. The Club also has strong cricket participation from junior level and this project will meet SSA standards for cricket.

The population of White Hills continues to experience significant growth which is supported by the continued growth of sports participation at this reserve.

Redevelopment of Ewing Park – Stage 2

The City applied for funding as part of the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Package in June 2020. These applications were supported by a Council resolution at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 July 2020 (p.62). The projects supported were Ewing Park – Stage 2, Catherine McAuley College - Stage 2 and Ken Wust Pavilion. These applications were not successful in being funded as part of that program.

Acknowledging the success of this funding program in delivering capital investment stimulus into the economy, the Victorian Government recently announced a further investment of \$110M for Round 2 of this program. 65 selected projects which were not funded in Round 1 have been invited to submit applications for this funding program. Ewing Park is one of the 65 projects invited to resubmit an application to Sport & Recreation Victoria but is not guaranteed to be funded.

It is a mandatory requirement of this funding program that a new Council resolution is obtained endorsing applications to this funding program and allocating the necessary Council resources. Officers are seeking Council to reaffirm part of the resolution of 15 July 2020 supporting an application for Ewing Park.

Cricket Training Nets at Mandurang Recreation Reserve

The Victorian Government has announced the Community Cricket Program which closes on 1 February 2021. The City does not have any projects on Council owned or managed land which are adequately planned, designed or costed ready for an application to this program. Priority projects located on Council owned/managed land and planned for consideration in future years include Golden Square Recreation Reserve and Maiden Gully, however these projects are unable to be sufficiently progressed prior to the application closing date.

Mandurang Cricket Club has requested that the City support their project to build new cricket training nets. The club has indicated it has 160 club members with 110 active players. The playing group is made up of 50 juniors, 10 females and 100 male participants. The club is targeting growth in all participation areas with a key focus on female participation to field a future Bendigo and District Cricket Association junior female team in the 2021/22 season.

The existing 3 lane cricket training nets are in poor condition, are unsafe and do not meet Cricket Australia Facility Guideline requirements for local club infrastructure service levels. If this was a Council asset and on Council managed land this particular asset would be addressed through Councils asset renewal program and scheduled for renewal accordingly, however this infrastructure is not owned by the City or on land controlled by the City and as such, there is no Council funding identified to support the project from either the renewal or new capital budget areas. The amount requested of Council is included within the confidential attachment to this report.

The club has a significant contribution available for the project, designs have been prepared by the club and reviewed by the City's infrastructure team and quotes have been obtained. To deliver this project, this State Government grant of \$100,000 is being sought by the Club and the City is being requested to contribute funding (refer to confidential attachment 1).

Given that the Council funding requirement is not available, it is recommended that the club put in a submission to the 2021 – 2022 budget process to be considered alongside all other budget requests and if successful, that Council apply to SRV next year.

Priority/Importance:

As the population of Bendigo continues to grow so does the demand for sporting and community facilities throughout the City with additional pressure in growth areas. The City needs to plan for this demand and invest in infrastructure to support participation and access to community facilities.

Options/Alternatives

1. Endorse all applications as proposed;
2. Decline this opportunity and seek no grants from these programs;
3. Endorse applications only where guidelines are available, and applications are clearly aligned with the funding program purpose. This option would support Mandurang Recreation Reserve cricket training nets, Spring Gully Soccer Club lighting upgrade and applications to the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program – Round 2, and it would exclude applications for White Hills changeroom upgrade and Barrack Reserve lighting upgrade;
4. Endorse alternative projects as selected by Council. It should be noted that the strength of applications and ability of staff to deliver these projects may be impacted if this option is selected;
5. Council may choose to include the Mandurang Cricket Club project and reprioritise other projects as part of developing the 2021/2022 budget.

Timelines:

As a result of COVID-19 the State budget was released late (23 November) and these funding programs are to be rolled out by 30 June 2021. The consequence of this is a condensed funding timeline which places pressure on the City to prepare projects, write grant applications and obtain Council endorsement.

- The Community Cricket Program closes on the 1 February 2021
- The World Game Facilities Fund (soccer) closes 19 February 2021.
- The Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program – Round 2 closes 2 March 2021.
- The Female Friendly Facilities, Indoor Stadiums, Community Club lighting, Seniors Community Sports Infrastructure program guidelines are to be released early February and grants will close at the end of March (date not yet available).
- The Country Football and Netball Program guidelines are expected to be released late April and applications close late June 2021.

Risk Analysis:

Complexity of delivery

The lighting, cricket net and change room projects have been classified simple projects. This classification has been determined by applying the Project Categorisation Matrix (Matrix) - which assesses risk likelihood and consequence - embedded within the City's adopted Project Management Framework (PMF). The City designs and oversees the similar construction projects on a regular basis.

