



Bigger Beechworth Project

November 2009

Consultation Report

Attachment 1

Hands on



Community solutions

Introduction

This report has been developed as an attachment to summarise the consultation conducted for the Bigger Beechworth Project during January and September 2009.

Comments made in this section relate only; to the provision of recreation with Beechworth and; community engagement in relation to the volunteers that support many of the recreation/sporting groups within the local area.

The community should be congratulated for the way it embraced and supported this project. Its provision of honest and integral feedback has guided the recommendations of the Bigger Beechworth Report.

This attachment includes seven sections:

1. Community Meetings
2. Youth Consultation
3. Community/ Stakeholder Interviews
4. 2009 Indigo Shire Council Community Think Tank Sessions
5. 2009 Indigo Shire Community Survey Results
6. Indigo Recreation Plan- Community Survey Findings (2006)
7. Community Submissions

1. Community Meetings

Two community meetings were held for the project. They were advertised widely to the Beechworth community and to local sporting and community organisations.

Community Meeting 18 May 2009

The initial Community Meeting was at the Beechworth Town Hall to present the scope of the report and how the community could be involved. The aim was to identify broader recreational issues that affected Beechworth.

Issues raised at the meeting included:

- Make sure that other clubs are considered, not just those listed in the brief
- Golf Club facilities are used by joggers and dog walkers
- Secondary College has an area to develop a swimming pool
- Hockey should be the number one priority
- The grandstand at Baarmutha Park needs to be preserved and protected
- Reconsider development of the Mile Track or recognition of it at Baarmutha Park
- Old Beechworth Gaol needs to be returned to private ownership. Opportunity to use the indoor gymnasium. Communication about what is happening.
- Baarmutha Park Gates should be returned to the originals, they were taken to Melbourne by National Trust.
- The Rail Trail is very important to Beechworth
- The maintenance of Queens Park needs to be improved
- Would like to see an annual film festival
- Heated Indoor Pool
- Strategic Plan for Lake Sambell
- Great tourism opportunities when linked with major sporting events
- Great facilities being provided at the gym since it has reopened
- All new buildings should include Environmentally Sensitive Design principles
- No organised recreational opportunities for children
- Lots more people would play golf if there were grass greens
- Dogs should be on leash in the golf course
- Need to work with DSE to develop the Mountain Park, as it is an important asset for Beechworth
- Community Garden at the Neighbourhood Centre would be a great idea

Community Meeting 20 July 2009

A second community meeting was held at the Beechworth Town Hall to present the early findings of the Bigger Beechworth Project. The meeting was attended by around 25 community members and broad support was received for the findings. It was requested that an inclusion of a second synthetic field for the Bowling Club be recommended. The process for further input was outlined and encouraged at the meeting.

2. Youth Consultation

Beechworth Secondary College youth consultation sessions

Consultation was completed in both formal classes and in the school grounds at recess and lunch on the 18 May. Comments received included:

- Need a larger space in Beechworth for FreeZA events that are more appropriate than the town hall
- The young people like that the gym is open again. Only \$6 per week after joining fee of \$75. Others would like to go to gym but can't get home afterwards.
- A lot of interest in boxing gym at Latrobe Uni-all ages can participate in program run by John McCullen
- A lot of comments were made about riding/ walking around town to get around and the need for a bus to get between towns. Feel safe and able to get around town.
- Outdoor Pool is – too shallow, freezing and boring. No fun activities. Lake is better than the pool and it is free
- There was not a high level of participation in school sport-it was optional but felt that athletes were treated the same as everyone else
- Young people drop out of sport as travel is a big issue and it becomes boring
- Excellent support for the skate park and pressure to complete skate parks in other towns
- Do not require formal BMX tracks as they develop their own in places where they like to ride
- Some students played netball in school stadium and also on a Saturday

Beechworth Secondary College and Beechworth Youth Centre 18-19 May 2009

Summary Table			
45 comment sheets completed			
Age Range	14 yrs	15 yrs	16 yrs
Activities	Walk around Stanley- need sporting facilities *11	Lake Sambell- swim and hang out *2	Lake Sambell- swim and hang out *4
	Ride motorbike at home	Need a bus to get between town's * 2	Bike riding to get around
	Ride at mountain bike park	Yack needs a new skate park	Run and walk around gorge
	Need a bus into Beechworth* 3	Netball * 2	Hip Hop Dancing
	Need basketball in Yack	Walk the dog	Walk to get around town *2
	Play soccer in Myrtleford	Skiing	Ride 6km to school and back
	Tennis in Yackandandah	Horseriding	Ride everywhere around town * 2
	Yackandandah Pool		Travel to Wodonga skate park
	Free running		Gym
	Run or jog		Football * 5
	Swim at Lake Sambell		Need a bus *3
	Need at Yack- football oval, skate park, cricket nets		Netball *3
	Hockey		Horse riding
	Swimming		Tennis
			Beechworth skate park * 3
Age Range	17 yrs	18 yrs	16 yrs
Activities	BMX at Bowl	Karate	Yak Pool
	Swim at lake * 3	Gym at home	Motorbike racing
	Gym	Walk to friends	Hockey * 2 (needs a ground)
	Cricket		Travel to Wodonga for hockey training *2

Further Youth Consultation was held at the Youth Centre on the 19 May 2009

- Public Recreation Reserve: it was explained that the Committee of Management would be interested in building a skate park that would be suitable for advanced riders. There were comments that jumps have been destroyed there in the past. There was some interest displayed.
- The group were interested in a portable basketball ring to be used at the youth centre.
- It was explained where the skate park project was at, including the viewing of plans. The only comments made were that they would really like to some option for lighting as they already skate there at night and a power supply for an iPod doc. There is also a need for three phase power.
- Beechworth Swimming Pool: young people go to the lake as it is free and better. They are not supervised. They need something to do, like a diving board, to make it more interesting.
- Mountain Bike Park: is too far out of town and the jumps has been flattened and ruined.
- They would like a bus to be able to travel to other towns to access their facilities ie Wodonga Skate Park.
- Increase the number of music events to one per month.

