



Seniors Working Group

16 June 2022

MS Teams and Face to Face Ashfield Civic Centre - Meeting Rm1, Level 5

6 – 7.45pm

Minutes

1. Present

Community members	Staff	Councillors
Present 1. Graham Bennet – Chair 2. Angelo Arulanandam 3. Shraddha Banthia 4. Con Karais 5. Yash Sodhi 6. Craig McMahon 7. Vera Anne Hannaford.	Mary Ciantar Sue Pritchard	

2. Chairperson

1. Graham Bennett– Chair
2. Minutes – Mary Ciantar.

3. Acknowledgment of Country



The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country.

4. Apologies

Michael Carney

5. Disclosures of Interest

None

6. Quorum (minimum 4 members)

7. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions

Shraddha was present at last meeting in April

Craig and Vera adopted minutes

8. Business arising

None

Item	Summary	Recommendations / actions	Council's response
1.	<p>Verge Gardens - Summary</p> <p>Sue Pritchard presented an overview if the Verge Garden Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Policy and Guidelines will be on Your Say . (public Exhibition) in July 2022 • The program culminates in harmonising the former council's policies • 70% increase in new enquiries in 2021 • Climate change – impacts on verge plant growth 	<p>Send links to volunteering and bush care</p> <p>https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/environment-and-sustainability/in-your-neighbourhood/bushland-parks-and-verges/bushcare-programs</p> <p>Native nurseries</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council’s urban greening programs outlined which includes bush care volunteering programs, nurseries, composting, public trees, water saving utilities device and more. • Need for registration • Compliance aspects – e.g., no growing of food • Reducing lawn, chance to garden and traffic calming as well as aesthetics <p>Opportunity for residents to work with nature on public verges and increase biodiversity and capacity to use local natives on public and private land Priority is public safety, access, and services</p> <p>Issues discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism and theft • Some challenges to environment with trampling, compacted soil , weather, impacts of rain • Rules around crossing points and impacts of safety for a person alighting from the car • Hard to monitor the compliance aspects • Suggestions for more community gardens within larger parks instead, petitioning off some areas • Joint applications for apartment buildings • Suggestion of a toolkit to be developed as people may not read guidelines – use of pictures, diagrams and videos, info sessions 	<p>https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/environment-and-sustainability/at-home/gardens-and-wildlife/sourcing-native-plants</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities</p> <p>https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/environment-and-sustainability/in-your-neighbourhood/volunteering</p>	
2.	<p>Action Plan</p> <p>Action plan was finalised, and an update given based on members areas of interest. A working document</p>		
3.	<p>Your Say opportunities were flagged and members to consider meeting and writing a submission in relation to Disability Inclusion Plan (DIAP):</p>		

<p>4.</p>	<p>Seniors' festival Evaluation</p> <p>Part of the role of this group was to help shape the priorities for Senior's festival.</p> <p>A time limited working group was suggested that also involved other members of the community</p> <p>Internal working groups occur already as well as the Aged Services Interagency that discuss ideas ann</p>	<p>Angelo nominated to be part of a planned Seniors festival Working Group</p>	
<p>5. General Business</p>	<p>The term for current Seniors Working group and all Advisory and other working groups will end June 2022. Next week applications will be open, and all existing members encouraged to apply. Timeline for new group to meet in August.</p> <p>Achievements to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into the development of the Healthy Ageing Action Plan • Communication plan for Healthy Ageing team • Ways to enhance the website • Photo bank developed showing positive images of older people for use in marketing • Retirement symposium • Financial Literacy • Inclusive engagement guide • Ideas for pedestrian safety – Transport delivery • An Action Plan for the group • Feedback on shaping Verge Garden Policy. 		

	<p>Suggestions to make the group more effective in future:</p> <p>Review governance Larger group and improved diversity Shaping the Agenda.</p> <p>Graham said he will be moving out of the area, and everyone thanked him for being Chair.</p> <p>Mary thanked everyone for their input, noting some members were reasonably new to the Seniors Working Group and challenges of COVID, meeting on line</p>		
	<p>Meeting closed 7.45pm</p>		