The Ewing Park Redevelopment project is complex. It has extensive risk management plans and strong governance frameworks in place to manage design and delivery. These are underpinned by business plans which include social, economic and environmental impact assessments to ensure the community benefits are maximised from the investment of public funds.

Project Cost Overrun

Most projects have current and independent cost plans or quotes outlining the anticipated construction cost and contingency amounts. White Hills change rooms are in design development phase and as a result at the time of writing this report, full and independent cost plans were not available. Prior to submission of the grant application, a cost estimate will be available for this project to ensure success. Each project will have a governance structure to manage project cost, scope and time.

Not supporting the project

If projects are not supported, stakeholders and the surrounding communities may strongly advocate for future funding consideration and lobby Council for support. Potential growth in participation may not be achievable with the existing poor standard of facilities and Clubs may have to consider alternative training venues further displacing club participation or restricting membership.

Unsuccessful funding submission

Sport and Recreation Victoria funding programs are highly competitive and consistently overprescribed. These applications are not guaranteed of success and if the project application is unsuccessful the project will not be able to proceed. The clubs may request Council to fund the grant shortfall which is not available or request support in future grant applications. These decisions will be referred to Council for consideration.

The City has an existing Female Friendly Facility grant to upgrade the Club Court Pavilion at Strathfieldsaye. This project is scheduled for delivery in 2021, however given the City has an existing grant from this program and the competitive nature of the funding, there is a risk that other municipalities within the State may be prioritised.

Consultation/Communication

Internal Consultation:

Financial Strategy

The Financial Strategy Unit has been informed of the grant opportunities and community requests for support and recognises the impact a decision on an individual project at this time may have on the 2021/22 Capital Works Program being prepared for Council Budget consideration.

Engineering - Civil Design and Construction

Civil design and construction have reviewed the preliminary designs and cost estimates for Mandurang Recreation Reserve cricket nets, identifying items that require further detail and the potential risks in the cost assumptions. The team will continue to support the project if it is to proceed.

This team will also be responsible for the delivery of lighting projects if these applications are successful. Designs and cost estimates have been jointly developed.

Property Services

The Property Services team have prepared designs for White Hills changerooms. Estimates and design has been developed under their guidance and will support successful delivery.

External Consultation:

Cricket Victoria

City Staff have met with Cricket Victoria's State Infrastructure Manager to discuss existing future project opportunities for cricket infrastructure investment and are supportive of the project. The club has received further support from the Cricket Victoria Cricket Manager – North West Country.

Sport and Recreation Victoria

City Staff regular meet with the Regional Manager Sport and Recreation Victoria and have discussed the project proposals for these projects.

Further consultation is required with State Sporting Associations (SSA) in the development of these designs. While the designs are prepared in accordance with SSA guidelines and Australian Standards, these entities add value by undertaking a peer review and considering sport specific considerations.

Heathcote Football & Netball Club

This club has been advocating for lighting for a number of years and have relocated training in previous years due to lighting issues. The Club has been consulted regarding the upgrade of lighting at Barrack Reserve oval and have agreed to contribute financially.

Mandurang Cricket Club

City Staff have been in discussions with the Club since 2019 to support project identification and planning and are contributing financially.

Spring Gully Soccer Club

The club has been consulted regarding the design of lighting at Stanley Avenue and how it will support participation and increase capacity at the venue. The Club have agreed to contribute financially.

White Hills Football/Netball Club, Cricket Club and Junior Football Club

Consultation has occurred in relation to the needs, design and functionality of the project, however further discussion is required regarding financial contribution toward the grant project prior to submission of the grant.

Resource Implications

If these grant applications are successful, they will be procured in a competitive market environment. As such, to preserve market competitiveness, budget details are attached as a confidential attachment pursuant to Section 3 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020 as they contain business information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Greater Bendigo is able to access these grants on a minimum funding ratio of SRV \$1.50 to Greater Bendigo \$1.00.

These projects will be supported with a contribution of \$100,000 from the Mandurang Cricket Club, \$40,000 from Spring Gully Soccer Club and \$30,000 from Heathcote Football & Netball Club. A contribution will be sought from White Hills Football & Netball Club and other users of the reserve, however this request had not been negotiated at the time of writing this report.

These projects will have an ongoing cost to Council who will own the assets and be responsible for operations, maintenance and renewal. The Mandurang Recreation Reserve cricket training nets will remain the responsibility of the Mandurang Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and the Mandurang Cricket Club as this site is a Crown Land reserve.

Each project has been referred to the 2021/22 Council budget for consideration with the exception of Mandurang Recreation Reserve cricket training nets. This project is on Crown Land and has no currently identified funding source within the Council budget. If supported, the project will require a Council contribution which will require either additional funding (e.g. borrowings) or removal of another project from within the 'new' capital budget.

Attachments

1. The cost plan attachment is confidential as they are subject to market competition during tender and will become contractual in nature once awarded.