3. Community/stakeholder interviews

Following is a summary of the consultation completed and received from community organisations and key stakeholders throughout the project:

Baarmutha Park Committee of Management

- Masterplan diagram was developed about two years ago for the funding application for the netball courts
- Install picket Baarmutha Park is used for school and district x- country races
- Happy to include other users including the swimming pool at the reserve
- Have been talking about the pavilion and Masterplan for some time
- Strong Committee who works together well
- Cost of Water and Oval maintenance is significant
- Water retention/ availability for golf are a big concern at the reserve. What is the capacity to have the water catchment enlarged and a bridge installed as part of the golf course
- Maintenance is all provided by volunteers and cricket and football work well together
- There is a need to complete the cricket nets

Multipurpose facility: further information is provided in the Bigger Beechworth Report

- 2 storey, retain heritage feel
- Cater for all user groups including golf
- Gym facilities for football
- User groups have funding to contribute to a new pavilion
- Need to consider facilities grand stand and how that will work with the new pavilion

On 29 June, the Committee of Management requested a meeting with the Project Manager and Council to discuss the design and process for construction of a multi-purpose facility at Baarmutha Park. Ongoing communication has been established to enable his to occur in partnership with the Committee.

The committee have expressed some capacity in being able to demolish the existing pavilion building as an in kind contribution and also the provision of trades and services in the construction of the new facility.

Beechworth Netball Club

Training is on Tuesday and Thursday nights during winter. Saturday competition currently has six teams, including two junior teams.

Priorities/issues raised during consultation:

- Public toilets are inadequate
- At least two showers are required
- Home and Away changerooms
- Viewing area to look at courts which is under cover between the oval and netball courts
- If the new changerooms are included within the new pavilion, there needs to be access facing the courts
- They do use the indoor stadium at the school but it is user pays. They would like an onsite indoor training facility to conduct drills during wet weather
- They feel that there is some need for gymnasium equipment on site, especially for those players doing rehab work
- They would like a playground, but not too close to the courts otherwise it will be too noisy
- Tiered seating to seat 50-100 spectators
- Storage area for- balls, uniforms, padding, training equipment, tables etc
- Office administration area
- First Aid room
- All finals are played at Sandy Creek
- Road sealed around oval

Beechworth Squash and Fitness Centre

- Reopened in the last month after being closed for a number of months
- 15 year investment has been made into a good range of fitness and personal training equipment
- Privately owned by a consortium of local people that want to see the facility operate for the benefit of the local community
- Have considered the construction of a small indoor pool, which was price prohibitive but there may be some interest in a private partnership
- They are running supervised fitness/ gym programs for local sport teams including football
- Currently 165 members and growing after only one month of operation
- Will be developing a mini sports store within facility

- Happy to consider sponsorship opportunities with local sports clubs
- Looking to branch into boot camps, corporate training, team building programs
- Fully qualified and trained staff and operate from 6am-8pm but closed between 11am and 1pm on some days
- Local schools are starting to use facility
- Opportunity to link in with rail trail which is out front of facility
- Would not like to see gymnasium facilities built at Baarmutha Park

Beechworth Badminton Club

The club used to operate out of the Beechworth Prison and when the facility changed over to private ownership, the club was no longer able to operate. They did try the Secondary College gymnasium, but it was very expensive to hire and the area was too small to operate competition size courts. They have 90 members and felt that if they had adequate facilities, the club would again increase its membership. Players now travel to Wodonga or Wangaratta for competition. They are looking at ending the incorporation status of the club and will donate the remaining \$450 to another group.

Beechworth Secondary College

The following information was obtained from the principal, school council representative and secondary college physical education teacher:

- A co-op was formed to raise \$250,000 to build the stadium at the school
- There is a Recreation Committee of Management for stadium which reports to School Council
- Netball is played Mon/Tue night, both juniors and womens, indoor soccer and tennis are played on the other nights only during winter. The stadium is too hot to use during summer. There is no weekend use. The school charges \$3 per adult of \$2 for juniors to use the stadium. There is a perception that this is expensive as the facilities at the jail were free. The hire fees cover the cost of the insurance
- Badminton was tried during the day but the sunlight and size of the stadium meant that it is was not suitable
- There were original plans for a Stage Two which would include a stage and viewing area but these are no longer being pursued
- School Council in full support of the Hockey application, however there would be risks and limitations with having the surface at the school in terms of access to toilets etc, maintenance support and potential for vandalism
- The principal allowed us access to the students and is very supportive of the project and shared partnerships with Council and the community in regards to the access of sporting facilities
- The school uses Baarmutha Park for X-country and for various sporting activities. It supports further development of the facilities as those at the school are in very poor condition. They would use the reserve more if there were better toilet facilities for regional sports days
- The school feels that they have limited access to the pool and that the fees for a lifeguard made its program unaffordable. They went to Wodonga when the pool was closed, but would like to use the pool more and have a better relationship with management

- Heating will allow for an extended season at the pool or an indoor pool would be beneficial for the town. There are many families that travel to Wodonga for competitive swimming training facilities
- The school utilises other recreation facilities like the gymnasium, bowls club, croquet and it is important that all facilities are retained to allow students to have access and try a range of recreational activities
- A large number of sporting organisations seem to struggle with the age ranges of 15-25 as young people move away or become disinterested in sport
- The primary schools are providing far less formal sport and physical activity and the secondary college is seeing students now which are far less active and have less ability to play sport
- Students are far less physically active now as compared with 5-10 years ago
- Rear field is 100m * 55m which would be ideal for a hockey/ soccer pitch
- You would also need fencing to protect the surface for vehicles and a ball protection fence: cost of around \$25K. Also required, tree removal, pathways, retaining wall for around \$7K
- Current surface is in poor condition, poa grass and weeds which is not being maintained and being damaged by rabbits and other native wildlife
- Junior soccer on the current surface would be suitable

Public Recreation Reserve/ Beechworth Pony Club

Otherwise known as the Horseman's Ground behind Lake Sambell.

- The pony club has moved to Mudgeeegonga
- The area is very wet for 6 months of the year and is unusable for horses
- The area is used to ageist rescued horses
- There was a lot of damage from when the DSE removed the pine tree which the committee has just repaired
- The group works well with the caravan park in terms of maintenance and water supply
- They have developed a round yard and trotting track for when they conduct their annual endurance ride
- They have regular use by people who come and park their float and go trail riding in surrounding area. There have been some inquiries about using the area by larger groups from Melbourne. Maybe some tourism potential like at the El Dorado Caravan Park
- Site would also be good for an adult riding group/trail riding group if there was interest
- It would not be suitable to move the horse area to another location as the horses floats do a lot of damage to the area ie not suitable at Baarmutha Park
- Happy to work with the young people to develop an advanced BMX track on site if the young people were interested and had Council support

Beechworth Bowls Club

The club installed a new synthetic green about five years ago with help from a loan from Council, which they paid back in four years. They would like to install a second synthetic green, but are aware that it is unlikely they will receive any additional external funding. The clubhouse needs some minor repair work. but they do receive assistance from the goal to complete painting and smaller projects. They have no interest in relocating to another location due to the investment in the synthetic.

