

Berwick Village Activity Centre

Community engagement summary report
May 2024

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2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback for Berwick Village Activity Centre.

The Berwick Village Activity Centre is identified as a Major Activity Centre under the State Government and local planning policies. Now over 13 years old, a necessity for an update of the current Berwick Village Activity Centre Structure Plan from 2011 has been highlighted.

Berwick Village Activity Centre has a unique village character, which is much loved by the community however it is recognised that there are various issues and concerns related to the current state of the area.

To help develop the structure plan for the update, from 12 March to 23 April 2024, a community engagement process took place to gather community and stakeholder feedback on the thoughts, ideas and preferences of the community.

Feedback was gathered through a form, vision board and also on an interactive map.

For this consultation, Berwick Village Activity Centre refers to the highlighted area below and all responses relate to this area only.



2.1 Key findings

From the survey which received 62 responses, some of the key findings are below. The feedback we gathered provides valuable insights into the community's preferences, highlighting a strong desire to preserve the village's historical charm while incorporating modern enhancements thoughtfully.

- The majority of respondents (68%) prefer to keep Berwick Village's existing aesthetic while integrating nice-looking new buildings. There is a significant appreciation for maintaining the village's historical charm combined with modern development.

- There is a strong preference (76%) for increasing commercial establishments, reflecting a priority for economic development over residential expansion.
- A majority (55%) support a dual approach in improving transportation by enhancing both public transit services and cycling infrastructure, indicating a preference for diverse and sustainable mobility options.
- More than half of the respondents (52%) believe some improvements are necessary in the parking situation, suggesting room for better management or expansion.
- Re Future of car park located in the middle of the High Street, a slight majority (52%) wish to keep the car park, though there is also considerable interest (48%) in repurposing it, fully or partially, to serve other community needs.
- There is a strong preference (62%) for a combined strategy of increasing both social events and developing family-friendly spaces, indicating a desire for a more inclusive and engaging community environment.

The interactive map received 278 contributions. Key highlights can be grouped into opportunities, issues and general comments.

Opportunities

- More public art, festive lighting and opportunities to showcase local talent and history of the area.
- Enhance the current garden and playground areas.
- More work to improve the appearance of the area including focal points, refresh of facilities and more greenery.
- Increase the number of seats, toilets and include more picnic tables.
- Create more space for families, more walking space.
- A more user-friendly space for all members of the community

Issues

- Waterbeds and weeds have not been maintained.
- Increase of businesses which are not independents.
- Facades of shop fronts could be improved.
- Improvement needed for the streetscape and to utilise space in a more efficient way.
- Footpaths need improvements.
- Remove the car park.
- Outdated facilities

General comments

- Importance of keeping the character, charm and village feel of the area.
- Minimise high rises and developments which do not fit in with the current feel.
- Consider the aging population.
- General refurbishing of the whole area needed.
- Pedestrian and nature focus needed over cars and development.

Vision board:

The vision board was a chance for the community to share their thoughts and ideas without any limitations.

The comments from the vision board reflected the key highlights above covering themes such as:

- Respecting the village charm and retaining the heart of Berwick Village
- An inclusive park for all ages
- Considering splitting Berwick into more than one suburb

- The addition of an Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Island flags with the Australian flag

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider community feedback and build on the structure plan based on what has been said during the consultation period.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide stakeholders, particularly those living in Berwick and who use the High Street, and the broader community with the opportunity to provide input into the updated structure plan and help shape the future, to create a space for the community with community needs considered.

3.2 Consultation process

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Website news story
- Council's e-newsletter, Casey Catch up.
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media posts including a Reel (short video on Instagram) showing the area.
- Signage across the activity centre and surrounding parks.
- Double sided flyer drops to 2000 local residents and businesses.
- Advertisement spots in the Berwick Star.
- Editorial in the Berwick Star.

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide feedback via survey, upload a written statement, ask a question online, pin ideas on the interactive map and share ideas on the vision board.
- Contact email address and phone number of Council Officer provided for interested community members to ask for further information or provide feedback.
- Printed information available, as required.

Details	Activity
12 March – 23 April 2024	Casey Conversations Website
3,796 visitors	Project information, online survey, interactive map, vision board and written submission hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations.
5,288 views	Online survey: 62 responses
4,665 visits	Written submission: 1 response
363 contributions	Vision board: 11 responses
	Interactive map: 278 responses

**12 March – 23 April
2024**
5 questions

Question and Answer forum

Five questions were asked via the Q&A forum regarding the name of the new toilet.