The attachment to this report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

15.2. Youth Council Appointments for 2021-2022

Author	Rory White, Inclusive Communities Officer
Responsible Director	Vicky Mason, Director, Health and Wellbeing

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to thank and recognize contribution of the outgoing Youth Councillors and endorse 18 new Youth Councillors for 2021 -2022 Youth Council term.

Summary

The City of Greater Bendigo's first Youth Council commenced in February 2019 with 18 Youth Councillors for a two-year term.

Following the conclusion of the Youth Council two-year term in November 2020, the City undertook a publicly advertised Expression of Interest process during November 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledge the Youth Council's valuable contribution to the community in their first term and Council endorse the 18 new Youth Councillors, as outlined in this report, for the 2021-2022 Youth Council term.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Matthew Evans

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Policy Context

1. Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal 1 Lead and govern for all

Objective 1.1: Engage with all communities.

Goal 2 Wellbeing and fairness

Objective 2.4: Support participation and development for residents of all ages and abilities.

2019/20 Community Plan Action: Advance the voices of young people, including supporting the Greater Bendigo Youth Council and implementing the Youth Strategy.

City of Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater

Bendigo (2017- 2021):

Goal 1 We provide opportunities for young people to have their say.

Action 1 Strengthen the Youth Action Group to become a Youth Council and increase connections between Councillors, young people and the community to advocate on priority areas.

Background Information

The City of Greater Bendigo's Youth Council commenced at the beginning of 2019 with 18 Youth Councillors.

Following the resignation of eight Youth Councillors in November 2019, the City undertook a publicly advertised Expression of Interest (EOI) process during November 2019.

Due to the high quality of applicants, the Interview Panel resolved to offer nine young people a Youth Councillor role, meaning there are now 19 Youth Councillors.

The Youth Council represents the voice of young people aged 14 to 24 years who live, work and study in the municipality. The Youth Council acts as an advisory and advocacy body to Council concerning the priority issues faced by local young people.

Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

December 13, 2017 - Council adopted the Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021).

January 23, 2019: Council introduce and acknowledge the 18 young people selected to participate in the inaugural City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council.

Report

The Youth Council have now completed their first two-year term. Major achievements during this term include:

- Establishing a group to participate in the YMCA Victorian Youth Parliament program. (May 2019 & June 2020).
- Participating in the development and delivery of the Department of Health and Human Services' Keep in Touch project – a regional mental health and wellbeing initiative for young people.
- Assisting in the development and delivery of numerous Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership's programs such as "Supporting Our Youth from Education to Employment Forums (Nov 2019).
- Supporting the School Strike for Climate Rally (Sept 2019).
- YO Bendigo Facility upgrades including Acknowledgment of Country mural, façade design and entrance flooring. (Oct 2019).
- Providing a written submission to support the City's Draft Economic Strategy Discussion Paper and recommend a reference to inclusive employment. (Aug 2019)

- Provided written submission in support of the Draft All Ages All Abilities Issues and Opportunities Paper during the public feedback period. (Aug 2019).
- Development and delivery of three Facebook Live Q & A sessions.: Addressing Youth Employability, Wellbeing and Community Engagement. (Sept – Dec 2020).
- Submission to the Victorian Government's whole-of-government LGBTIQ Strategy.
- Submission to the Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy Issues Paper.

Youth Councillors were invited to represent the voices of young people on several advisory and steering committees. These include:

- Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee
- City's Economic Strategy Discussion Paper Steering Committee.
- City's Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee
- Greater Bendigo Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee
- Headspace Bendigo Youth Reference Committee
- City's Community Buildings Policy Committee
- Greater Bendigo Safe Community Forum
- Thorne Harbour County – We Hear Youth Steering Committee
- CONNECT Greater Bendigo
- International Relations Focus Group

Youth Councillors consulted with internal City staff and external stakeholders on a variety of plans, strategies and projects, these include:

Internal:

- 2021 Integrated Strategic Planning Project
- Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021
- Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo: Walking and Cycling Strategy 2019
- Greening Greater Bendigo Plan 2020-2070
- Reimagining Bendigo Creek Draft Plan
- Community Engagement Policy
- Community Volunteering Strategy 2019 – 2023
- Reconciliation Plan 2021-2025

External:

- National Youth Commission, Enquiry into Youth Employment and Transitions
- Anglicare presented on their proposed Youth Foyer.
- Bendigo Foodshare presented their Youth Food Poverty in Central Vic Survey.
- Womens Health Loddon Mallee Presented their Storylines project.
- Matchworks Bendigo presented on a Regional Youth Driver Education Program proposal.

- Headspace Bendigo presented on assisting more young people throughout the pandemic.
- Rendell McGuckian Consulting Group (RMCG) presented on the Renewable Energy Roadmap for the Loddon Campaspe region

Youth Councillors completed their term in November 2020. The City undertook a publicly advertised EOI process during November 2020 to fill 18 positions on the Youth Council for the 2021-2022 term. Thirty EOI submissions were received from young people for the 18 positions on the Youth Council.