The natural turf green in being maintained and if they have access to water, they will again be able to use it. They offer their facilities to the croquet club as required. The group has 65 members and is generally happy with the support provided by Council. At the community meeting, support for a second synthetic field was requested.

Beechworth Hockey Club

- Hockey was using secondary college facilities until they became unplayable due to the drought conditions
- Hockey is played on Saturdays which means that it would clash with football and there is no land currently available for hockey at Baarmutha Park unless the golf course is changed
- They group has a strong committee and coaching staff that has resulted in some high level players within the club
- A feasibility study was completed in 2008 to determine the options for a venue/location for hockey in Beechworth. This study recommended that the Secondary College looked like the most appropriate option for consideration
- The group was playing at the secondary college on the existing fields but due to the ongoing drought conditions and damage caused by rabbits, this has ceased
- Training is held at the field at the Beechworth Primary School, Yackandandah Sports Park and on a synthetic surface in Wodonga. The cost of hiring the synthetic is very expensive
- They do not have any storage capacity at any of the venues which makes it very difficult for the club to function
- They can no longer play at Latrobe University as a cricket pitch was installed that seriously impacted on their playing surface. Latrobe also has no capital funding to assist with a development of a better playing surface but the location is great
- The club has funds and in kind support to contribute to the development of a synthetic field
- There is no facility with lighting in town which also means that they have to travel for senior training that operates outside of work hours
- Applied for a first round grant last October from Local Schools Working Together program to install a synthetic surface at the secondary college. They were unsuccessful they believe due to a lack of education focus. They have just submitted another application under this program to install a major multi-use synthetic pitch at the secondary college
- The club has been guaranteed the Veterans Hockey Championship once a year which will attract 800 people to Beechworth during the 10 day event. A synthetic pitch would have great tourism potential for the area and help to retain players

locally. It will also allow the school to have access to playable sporting surface which they do not currently have.

- The proposed surface would cater for soccer, hockey, tennis, softball, futsal, netball, handball and includes fences, lighting, seating but no clubrooms. They would need to access existing school facilities or apply for additional funding for these. Have spoken to James Merlino-DPCD in regards to the grant application
- The club feels that it has not had good support from Council but now asking for \$200K for funding application
- Have spoken with tennis about joint relocation but they do not seem to be interested in move
- The Ovens and Murray Hockey Association is being formed to increase hockey in the region
- The group feels that it needs some success and a venue soon as it is difficult to keep the momentum going as they have been trying to secure a venue for more than six years
- 60% females members

Beechworth Football Club

- In 2003, Club changed to the Tallangatta League. It then became five football teams, including midgets. Combined football and netball club
- They need a facility that can cater for 350 people. Their only venue that does this is Latrobe and they are very expensive
- Draft concept plans have been drawn for the new pavilion
- During a home match they have more than 1000 visitors through the reserve
- Play home matches every second week
- Train twice a week
- Thursday night is meals/team selection

Pavilion

- Not big enough, major structural problems, unsafe and inappropriate kitchen facilities
- No insulation, freezing in winter. Unsafe gas bottle heaters being used
- Facilities need to be good to keep players in town

Oval

- Well shaped after the \$100K renovation
- Perception that there was a Stage 2 for stormwater recycling for more water which is incorrect
- Issues with sprinkler heads being too low
- Oval needs some top dressing
- Looking at the development of a scoreboard/storage area

Beechworth Cricket Club

- 5 teams playing in competition, including juniors
- Need to complete cricket nets
- Junior cricket played at Latrobe University
- Looking at Lighting from jail
- Would like some additional shade trees around perimeter of oval

- Currently use secondary college oval as well which has inadequate oval playing surface
- Work well with the football club
- Significant cost to establish turf wicket at the end of football season
- The cricket club used to utilise the prison facilities for indoor batting practice, they are unable to do this since the prison moved to private ownership

Beechworth Croquet Club

The croquet club has eight members and is struggling to retain a small amount of use. The facilities are in good condition and the committee is trying to look for ways to increase its profile and membership, also being done through Croquet Victoria who is also looking at an overall decrease in participation. They partner with the Senior Citizens and Bowls Club as required and happy with their current location.

Mountain Bike Committee of Management- Chain Gang Mountain Bike Club

Beechworth is an excellent mountain bike destination for locals and visitors alike. As a club they are hoping that the planned developments at the Mountain Bike Park will allow for training days to encourage new riders to the sport and to increase the level of social riding activity in the town in general. Mountain Biking is a healthy sport with few boundaries that attracts people from every walk of life. This gives a unique opportunity for young people to not only socialize with older riders but also to ride along side them. Few sports include all age groups participating at the same place at the same time, particularly during competitive events. The interaction of the different age groups at social rides and events has to be witnessed; it is a nurturing environment for all involved.

The amount of mountain bike riders that reside in Beechworth and visitors that come here to ride is very much underestimated in general. As mentioned before, this is normal due to the fact that mountain bike riders usually disappear into the bush and don't appear again for some time. Any developments for bicycle riders of any type should also be looked at from a tourism aspect as well as local perspective. To spend a lot of money on sporting venues without tourists in mind in a predominantly tourist town would be short sighted and limiting for the town itself. The mountain bike community is planning for this region to be similar to regions in the UK (e.g. Seven Stanes) that provide a number of riding opportunities all within a reasonable distance of each other. To make the most of any opportunity consideration has to be given to developments that may increase the viability of Beechworth as a tourist destination as well as providing opportunity for the "locals".

Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

The Neighbourhood Centre Coordinator expressed support for the project, but did not have any comments to make in regards to any specific recreation issues or any needs that the centre has.

Beechworth Memorial Hall Committee of Management

The group has been in existence for 12 years and the hall and supper room are booked to capacity for a large percentage of the time. They feel that they are well supported by Council given the sharing of the building. There is some concern about a move of the

Council offices and how this may affect the group. Karate is run in the building foyer, which is not ideal but they have no other use by recreational groups and do not see any opportunities or requirement for this to change.

Beechworth Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens have approximately 50 registered members, with around 12-20 participating on a regular basis in Indoor Bowls and social functions. Most of the members are over 80 years old and have need for recreational opportunities. Work well with the croquet club and feel supported by Council as required.

