

Tuesday 7 February 2012

Beechworth Community Vision open for comment

Following extensive consultations, a Beechworth Community Vision has been drafted, and the Indigo Shire's Community Strengthening Team is seeking feedback on the document throughout February.

Work began on producing a plan for Beechworth in July 2010 as part of the Community Strengthening Project, which aims to build community resilience through collaboration on projects. The Beechworth Vision has taken a different direction, as feedback on initial consultations revealed that locals were focused on finding additional support for existing projects before undertaking new ones.

"The community has given us a clear indication about how they want Community Strengthening to work in Beechworth," said Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy. "It's important this process is led by the residents."

The Vision identifies two projects the Community Strengthening Team will support. The Beechworth Men's Shed has already received assistance and will continue to be supported, and the Beechworth Community Support group will be assisted to implement a 'Know your Neighbour' program. These projects will act as a stepping stone towards establishing a fully fledged plan in the future.

"Beechworth is fortunate enough to be one of two towns in the Shire to have a neighbourhood centre," said Judy Lazarus, Manager of the Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre. "This has allowed the Community Strengthening Team to work with the Beechworth Community from a different perspective, supporting existing programs to ensure their sustainability."

The Vision is available to view at Council Customer Service Centres, and feedback or enquiries can be directed to Chris McGorlick, Community Strengthening Project Officer on 1300 365 003, or via email cmcgorlick@indigoshire.vic.gov.au. The period for public comment closes on 1 March.

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Caption: A brainstorming session held in September 2010, where ideas for the Vision were developed. L to R: Kath Chivers, Iris Mannik, Doreen Blake, Roberta Baker, Charlie Robinson and Rob Holden.

For media comment:

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