The EOI process required applicants to respond to four questions concerning relevant knowledge and skills and experience in community leadership. Young people's submissions were assessed and shortlisted by City staff based on the following criteria:

- Motivation to nominate.
- Understanding of young people's needs in the community.
- Understanding of the Youth Councillor role.
- Experience in community leadership.

Twenty-four applicants were shortlisted for interviews which were held in December 2020 and the selection panel involved the: Mayor, Cr Jennifer Alden, Cr Matthew Evans, former Youth Deputy Youth Mayor Billie Taylor and Nate Perry (Acting Coordinator Inclusive Communities).

The shortlisted young people selected as the 2021-2022 Youth Councillors are:

- Julius Krelle
- Victoria Tangey
- Annalisa Rich-Jones
- Ildi Clemens
- Lilly Sukkel
- Jack Smith
- Mia Thomas
- Remus Brasier
- Ryan Peterson
- Emily Pennington
- Paw Ku Htee
- Charlotte Brook
- Zahra Chowdhury
- Maggie Alice
- Max McKillar
- Holly Davey
- Abby Hayes
- Julia Hunt

Youth Council induction will occur in January 2021 and the first Youth Council Briefing meeting will be held in February 2020. The next quarterly Youth Council Briefing to Council is scheduled for March 2, 2020.

Conclusion

The establishment of the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council was recommended as part of the City's Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021).

During the first Youth Council term, Youth Councillors were involved in numerous committees and advisory bodies. Their contribution has increased the voice of young people in Greater Bendigo. The Youth Council has also provided valuable learning opportunities for young community leaders through training and professional development opportunities.

The EOI process seeking new Youth Councillors commenced in November and interviews were conducted in December 2020.

Thirty EOIs were received and 24 young people were shortlisted for interviews. As a result of the interviews, 18 young people are recommended to be endorsed by Council as new Youth Councillors on the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council for the 2021 – 2022 term.

Consultation/Communication

The opportunity to submit an EOI to join the Youth Council was publicly advertised through a range of mediums including newspapers, City websites and social media. City staff also liaised with schools and service providers to promote the opportunity of Youth Council to young people and encourage diverse membership. Additionally, staff responded to numerous enquiries from interested community members and service providers during the EOI period.

Resource Implications

Young people participate in the Youth Council on a voluntary basis.

The Community Partnerships Unit coordinates, supports and promotes the Youth Council within existing budgetary resources.

Attachments

Nil

15.3. Community Grants Program – Large Grants 2020-2021

Author	Leon Moulden, Acting Coordinator Strong Communities
Responsible Director	Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing

Purpose

To recommend to Councillors the funding allocations for the Community Grants Program Large Grants category for 2020/21.

Summary

The Community Grants Program Expressions of Interest for Large Grants opened on 20 July and closed on 7 August 2020. Twenty submissions were received. After consideration by City officers, against the Large Grants criteria and community grants guidelines, eighteen applicants were invited to submit applications. Only two applications did not proceed to the application stage of the process. Applications then opened on 17 August and closed on 11 September 2020. All eighteen organisations invited to apply submitted applications.

The Budget allocation for the Large Grants category in 2020-2021 is \$302,592 with the second year of funding not being offered in this grant round due to the pending Grants Policy review in 2020/21 (a current Community Plan action). The Community Assessment Panel recommended that \$302,592 in funding be allocated amongst fourteen organisations for the 2020-21 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Community Assessment Panel's recommendations to allocate \$302,592 funding in the Large Grant category to fourteen applicants in 2020/21.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Fyffe

Seconded: Cr Andrea Metcalf

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Policy Context

This recommended funding allocation is aligned to the following goals in the City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021.

Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal #1	Lead and govern for all
Objective #1.4	Be accountable and efficient in the use of the community's money

Goal #2	Wellbeing and fairness
Objective #2.3	Promote community connection

Council Policy Reference [Community Granting Policy](#)

This recommended funding allocation also aligns to the City of Greater Bendigo Community Granting Policy 2018.

Background Information

The Budget allocation for the Large Grants category in 2020-2021 is \$302,592 with the second year of funding not being offered in this grant round due to the pending Grants Policy review in 2020/21 (a current Community Plan action).

Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 17 October 2018 Council approved the Community Assessment Panel's recommendations for the 2018-2019 Community Grants Program Large Grants category.

Report

In accordance with the Community Grant Policy Guidelines, the Community Grants Program Expressions of Interest for Large Grants opened on 20 July and closed on 7 August 2020. Twenty submissions were received. After consideration by City officers, against the Large Grants criteria and community grants guidelines, eighteen applicants were invited to submit applications. Only two applications did not proceed to the application stage of the process. Applications then opened on 17 August and closed on 11 September 2020. All eighteen organisations invited to apply submitted applications.