Beechworth Tennis Club

Consultation with the tennis club was extensive in regards to the development of their strategic plan. The main issues for consideration:

- Land ownership and possible sale of land
- Ongoing perceived issues with Council
- Impact on their ability to apply for grants given land ownership
- Possible relocation to Baarmutha Park
- Drought conditions and impact upon the lawn tennis courts
- Types of surface to be installed in the future to maximise use
- Long term funding strategies
- Club house
- Increasing membership base and competition numbers

Indigo Shire Council- Environment department

Need to consider the Greenhouse Action Plan and the Sustainable Water Use Plan which includes:

- New buildings must meet 5 star energy rating at least
- New appliances should be the highest energy rating
- Sharing of facilities is a priority
- Water saving devices to be installed
- Solar Hot water systems and PV Cell systems
- Energy Efficient lighting/ sensor lighting
- Water tanks
- Water recycling
- Public Place Recycling
- Native vegetation guidelines and suggested planting report prepared for Baarmutha Park
- An environment strategy is being developed which may also have some implications for the project

Department of Sustainability and Environment

Discussion with DSE officers found support for the project and the key directions of the project in regards to development of Baarmutha Park and other recreation facilities within the town. They would like to remain informed about the project and also wanted to highlight the serious issues that have arisen at the Mountain Bike Park in Beechworth.

There have been some serious incidents at the Mountain Bike Park as a result of illegal earthworks, vegetation removal and jump installation. DSE have completed works to improve the safety of the area and are working with a new Committee of Management to develop approved use of the area for mountain bike riding that is safe and appropriate. It is important that Council are supportive of this process.

Stanley Recreation Reserve COM

A site visit was held at the Stanley Recreation Reserve with a committee representative. The Council has secured \$91,000 for building upgrades at the reserve and how this funding is to be spent will be determined over the coming months.

They have secured funding for lighting of the tennis court which is well used during the summer months. They have also secured a grant for oval improvement works and a small report was prepared for the group to assist them with the process. They have had significant risk management issues in the past because of the trees, which they have worked with DSE to resolve.

The reserve is used by the Beechworth Wanderers Cricket Club during summer and they are in the process of installing a new synthetic pitch. The reserve used to host horse and major sporting events, which have ceased due to a lack of interest and difficulty in obtaining insurance.

The committee is a Crown Land COM and their tenure will expire in March 2010.

Beechworth Swimming Club

The Beechworth Swimming Club is hoping that Council continues to prioritise and protect the future of the pool. While the technical report suggests that the pool can be retained in its current location, they would like to stress the importance of maintaining and improving the facilities. There is support for heating of the pool to allow extension of the season and an indoor facility.

Indigo Shire- Tourism department

The following comments were provided in regards to tourism in Beechworth:

- Golf players do not like sand scrape courses
- The course needs to have good maintenance/challenge
- Good quality 9 hole course would be good/ with strategically placed tees
- Grass greens that are watered
- Up market fashion stores in town-market for partners to play golf, money available
- 600,000 visitors to Beechworth each year
- Tourists tend to be older than average ie bus tours, but there is a real cross section of population that visits Beechworth
- 25 minutes to good quality course, people travel from Beechworth
- Should consider- driving range, pro shop, café, bar- commercial lease
- Synthetic pitch and putt to attract people out to Baarmutha Park
- Not much interest in a commercial indoor playground
- High demand for an outdoor pool from tourists to cool down-doesn't matter where it is

- Very supportive of a synthetic sporting surface in Beechworth-bring competition into town, retain existing sports in town which brings tourism spending
- Cycling/pathway network is very important
- Beechworth relies very heavily on tourism and recreation facilities are very important to attract and retain visitors

Beechworth Golf Club

Consultation with the golf club was extensive in regards to the development of its strategic plan. The main issues for consideration:

- The preference of the club would be to have grass greens, but this has not been possible due to a lack of water
- Drilling has occurred in a number of locations in an attempt to find water without success
- They have one volunteer (small payment via cash) that maintains the entire course. There are some concerns that once he is unable to complete the maintenance that it may be hard to find someone else
- The club has regular working bees to assist with maintenance, however there is not the expertise in the club in regards to turf management or irrigation management
- The club has looked at synthetic greens in the past, estimated cost was over \$100,000. Some members did try and play on a course which has them. The club decided at the time to discount this option
- The group have an agreed development plan in regards to the course, but this is not written down
- They currently charge \$5 green fees which has some scope for increase
- There are about 60 members. 15 people play competition each week
- The group are aware that they are missing opportunities through tourism because of the quality of the course
- No tree planting program in place
- They play competition on Sunday instead of Saturday so they don't clash with the football/netball because of the danger of golf balls hitting cars/members of the public
- They use a contractor to complete routine spraying and fertilising
- Greens are all about the same size
- There would be some resistance in the club to change the course in any way
- Dog walkers on course let their dogs off leash and do not pick up dog poo, which can cause issues.
- Clubhouse is inadequate, happy to relocate and join with multi-purpose facility
- Strong junior program in place which may increase use over time
- Evidence at other sites is that the club will fold unless improvements are made to the course
- There is serious competition in the region with other courses 30 minutes drive from Beechworth. Need a point of difference to attract new players to the course
- The club is not considering the true tourism potential and probably some members are keen not to encourage additional usage by tourists
- Need a more detailed feasibility study in the future to weigh up the different options in regards to different costs, impact on usage numbers, 9 hole vs 18 hole

- It would only be worth developing a better golf course if a permanent water supply was available
- Could look at the option of sharing a curator with another local course, ie provide advice and support to the club. Perhaps including an affiliation with another club, lower levels of competition could be played at Beechworth to free up the busier courses
- The trees within the golf course need some routine maintenance and present a risk management issue for the users of the public golf course
- The course is very basic and lacks challenge. No bunkers, greens are all the same size. The course is very scenic, but all courses tend to be this way and there is an expectation from players that the course is developed to a higher standard

Other comments provided by a member of the club:

There was a proposal (from around the mid 1980's) to relocate the Beechworth Golf Course to the vacant land behind Latrobe University (copy of original design attached).

