

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 24 MAY 2011

***Mission Statement:***

***To support and develop a sustainable, thriving and resilient Community  
through leadership and partnership.***

---

**TO BE HELD:** Tuesday 24 May 2011 at 4pm

**LOCATION:** Supper Room, Beechworth

---

**REQUIRED TO ATTEND:** Councillors: Senior Management/Officers

Ali Pockley – Mayor

Brendan McGrath – CEO

Bernard Gaffney – Deputy Mayor

Andre M Kompler

Peter Croucher

Mark Florence

Larry Goldsworthy

Greg Pinkerton

Vic Issell

Roberta Baker

Barbara Murdoch

Katie Rizzuto

Robert Uebergang

**APOLOGIES:** Peter Graham

---

***Vision Statement:***

***INDIGO – A great place to live, work and visit.***

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0	WELCOME .....	3
2.0	OPENING PRAYER & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND.....	3
3.0	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	3
4.0	DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST .....	3
5.0	OPEN FORUM .....	3
6.0	CONDOLENCES.....	3
7.0	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.....	3
8.0	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES .....	3
9.0	DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS .....	3
10.0	CORPORATE SERVICES.....	4
11.0	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.....	5
12.0	MAJOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.....	6
13.0	GOVERNANCE .....	7
	13.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2011-14.....	7
14.0	NOTICES OF MOTION .....	11
15.0	COMMITTEE AND DELEGATES REPORTS (ALL ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY).....	12
16.0	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	13
17.0	CONFIDENTIAL .....	14

**1.0 WELCOME**

**2.0 OPENING PRAYER & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND**

Cr Croucher read out the opening prayer and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

**3.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The Mayor acknowledged Cr Graham as an apology.

**4.0 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**5.0 OPEN FORUM**

Nil.

**6.0 CONDOLENCES**

Nil.

**7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nil.

**8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil.

**9.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Nil.

---



**10.0 CORPORATE SERVICES**

Nil.

---



**11.0 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Nil.

---



**12.0 MAJOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

Nil.

---

**13.0 GOVERNANCE**

**13.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2011-14**

**File No.: 09/729 Roberta Baker – Manager Communications**

**Moved: Cr Gaffney  
Seconded: Cr Croucher**

- 1. That Council consider the submission received in relation to the draft Council Plan 2011-2014 ; and**
- 2. That Council consider the comments derived from the Community Survey 2011 ; and**
- 3. That Officers make the changes proposed in the table below to the Draft Council Plan which will be presented for Council's consideration at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 14 June 2011.**
- 4. Amend Items 4.3 and 4.4 of the Council Plan to include taking into account fire protection and road safety.**

**Unanimously Carried**

**For Decision**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That Council consider the submission received in relation to the draft Council Plan 2011-2014 ; and**
- 2. That Council consider the comments derived from the Community Survey 2011 ; and**
- 3. That Officers make the changes proposed in the table below to the Draft Council Plan which will be presented for Councils consideration at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 14 June 2011.**

**INTRODUCTION**

The updated draft Council Plan 2011-2014, which includes the Strategic Resource Plan, has been available for public comment for 28 days. One submission has been received. Comments made in this submission and comments extracted from Council's community satisfaction survey are listed below.

**BACKGROUND**

The original Council Plan 2009-12 was drafted after extensive community input involving a series of ‘dinner table conversations’ and a community satisfaction survey. The ‘conversations’ in Rutherglen/Wahgunyah, Chiltern/Barnawartha, Beechworth/Stanley/Wooragee, Yackandandah/Allans Flat/Osbornes Flat, and Kiewa/Tangambalanga attracted 382 people. There were 930 surveys completed either online or on paper.

Last year the Council Plan was updated and the community survey was available online, in hard copy and as an insert in the Ovens & Murray Advertiser newspaper. There were 286 responses to the survey.

This year the Council Plan was again updated and put out for public comment until 16 May. The community survey was placed as an insert in Council’s Indigo Informer newsletter in February and went to every home in the shire. There were 673 completed surveys returned and analysed. Again, the purpose of this process was to test whether community priorities were still the same or whether new issues had arisen from the community’s perspective.

**KEY IMPLICATIONS**

The single submission makes three suggestions, which are summarised in the following table. An analysis of comments from the community survey highlights a number of areas of the Council Plan that it is recommended be updated to reflect community concern. These are also summarised in the following table.