The Community Assessment Panel of seven members met twice online – once before the assessment period on 30 August 2020 to go over the assessment process, and on 7 October 2020 to deliberate and make recommendations regarding funding for each application using the Large Grants criteria and grants guidelines.

The Community Assessment Panel recommended that \$302,592 in funding be allocated amongst fourteen organisations for the 2020-21 financial year – 100% of the available funding for the Large Grant category.

The fourteen organisations recommended for a funding allocation and amounts recommended are listed in the below table:

Organisation	Project Description	Amount Sought	Amount Recommended
Arena Theatre Company	BAAI (home) – a collaboration between Arena	\$25,000	\$25,000

Organisation	Project Description	Amount Sought	Amount Recommended
Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre	Volunteering Road to Recovery (R2R)	\$24,730	\$24,730
McKern Foundation	Fresh Fruit Friday Program Reinvigoration	\$20,000	\$20,000
Eaglehawk Community House	Community Development	\$25,000	\$25,000
Bendigo Foodshare	YouFood	\$25,000	\$25,000
Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub	RE-INVENTING OUR NEW NORMAL	\$25,000	\$20,000
Bendigo Sustainability Group	Building Sustainability	\$25,000	\$25,000
Life Saving Victoria	Bush Nippers – A Pilot Program for Bendigo	\$20,128	\$12,862
Kangaroo Flat Community House Inc	Supporting our Kangaroo Flat Community	\$25,000	\$20,000
Karen Culture and Social Support Foundation	Karen Culture and Social Support Foundation	\$25,000	\$25,000
Heathcote Community House	BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY	\$24,861	\$15,000
Long Gully Neighbourhood House	Grow and Share Project	\$25,000	\$20,000
Marong Neighbourhood House	Marong Neighbourhood House Community Garden	\$25,000	\$20,000
Bendigo Mountain Bike Club	Mountain Biking for all – green trail upgrade	\$25,000	\$25,000

Priority/Importance:

It is of priority that successful and unsuccessful applicants are advised via email of their application outcome following Council's resolution. Successful applicants are required to enter into a Funding Agreement (FA) with the City of Greater Bendigo (City). The FA outlines the scope of the funded project as well as the City's and the grant recipient's responsibilities. Funds are only released to grant recipients upon receipt of the signed FA and an invoice. Funding offers may be revoked if a signed FA and an invoice are not received within 30 days of the funding offer being made.

Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact the Strong Communities Officer for clarification and assistance with future applications.

Options/Alternatives:

That Council approve the Community Assessment Panel's recommendations to allocate \$302,592 funding in the Large Grant category to eighteen applicants in 2020/21.

Timelines:

Initiatives funded under the Large Grants category are required to:

- Be completed within one year of receiving funds.
- Submit Project Evaluation Forms / Acquittals within 60 days of project completion. Recipients who do not fulfil this requirement may be ineligible to receive further City funding.

Risk Analysis:

To mitigate risk all Community Assessment Panel members were required to sign a confidentiality agreement before commencing assessments. All Panel members were required to declare conflicts of interest prior to assessment of applications. Where conflicts of interest were declared, Panel members were required to leave the discussion when the respective applications were being assessed. The Panel was also required to recommend funding allocations that were within the set budget for the category, and all applications were assessed in accordance with the Granting Policy and Guidelines.

Consultation/Communication

Internal Consultation:

Grants officers have consulted with relevant specialist officers with regards to applications including Coordinator Creative Communities, Arts Officer, Early Years Officer, and Energy Efficiency Officer, and with the Coordinator Strong Communities and Manager Community Partnerships about the Community Assessment Panel's recommendations.

External Consultation:

The community and community organisations and groups were made aware of this Large Grant round via a Media Release, an advertisement in the Bendigo Advertiser, the City's Community Grants website, social media and the GEE E-newsletter in July this year. Interested applicants were also encouraged to access the City's online grants writing tutorial.

Resource Implications

Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:

The Large Grant Allocation for 2020/21 is \$302,592. The Community Assessment Panel has recommended that 100% of these funds be allocated in this round of funding.

Attachments

CONFIDENTIAL attachment –

Recommended and unrecommended large grants 2020-21

16. STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY

Nil

17. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Nil

18. EMBRACING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Nil

19. LEAD AND GOVERN FOR ALL

19.1. Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's Biannual Report and Appointment of Chairperson

Author	Anna Connolly, Risk and Assurance Advisor
Responsible Director	Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to brief Council on the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's first biannual report for 2020/21, which provides a summary of the activities and findings of the Committee and to approve the reappointment of Warren Pollock as the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson for the next 12 months.