I believe that, if a golf course was to be developed, a 'stand alone' course would be the best option for Beechworth because:

- Less risk management issues with other sports
- Golf club can have its own 'space' particularly clubroom area space
- Baarmutha Park golf fairways are currently built on very poor, rocky soils, difficult to develop into high quality surfaces
- Some advantages with accommodation and hospitality industries available at Latrobe

Beechworth Primary School

- Sufficient only for junior competition due to the size and quality of turf
- AFL goals not correctly installed
- Synthetic wicket which means that oval is only suitable for lower levels of cricket
- No lighting, parking, toilets or spectator infrastructure on site

Indigo Shire Council – Infrastructure department

- 13 channel irrigation system, installed 3 years ago under the supervision of Council. Irrigation plans are available. Company that designed the system, did not install it. There has been a continuing perception that the irrigation system was not installed correctly. However, only a few issues have been identified.
- The stormwater recycling storage dam was completed last year and has a 10.5 megalitre capacity. The group ran the supply dry and used 4.2 Meg since it filled again at the start of the year.
- Still waiting for a maintenance plan for the pumping system.
- The committee are rolling the ground which is not good for the turf and may also be damaging the irrigation system.
- The oval should be aerated not rolled.
- The recycling system should capture 60 megalitres of water per year and there are connections to allow for water use by the golf club and school. There are serious concerns that the COM will continue to utilise all available water.

- COM-isn't providing any information to Council, watering during the day, isn't following guidance.
- Not sure whether drainage has been installed under the irrigation system.
- Council does not have any in house expertise to assist with the oval/irrigation/turf.
- Lack of sprinkler maintenance, top soil and failure to repair burst water leak.
- Need a lighting audit completed for oval-current lighting is inadequate and if they are looking at lighting from jail, some advice needs to be sought.
- Turf quality is poor due to the choice of turf. Need a warm season grass like couch, which is drought resistant and will significantly reduce the amount of water being used.

Indigo Heritage Advisor- Deborah Kemp

- A picture of the old heritage gates could be located and then they could be reproduced.
- Could have two sets of gates for entries. One could be the old replicated gates of the 1950's and the other could be new modern to reflect the past and the present.
- Don't make a feature out of the front fence. If one is required, just make it a cyclone fence that can be seen through.
- Would like to see interpretive signage recognising the old racecourse.
- Grandstand needs to be incorporated into the master plan and have a purpose and use. Maybe try and improve the relationship between the grandstand and the sports ground via landscaping or a forecourt. Maybe consider other options such as a cafe or socialising area in front of the grandstand towards the ground. This keeps the grandstand with a purpose and used. If not, it may be neglected or poorly maintained
- No heritage issues in regards to the Beechworth Swimming Pool.
- No heritage issues associated with the golf club.
- Park furniture – if putting in new, just a modern style bench is appropriate. If replacing a heritage piece, it will need to be a replica. Don't confuse putting in new furniture with a heritage theme.
- New Multi-purpose building does not need to have a heritage theme or be matched with the grandstand design. Heritage remains heritage, anything new does not.
- Skate Park – happy with the painting of the facade. No heritage issues.
- Tennis – fencing and gates need to be heritage sympathetic because of location.

4. 2009 Indigo Shire Council Community Think Tank Sessions

A session was held for the Beechworth, Stanley and Wooragee districts on Tuesday 27 January. 91 local residents attended. Following is a list of comments that are relevant to the provision of recreation in Beechworth and community engagement:

- Positive and proactive leadership around community engagement
- Community engagement in policy development
- Community engagement and partnerships between the community and Council
- There is no formally adopted signage policy shire wide
- Harness stormwater runoff
- Investigate bike trail from Beechworth to Yackandandah
- There is a lack of footpaths
- Bicycle trails – tourism
- Manage overgrowth onto footpath areas
- Beautification of all parks
- Lack of flowers in gardens
- Possible off leash areas for dogs
- Tree planting plan for next 50 years eg replace by alternate planting
- Dead wood trees should be addressed
- Leaves dangerous (fire risk)
- Recycling centre – re-use
- Playground shade needs improving
- Toilets at Sandy Beach
- Swimming pool funding – where did this go?
- Pool – should be shade over the shallow end of the pools steps eg Eildon toddlers pool
- Improve Lake Sambell and develop as a destination for visitors, including a playground
- Vandalism of shade sails needs to be addressed
- There needs to be a policy which directs income to produce future income – less on costs and more on income producing
- Avoid large borrowings today to fund capital works
- Heritage issue for tourism – Aboriginal culture is being ignored
- There needs to be a concrete tourism plan with goals and predictable outcomes
- Council should develop a strategy to develop ‘Old’ Beechworth jail – ask Vic Government to buy it back for us
- Tourism is important to the town and has a flow on effect to other industries. It needs to be rated number one, unlike Tourism Vic meeting
- Get the old jail back into the hands of Beechworth
- Make Beechworth a destination – tourism operators should be working together to develop options
- Keep heritage of the Shire and push tourism. This should be the priority of Beechworth and the Shire
- Tourism is the future of Beechworth – Sustainable tourism. Maybe need to look at educational tourism through schools, school experience, families etc
- Importance of volunteers within the Shire – recognition of volunteers needs improving, perhaps by offering a discount on rates to volunteers
- The rail trail is a great asset
- Need to increase the number of walking tracks
- Would like to see more water drinking fountains
- There should be clear signage which isn’t covered with trees or broken or missing

- Increase the number of toilets at Lake Sambell
- Sustainability is an issue – climate change
- Solar alliance for ratepayers to get cheaper hot water and electricity
- Character of shire – mix new with heritage for quality design
- Weed control is an issue
- Audit for all community buildings – and should reduce energy outputs
- Weed map – need to work on weed removal
- Quality of construction – higher quality for new buildings to reflect character (sustainable design, aesthetics). Solar issues, orientation, better control – all issues
- Protecting / respecting the work of volunteers
- Grants from Council – there needs to be more communication on eligibility and clarification of the process
- Volunteers – admin support should be given eg photocopying. One mail out per year, per group should also be granted
- Welcome bags for new families should be given out
- Bring back the community directory in hard copy
- There needs to be more interaction between community groups and Council should facilitate this interaction more
- A community calendar should be developed by the community which will lead to better planning – all groups can put their information on this
- Sporting groups need to work together better
- What will happen with all this information? We don't want it to be 'shelved'
- Congregate sporting facilities in one location
- Council needs to work with the Golf Club (Beechworth) – water needs to be going to the golf course and a new club house is needed
- Improve services for people with disabilities
- Improve recreation facilities
- The multi council approach to the rail trail needs to be commended and should be used as a model for other projects
- When the Beechworth pool was out, the provision of the bus from Wooragee to Beechworth was well appreciated and patronised
- Council needs to recognise that this town is a 'commuting town' and needs to provide the appropriate services to cater for this