<b>AREAS OF CONCERN</b>	<b>CURRENT DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED CHANGE</b>
<p><b><u>Submission:</u></b>                      1. Previous Council Plan had a Strategy/Goal under 3.3 to implement an Economic Development Strategy. There is now an action to implement an Economic Development Action Plan – is this the same thing? It is mentioned in another action under this heading. Hierarchy of strategy and action plan is unclear.</p>	<p>Action: Implement Council’s Economic Development Action Plan</p>	<p>Rewritten action: Develop an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan</p>

<p>2. Under 4.3, Protect &amp; enhance the Shire’s natural environment:</p> <p>a. Reference to continuing to support protection and enhancement of native vegetation through existing programs such as Trust for Nature, DSE etc and linking with rate rebates for covenants etc.</p> <p>b. Recognise and support council partnership with DSE in relation to native vegetation protection related to statutory planning permits and enforcement. Seen as important to promote community understanding and involvement.</p>	<p>Strategy: Promote community understanding and involvement in protecting and enhancing natural features including native vegetation, flora and fauna, air, water, and soil</p>	<p>New actions: Participate in existing programs eg. Trust for Nature and DSE conservation programs and support private conservation initiatives where practicable</p> <p>Reinforce DSE and Shire partnership in the protection of native vegetation as part of statutory planning process.</p>
<p>3. Under 4.4 include ‘conservation’ in the roadside management plan and add ‘protection of significant roadside vegetation’ to enhanced weed control. Include signage where appropriate.</p>	<p>Action: Review and update Indigo Roadside Management Plan and partner with the State and landholders in enhanced weed control programs</p>	<p>Rewritten action: Implement the Roadside Conservation Management Plan and partner with the State and landholders in the protection of significant roadside vegetation and weed control</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY SURVEY ANALYSIS</b></p>		
<p>1. An area identified for improvement is Council’s response to issues. Comments included that Council was too slow to respond sometimes.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE: 1.2 Build a positive customer service culture Action: Enhance organisational awareness and ownership of the Indigo Shire Customer Service Charter</p>	<p>New action: Publicise and promote the Customer Service Charter via Indigo Informer and other means</p>
<p>2. Survey identified a desire for Council to construct concrete footpaths within towns and maintain existing infrastructure and build new/extensions to rail trails.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE: 2.8 Expand and promote the bicycle and pedestrian network</p>	<p>New action: Review bicycle and pedestrian networks and continue maintenance programs as needed</p>
<p>3. Comments on lack of recognition of volunteers</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE: 4.8 Empowering our communities Action: Understand, audit, utilise and acknowledge the range of volunteer skills in our communities</p>	<p>New action: Establish regular volunteer recognition programs</p>

<p>4. The final cut of the survey report indicates that the movement in the town planning area is a decrease in the percentage of people who believe this area 'needs a lot of improvement' – ie 17%, down from 24% in 2010 and 2009.</p>	<p>CONSULTATION (page 9) Respondents recognised some improvement in town planning policy and approvals since last year, but said there was still room for improvement.</p>	<p>New sentence: There was a pleasing decrease in the number of respondents who believe town planning needs a lot of improvement, but people indicated there was still room for improvement overall.</p>
<p>Local Government state-wide survey results</p>	<p>These results are due by the end of May. They will be added to the Council Plan from page 30.</p>	

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Strategic Resource Plan details and quantifies the financial and non-financial resources required to deliver the objectives of the Council Plan and has been updated to reflect the next four financial years, as required by the Local Government Act 1989.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Council Plan is a key strategic document that helps set priorities and guide Council's activities over the next four years.

COMMUNICATION

Once finalised and adopted, the Council Plan will be distributed to Councillors and Council staff and will also be available at Customer Service Centres and other outlets across the shire in hard copy and CD. It will also be placed on the website. Communication to our community of various elements of the plan will take place throughout the year as projects are completed.

CONCLUSION

The Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan, compiled initially with community input, and updated twice with community input, is an accurate reflection of Council and community aspirations.

Attachments:  
Report on Community Survey  
Submission – Jane Roots



**14.0 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.



**15.0 COMMITTEE AND DELEGATES REPORTS (ALL ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Nil.

---



**16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

---



## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 24 MAY 2011

INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL

### 17.0 CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

---