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act (2020) and Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson is required to provide a biannual report to Council on the activities and findings of the Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter also states that the Chairperson must be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee at the first meeting, post 1 October for a 12 month term. Warren Pollock was reappointed as the Chairperson at the meeting held on the 16 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's first biannual report for 2020/21;
2. On the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee, approve the reappointment of Warren Pollock as the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson for the next 12 months concluding at the first meeting post 1 October 2021.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Andrea Metcalf

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Policy Context

Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal: 1	Lead and govern for all
Objective:1.2	Be innovative and financially responsible

Background Information

The Committee is an advisory committee of the Council established to assist the Council to discharge its responsibilities under the Act to:

- monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with:
 - the overarching governance principles;
 - the Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions;
 - other relevant laws and regulations;
- monitor internal controls;
- monitor Council's financial and performance reporting;
- monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls;
- oversee internal audit function; and
- oversee external audit functions.

In accordance with the Local Government Act (2020), the Audit and Risk Committee Charter was reviewed and adopted by Council on the 19 August 2020. To adhere with the Act, there were five new requirements that Audit and Risk Committees must deliver on, however with the previous update to the Charter the five areas had been predominantly been incorporated, with minimal changes required with the introduction of the new Act. There was one point of these five areas which has now been amended, which is the increase from one report to two reports per year from the Chairperson of the Committee to Council. The report which includes the Committee's findings and recommendations will now be presented biannually.

As outlined in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the Chairperson will be appointed for a one year term, with the appointment to occur at the first meeting post the 1 October each year. With Council elections held this year, the first Audit and Risk Committee meeting was held on the 16 December 2020, where Warren Pollock was nominated to be reappointed to the role of Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee. As stated in the Charter, the appointment of the Chair must then be approved by Council.

Report

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter requires that the Chairperson report to Council biannually a summary of the activities and achievements of the Committee during the financial year and for the reappointment of the Chairperson to be approved by Council.

Please see Attachment 1 – Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson Biannual Report.

Consultation/Communication

The report was tabled at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 16 December 2020 and the Council Briefing on Monday 18 January 2021. The Audit and Risk Committee nominated Warren Pollock to be reappointed as Committee Chair at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on the 16 December 2020.

Resource Implications

Not applicable

Attachments

1. Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's Biannual Report

Attachment 1

Report from the Audit and Risk Committee Chair

The Audit and Risk Committee has various roles, but one of the main functions is to report to Council and provide appropriate advice and recommendations relevant to its charter in order to facilitate decision making by Council. The Audit and Risk Committee plays a key role in assisting Council to fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control, the risk management system, ethical accountability and the internal and external functions. The Audit and Risk Committee is a formally appointed Advisory Committee of the City of Greater Bendigo Council.

Objectives of the Audit and Risk Committee

The main objectives of the Audit and Risk Committee are to assist the Councillors, Management and Staff by providing independent appraisals of:

- The effectiveness of the internal and external audit functions and the communication between the external auditor, internal audit, management and the council;
- To provide timely advice on Council on any matters which may be referred to it by Council;
- Internal control systems;
- The arrangements in place to safeguard assets and resources;
- Organisational effectiveness in terms of program efficiency and economy against the Council Plan;
- The integrity of information; and
- Compliance with legislative requirements and Council's policies and procedures.

The membership of the Audit Committee for 2019/2020 comprised:

Four Independent Members

Warren Pollock (Chair)
Graham Bastian (Resigned during 2020)
Jovana Obradovic-Tantra
Shannon Buckley
Stephen Brown (Appointed during 2020)

Three Councillors

Cr Margaret O'Rourke
Cr Andrea Metcalf
Cr Jennifer Alden

Independent Members Panel

The independent members serve a 3-year term on a rotating basis. This year, following the retirement of Mr Graham Bastian our interview panel consisted of Craig Niemann, Margaret O'Rourke and Warren Pollock. We received more than 20 applicants and interviewed 4 experienced candidates to fill the vacancy for an Independent member. At the conclusion of this process, we recommended to Council that Mr Stephen Brown be appointed as an independent member. Cr Andrea Metcalf also became a member of the Audit and Risk Committee during the past 12 months.

Audit and Risk Committee

Over the past 12 months, the Audit and Risk Committee held 5 meetings. The key focus of the Committee is to oversee the conduct of External Audit and Internal Audit, recommend the approval of the Annual Financial Statements to Council, and review the management of risks for Council. The Audit Committee also reviewed the relevant local government and sector wide VAGO reports for applicability to City of Greater Bendigo.

The Internal Audit program undertaken by our Internal Audits this year included:

- Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (May 2020)
- Past issues Review (June 2020)
- Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (September 2020)

The recommendations made by the Internal Auditors, and adopted by the Committee, are then transferred to management for implementation. A regular review is undertaken to assess which recommendations have been completed.

At 30 June 2020 there were 11 high risk and 47 medium risk items that remained outstanding from the audit recommendations.