Youth

- More activities for young people
- There should be New Years Eve activities for young people
- Funds for a youth centre with a homework room and a chill out space
- Development of a skate park
- Increase activities / programs for young people (under 18)
- Undertake surveying in schools to get input from young people
- Railway station (youth centre) needs to be used more
- There should be more communication between groups working with young people to enable more activities for young people and more promotion of services
- Community engagement re: planning for young people
- Focus on young people – youth interests from a youth perspective
- Young people from other towns needs to be interacting more

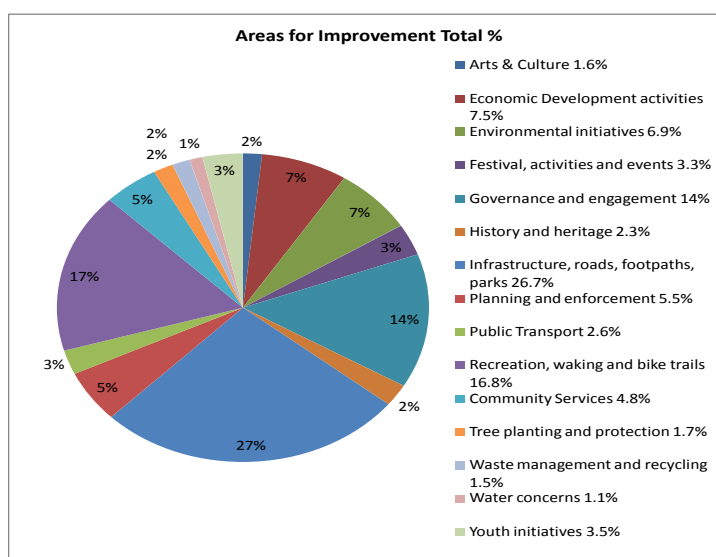
5. 2009 Indigo Shire Council Community Survey

The 2009 Community Survey was completed during the period of December 2008 - February 2009. Surveys were collected using an online electronic survey tool. Printed surveys were distributed through mailouts to community organisations and were available at Council offices. Face to face surveys were also collected in a number of towns by local residents and young people throughout the survey period. An impressive 930 surveys were collated for the development of this report. A copy of the survey can be located at the end of this attachment.

Of the total survey responses, 306 were from postcode 3747 of the Beechworth district. Of these, 52% were female and 48% were male. The age breakdown was as follows:

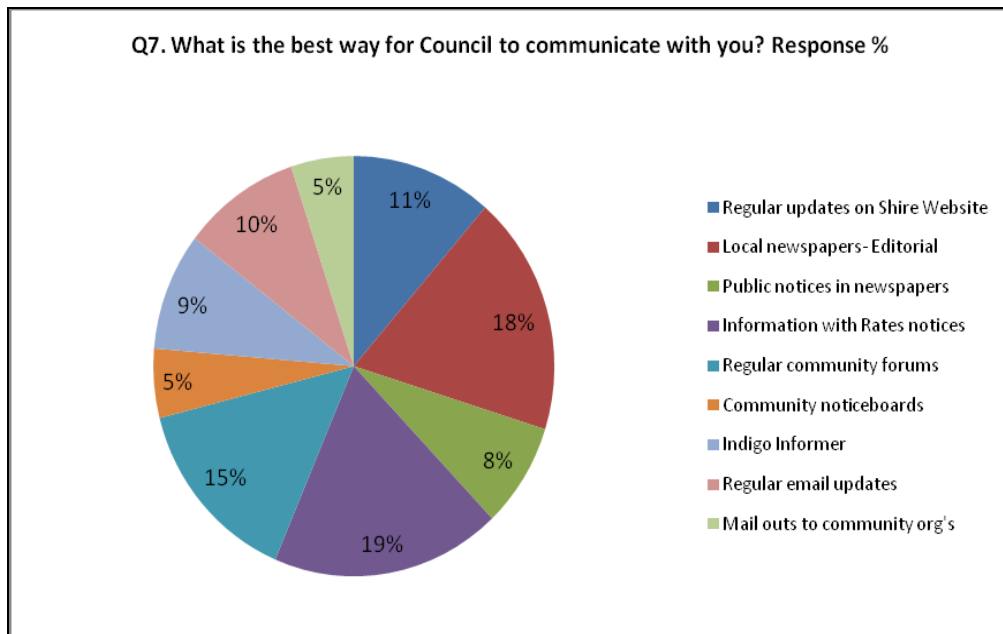
Age	0-20yrs	20-30yrs	30-40yrs	40-50yrs	50-60yrs	60-70yrs	80+ yrs
	11	13	38	61	93	81	9

Overwhelmingly, the residents indicated that what they like most about Indigo Shire is the environment, beauty, landscape and natural features. Similarly, residents regard as highly desirable characteristics of the area to be the size of the towns, lifestyle and proximity to larger cities. One very positive outcome of this question was the value placed on community spirit, diversity and people who live in the Shire as a key benefit of living within the region. This was consistent across Indigo.

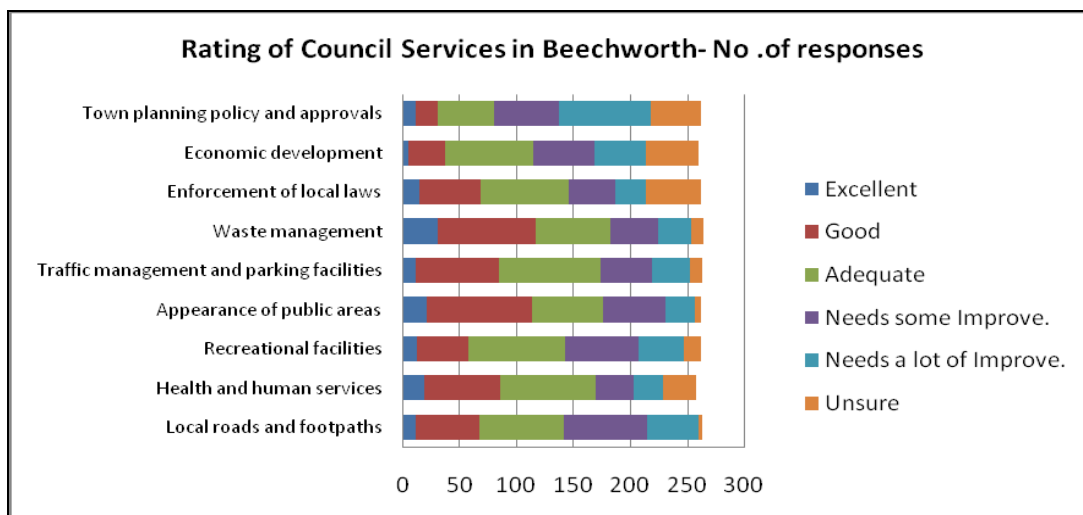


The areas identified for improvement across the shire included; infrastructure, more roads and footpaths and recreation, which strongly identifies the need for additional walking and bike trails throughout the region. At 14%, Governance is seen by some as an area for improvement, including the Council offices, equitable distribution of resources and listening to what the community has to say.

When looking at Beechworth specifically, it was identified that the two most effective ways for Council to communicate with residents is through the local newspapers and including information with mailed rates notices.



Survey participants were asked to rate Council services using the same scale as the Annual Local Government Satisfaction Survey. In 2008 and 2009, recreation facilities rated well against other Council service areas. However, the need for improvement is also highlighted:



Comments in regards to recreation provision in Beechworth were as follows:

- A Lot of interest from many people to get early morning swimming started in Beechworth
- Beechworth Tennis Club would like your help in securing grants
- The Lake Sambell Cleanup Committee is delighted with the progress around the lake and boardwalk is looking great
- Save the Beechworth Jail
- Need more fun things for teens

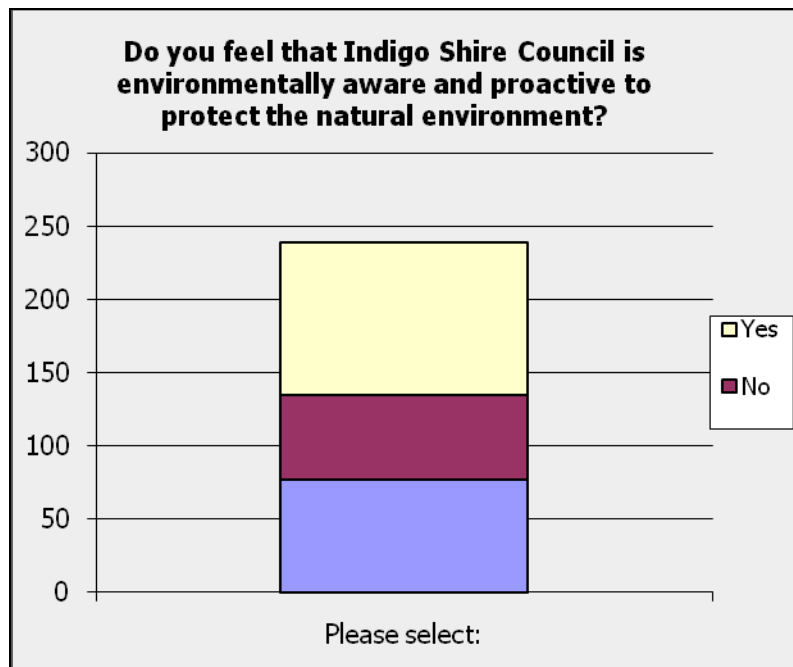
Identified Service Priorities that need to be improved

- Community capacity building
- Council could look at combining local gym with pool and seek funding/consider whether it is possible to establish an indoor pool in the town
- Encouragement for all to adopt more environmentally enhancing strategies
- Environmental awareness/promotion
- Facilities, amenities and activities for teenagers need more investment of both time and money
- Better recreation centres for youth
- Opportunity to develop facilities for cyclists - economic benefits for whole town
- Park facilities
- Perhaps better identification of what is provided so that when new people come to town they can integrate more easily
- Preservation of natural 'heritage' sites
- Swimming facilities
- swimming pool costs relatively high
- Weed control, water use
- Youth

The need to further develop tourism in Beechworth is a priority and suggestions that link with recreation include:

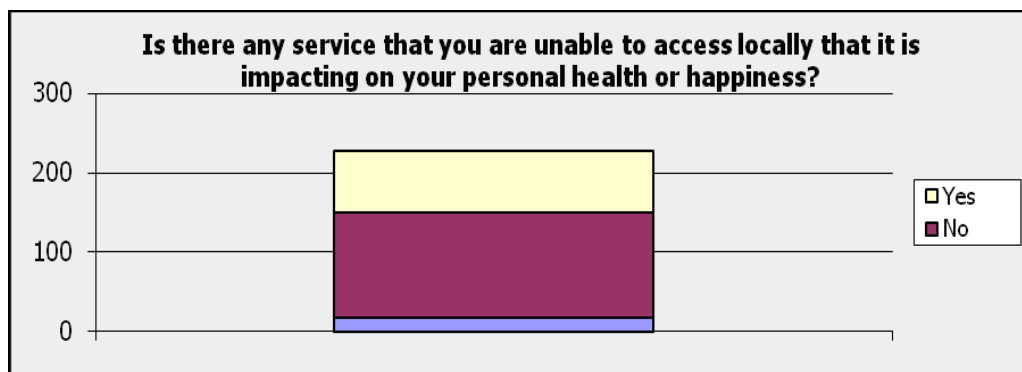
- Acknowledge existing opportunities - mountain biking, cycling, sports
- Increase mountain bike access. Improve signage for trails. Create maps of routes
- Better communication and cooperation between Council, community groups and other interested parties should be on the agenda
- Bike trails to Yackandandah and Stanley
- Buy prison in Beechworth and open to public
- Contact and advertise sporting, elderly citizens and clubs
- Cycling tourism in all its forms ie families, wine and food, mountain bikes
- Develop area for bicycle touring and promote
- Establish Indigo Shire (in collaboration with Wodonga, Wangaratta, Alpine) as a cycling friendly shire
- Increase support to local bicycle groups to increase facilities to cyclists of all types
- More bicycle paths between towns
- More development of cycling facilities, both road and MTB, to make Indigo a cycling destination
- Not enough for children to do
- Promote activity based family holidays, not just shopping and eating
- Promotion of cycle tourism throughout Victoria, especially in Melbourne as cycling is booming there
- Push trails eg history trails (gold/Ned Kelly/prison), gourmet trails, bike trails
- Recognise and respond to the growing impact and importance of cycling tourism

Residents of Indigo feel very passionate about Environmental Sustainability. Around 100 Beechworth residents would like to see Council doing more:



Volunteering is very high in the Beechworth Community with around 74% volunteering in the last 12 months. It was identified that the most effective way to encourage people to volunteer in their community was through formal recognition of the work they do (51%).