The Committee remains of the view that opportunities exist for the improvement of processes for the recognition and management of risks that may have an impact on the Council. Following changes to personnel with the responsibility of this area we look forward to improvements in reporting of the actions taken to manage this area.

Officers have been diligently actioning the recommended actions included in the reports which has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of actions outstanding at the end of the year.

As a result of a number of key improvements/changes have been made to policies and procedures.

A function of the Audit Committee includes oversight of the External Audit activity. During the year the Committee were provided with the Audit Plan together with the Interim Audit Management Letter. At year end the Committee meets with the External Auditor to review the Annual Financial Statements, the Closing Audit Report and the Final Management Letter.

I am pleased to report that the Committee has met its objectives during the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Pollock', with a stylized, cursive script.

Warren Pollock CA, Registered Company Auditor
Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

20. URGENT BUSINESS

21. NOTICES OF MOTION

22. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Metcalf reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *“Interviews for the positions on the farming and agribusiness advisory committee. Outstanding field of applicants who have pushed my thinking on issues relating to farming. I can’t wait for the meetings to commence. I’m hoping that the endorsement of the committee members will come to the February meeting.*
- *Listening post on the 16/1. We are elected by the community and they appreciate the access they have to councillors. It’s an opportunity to chew the fat on issues important to them.*
- *Meetings with the Directors to talk about what I want to achieve on this term on Council”.*

Cr Sloan reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *Bendigo Livestock Exchange – Sheep and cattle shelter, pens, automated tag identification*
- *The Fernery Rosalind Park - Grey-headed Flying fox sprinkler/data logger research*
- *Arts and Creative Industry Advisory Committee*
- *Listening Post Bendigo Library*
- *Site inspection – planning application*
- *Unique Tibet official opening at The Great Stupa*
- *Councillor ward meetings x 3*
- *Councillor only meeting x 3*
- *Meeting regarding Code of Conduct*
- *Agenda review meeting with Director Corporate Performance*
- *Meeting with Director Presentation and Assets*
- *Council briefing*
- *Council meeting*
- *Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony*

Cr Penna reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *Tour of Strathfieldsaye with Strathfieldsaye Community Enterprise inspecting and viewing progress by group and identifying future work needed*
- *Visit to Heathcote Bowls Club to meet and greet and also hear about proposed retirement village plans*
- *Tour Rosalind park to view features and learn about the colony of resident bats*
- *Various customer requests submitted*
- *Face to face meetings with Mayor and Directors*
- *Visit to Great Stupa to witness opening of Unique Tibet display.*

Cr Evans reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *Joining other councillors in visits to Strathfieldsaye with Strathfieldsaye & Districts Enterprise (with Cr O'Rourke and Cr Penna), a visit to the Fernery (with Cr Sloan, Cr Williams, Cr Penna), and Youth Council Interview Panel (with Mayor Alden)*
- *Apart of the opening of Unique Tibet at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion*
- *Attended committee meetings for Bendigo Easter Fair and Arts & Creative Industries*
- *Visited the Immersion 20/20 exhibition at Dudley House*
- *Wish everyone in the community a Happy Australia Day, acknowledging that it is a tough day for many Australians, but also to celebrate some extraordinary Australians who have achieved a great deal*
- *Wished all school communities my best wishes on their return to the classroom this week and that we wish for a remote learning free term!*

Cr O'Rourke reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

"It was lovely to start attending COVID safe events and community visits again prior to Christmas.

- Advance Heathcote AGM
- Strathfieldsaye Bowls night tournament
- Strathfieldsaye Community Enterprise Tour around Strathfieldsaye and a 'shout out to Dennis Johanson and the team of volunteers who work to improve and tidy the creek. They have planted over 1,000 trees along the creek and liaise with guidance through Mark Toohey from Council. Please pass on thanks to Mark. They have done a wonderful job. The trees have come from Council's nursey – and this is an incredible project.
- Christmas gathering of Councillors, Executive and our partners for a visit to Piinpi at the Gallery. It was a great way to meet with new Councillors informally and meet their partners. Having support from home is wonderful as a Councillor's role is about 20 hours a week at least and these needs understanding and support from family as well.
-

We all had a couple of weeks off for the festive season – I was very happy to assist some residents during this time with their queries and put in requests for them.

- Eppalock Ward Councillors meet early in the New Year to review our approach for community engagement this year and we are really looking forward to being out and about in the community very regularly again.
- Committees are starting up again – those I am appointed to for this year to name just some:
 - Golden Dragon Museum
 - Tourism Board
 - Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Group
 - Audit & Risk Committee
 - Bendigo Manufacturing Group
 - City of Gastronomy
 - Sustainability and Environment Committee
 - Farming Advisory Committee

Thank you to Anne Prime and Harley Hayes as outgoing citizens; in what was a difficult year and hope as more COVID safe events happen we will see you at some of these too.

Welcome and congratulations to Cathie Steel and Ma Paw on your appointments – wonderful acknowledgement of all your hard work for our community.

Thank you and look forward to the month ahead".

Cr Williams reported on a visit to the Bendigo Livestock Exchange with Cr Sloan and met with Ben Devanny, Andrew McCulloch and Greg Pitson and received an in-depth understanding of the service the facility provides to the region. Cr Williams also complimented staff on the quick response to a retention basin issue in Brooklyn Drive, Golden Square.

Cr Fyffe was looking forward to getting back to working with the community on various committees, reported on his attendance at an exhibition at Dudley House and reported that with COVID some major events have been cancelled and the restructure of the events for Easter for 2021.

23. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Cr Jennifer Alden, tabled her report as outlined below:

- Mayor and CEO catch Up – Weekly
- Councillors' Briefings – Weekly
- Videoconference - Councillor Only Meetings - Weekly
- Phone - Mayor and Communications Manager catch up – weekly
- Videoconference - 2021 Integrated Strategic Planning Project Coordination working Group meetings - fortnightly
- Met with EMT as Mayor
- New Councillor and Mayor 1:1 meeting with Cr Fagg
- Videoconference - Director and Mayor 1:1 meeting with Bernie O'Sullivan
- Met with the winners of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year
- Videoconference - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Videoconference - Met with the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee and La Trobe University
- Attended the Bendigo Region Food Alliance AGM
- Videoconference - Youth Council Interviews
- Videoconference - Water Interview to assist with developing educational resources for Yrs 7 & 8 science students
- Videoconference - MAV Mayoral Induction Sessions 1 & 2
- Councillors/Executive Tour of the Bendigo Art Gallery
- Councillor/Executive Christmas Dinner
- Videoconference - Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee Meeting
- New Councillor and Mayor 1:1 meeting with Cr Fyffe
- New Councillor and Mayor 1:1 meeting with Cr Metcalf
- Director and Mayor 1:1 meeting with Brian Westley
- Director and Mayor 1:1 meeting with Andrew Cooney
- Radio Interview Triple M - Mayoral Christmas Message with Cogho & Kylie
- Met Sonia Anthony – Cheese School Tour
- Lyttleton Terrace Community Safety meeting with City of Greater Bendigo, Victoria Police and Traders
- Videoconference - Councillor Code of Conduct meeting
- Regional Councils Victoria (RCV) meeting
- Videoconference - Public Health and Wellbeing Working Group meeting
- Met with Peter Cox
- Councillor Engagement for 2021 Meeting
- Launch of Unique Tibet museum collection at Great Stupa of Universal Compassion
- Spoken with residents, businesses and community groups regarding a wide range of issues.
- Participated in numerous radio, newspaper, television media interviews and photo opportunities.

24. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Craig Niemann, reported as follows:

"The closure of the office between Christmas and New Year was welcomed by the majority of staff and provided an opportunity to relax and switch off. Thank you to those who continued to provide services to our community during this time.

The return of staff to the office is progressing. 25% of office-based staff members returned prior to Christmas, a further 25% will be returning later this week and I am pleased to advise that our Customer Service Centres will re-open on Wednesday 27 January.

Unfortunately, events are still being impacted by restrictions and limits on crowd numbers and it was disappointing to be advised of the cancellation of a number of Australia Day celebrations across the municipality including the Rotary Club Australia Day Market at Lake Weeroona. Other events unable to go ahead this year are the Lost Trades Fair and Bendigo International Madison.

This year, a smaller, three-day program will replace the 150th Bendigo Easter Fair celebrations and will take place over a number of locations. The 2021 program will feature time and ticketed activities that will take place in venues where patron entry and exit can be managed in a COVID safe way. It is hoped that the 150th anniversary will be held in 2022 with the full program.

The Mayor and I welcomed a visit last week from the Hon. Wendy Lovell, Deputy President of the Legislative Council and Member for Northern Victoria and Ms Louise Staley, Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Economic Development. It was an opportunity to provide an update on our projects including further development of the Bendigo Airport, business case for Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo Regional Food Hub, development of Bendigo Showgrounds, transport infrastructure and Bendigo Big Build - Bendigo/Kangan TAFE, Bendigo Law Courts and Bendigo GovHub. We also discussed the Growth projections for Greater Bendigo and challenges relating to residential and industrial land availability.

I was pleased to attend the official opening of the Unique Tibet museum at The Great Stupa last week. The museum contains many artefacts of Tibetan cultural and religious significance and is the first of its type in Australia.

Congratulations to City of Greater Bendigo 2021 Citizen of the Year – Cathie Steele, and Ma Aye Paw – 2021 Young Citizen of the Year. Announcement of the winners was made earlier today and a small ceremony will be held tomorrow to officially appoint Cathie and Ma as 2021 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year".

25. CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 66) REPORTS

Nil

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Confirmed:

15 February 2021

Chair