Around 80 Beechworth residents identified the need for additional services to improve their health and happiness:



Comments relating to recreation service provision in Beechworth:

- A comprehensive strategy that encourages all of us to cycle safely more often in Indigo Shire
- A fitness centre
- A swimming pool in winter
- Decent choices for exercising (dance classes, etc) sick of only aerobics!
- Early morning swimming in Beechworth
- Fitness groups

- Formal exercise all year round including swimming and gymnasium
- Generally in Beechworth we have to accelerate the development of a centralised recreation and health complex at Baarmutha Park catering to young, medium and old. Perhaps plan to run it under contract by YMCA so Council does not get spread too wide
- Good gym with good facilities
- Gym and squash courts are closed in Beechworth and Chiltern
- Gym facilities
- Gymnasium, early morning pool access
- Gymnastics for children aged 0-12 years. Heated swimming pool for all year swimming and exercise facility.
- Heated pool
- Hydro pool and gym
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor swimming pool (I travel out of town) gymnasium (I travel out of town)
- Salt water pool as I'm allergic to chlorine
- Sporting venues. We need better facilities
- Swimming in the morning (before work) not possible
- Swimming lessons for young children under 4 during the summer time, and swimming in the winter time!
- Water aerobics for the aged have to travel to Albury or Wodonga and there are a lot of aged citizens that for one reason or another have no transport
- Youth support and activities for young people

Any other comments, specific to the provision of recreation in Beechworth:

- Beechworth needs to improve their health and fitness facilities, an indoor pool and bring back a gym
- The development of a community calendar where everyone puts their events on it would mean that we could see which month/s have little on so we could then spread out events. Would also mean that people might attend something new simply because they found out about it
- Many of the towns have excellent cycle paths. Further development of mountain bike trails and the extension to the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail are very important. Cycling is a strong local recreational activity and more people are visiting the region with their bikes. We need to get developing trails to keep ahead of other regions
- Council needs to continue to consider reuse of the Beechworth Prison and Hospital sites even though they are not in Council ownership
- Public toilets at the Lake Park would be great! This is so hard for parents with young children when we are playing at the lake-we have to trek to the toilets 300m away!
- There are many groups spending inordinate amounts of time trying to raise funds for various projects. Perhaps there needs to be a "community chest" or at least some more focussed and novel ways to generate funds. Some workshops on alternate money making for community groups, budgeting etc may be helpful
- Gaining access to the Old Gaol for the public benefit will reap huge rewards for the Shire and community

6. Indigo Recreation Plan- Community Survey Findings (2006)

The Indigo Shire Recreation Plan was completed in 2006 and it involved extensive consultation with each of the communities within Indigo, including Beechworth.

Comments received via the Household Survey in regards to Beechworth:

Walking/ Riding Trails	Council Support	Sporting Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal roads to minimise dust and better walking surface • Maintain walking and fire tracks in better condition • Mountain Bike Tracks • Provide Safer, dedicated horse riding trails • Ban Trail Bikes • Complete Rail Trail to Bowser • Seal shoulders on Wodonga and Wangaratta Roads • Grade roads into campsites and riverside reserves • Bike lanes on all main roads in town • Complete walking track at Lake Sambell <p>Swimming Pool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better swimming pool • Bigger swimming pool • Indoor Heated Pool • Swimming Pool complex • Improve Beechworth Swimming Pool • Fix solar heating at pool • Open swimming pool regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver promised funds for local events • Use allocated funding • More funding • Tidy up Lake Sambell Reserve • More advertising and better communication • Listen to community comments, concerns and requests • Maintenance • Keep parks and recreation areas clean and tidy • Continued maintenance and upgrade • Maintain facilities safe • Decent new year's festival • Help clubs with grant applications • More recreational activities to do • More spots facilities and activities for kids • Encourage community involvement in sport and physical activities • Yoga Classes outside 9-5 • More dance classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water fairways at Golf Club • Use funding for lawn courts and cinema • More participation/ interest in all sports/ recreation • Improve sporting facilities • Facilities need to be more up market • Toilets for Sandy Beach at Lake Sambell, put in more seats and diving board • Soccer Club • All weather tennis courts • More playgrounds • Boat Club at lake • Increase level of sharing of existing grounds- help them develop grounds • Badminton Courts • Better exercise facilities

Other relevant results across Indigo:

Table 13a & 13b: Recreational services and facilities that respondents see as priority should funds become available

Female	Male
Swimming pool	Swimming pool
Walking/ cycle tracks	Walking / cycle tracks
Indoor sports complex	Indoor sporting complex
Youth activities	Recreational reserve
Fitness gym	Golf
Recreational reserve	Youth activities
Tennis	Upgrade existing facilities
Improve existing facilities	Fitness / gym
Skate/ BMX park	Club rooms
Golf	Tennis

Table 11a and 11b: Additional ways in which outdoor sporting facilities could be best provided, improved and managed in the future.

Other female responses	Other male responses
Improve pools/heated pools	Improve level of support
Increase levels of support	Improve/maintain existing facilities
Keep separate do not combine facilities	Additional grants
Finish sports centre at Yack	Better sporting facilities indoor
Additional grants	Finish sports centre at Yack
Use water from local creek	Use Water from local creek
Improve/ maintain existing facilities	Suitable population growth for increase in rate base
Turf wicket (cricket)	Keep separate/don't combine facilities
Get committees involved	Safe cycling path/ caution signs
One sports club	Turf wicket (cricket)
No politics	One sporting club
Limit travel costs	More ads
A badminton court	Develop golf complex
Better sporting facilities indoors	Recycle grey water
Canoe hire	Fund raising
Be actively managed	Better playgrounds

7. Community submissions

7.1 Responsible Pet Ownership

A letter and petition was received by Indigo Shire Council on the 20th August from Lynda Blackman in regards to responsible pet ownership. The petition was signed by 32 residents who use Baarmutha Park as a dog off leash exercise area. The accompanying letter asks for the preservation of responsible, off leash dog walking in the development of Baarmutha Park and surrounds and provides supporting information in regards to the health benefits of the dogs and owners and the minimisation of social nuisance created by dogs.

This submission has been addressed within the Baarmutha Park Masterplan.

7.2 Beechworth & District Hockey Club

A response was received from the Beechworth & District Hockey Club in regards to the Bigger Beechworth report draft and modifications have been made to the document to resolve these issues.

7.3 Verbal discussion

Verbal discussion was held with a number of community members to explain the findings of the Bigger Beechworth Project and no major concerns were raised.