Written statements/ feedback

1 response

Correspondence

Direct feedback provided through a detailed letter for the project team

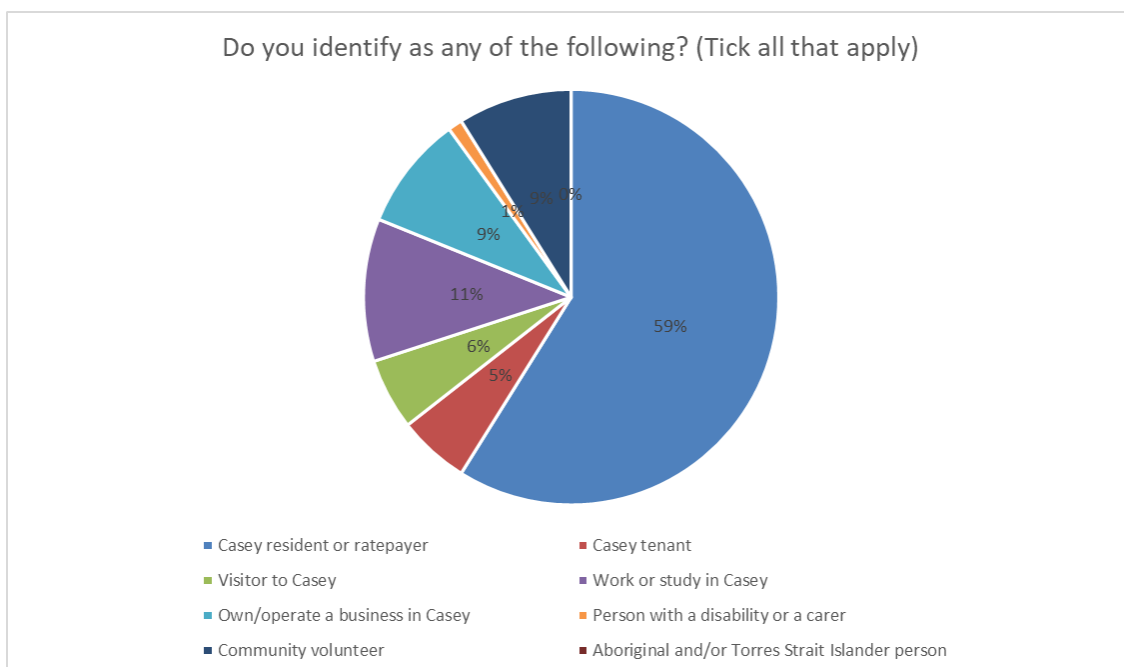
4 Who we heard from

Survey respondents were asked to qualify their connection to the City of Casey. All respondents who answered (57) had a connection to Casey.

- 53 said they were a Berwick resident.
- 1 said they were a Beaconsfield resident.
- 3 respondents were Clyde North Residents

Survey respondents were also representative of broad age groups.

- 11-17: 1 respondent
- 18-24: 2 respondents
- 25-34: 13 respondents
- 35-44: 16 respondents
- 45-54: 15 respondents
- 55-64: 13 respondents
- 65-74: 2 respondents



5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback. The consultation gathered information in 3 ways, creating qualitative and quantitative data which

have been put into themes. Due to wanting a wide range of responses and for making it as easy as possible for the community to share their feedback and ideas, this approach was taken – as it allowed for both structured questions but also open-ended responses where residents could share anything they wanted.

The consultation findings have been broken down using the themes from the online survey and further qualitative data where appropriate will be provided.

Qualitative community feedback is taken from the source on the maps and vision board where it is already on public display therefore direct quotes are used in this report.

Key highlights from the online survey

5.1 Key highlights from the online survey

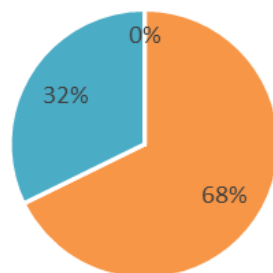
- The majority of respondents (68%) prefer to keep Berwick Village's existing aesthetic while integrating nice-looking new buildings. There is a significant appreciation for maintaining the village's historical charm combined with modern development.
- There is a strong preference (76%) for increasing commercial establishments, reflecting a priority for economic development over residential expansion.
- A majority (55%) support a dual approach in improving transportation by enhancing both public transit services and cycling infrastructure, indicating a preference for diverse and sustainable mobility options.
- More than half of the respondents (52%) believe some improvements are necessary in the parking situation, suggesting room for better management or expansion.
- Re Future of car park located in the middle of the High Street, a slight majority (52%) wish to keep the car park, though there is also considerable interest (48%) in repurposing it, fully or partially, to serve other community needs.
- There is a strong preference (62%) for a combined strategy of increasing both social events and developing family-friendly spaces, indicating a desire for a more inclusive and engaging community environment.

5.2 Keep Berwick Village's look and feel

Berwick Village has a distinctive look and character. This was a theme which came up in our open-ended engagement (the vision board and interactive map) and there was also a specific question related to this in the online survey.

100% of the respondents would like to see current look be retained with 68% of respondents selecting the option to keep its current look and add nice-looking buildings. The remaining 32% selected to update the village but keep some of the traditional older look. This clearly indicates the community's preferences and shows that the current look, feel and style of the village is something which is appreciated by the community and this needs to be taken into consideration for future planning.

What do you think about keeping Berwick Village's look and adding new buildings?



- Keep its current look and add nice-looking buildings
- Update the village but keep some of its old look
- Focus on new buildings, even if it changes the village's look.

Comments about the look and feel were also heavily echoed and mentioned in the other forms of engagement. The table below shows some of the comments from the Interactive Map engagement method.

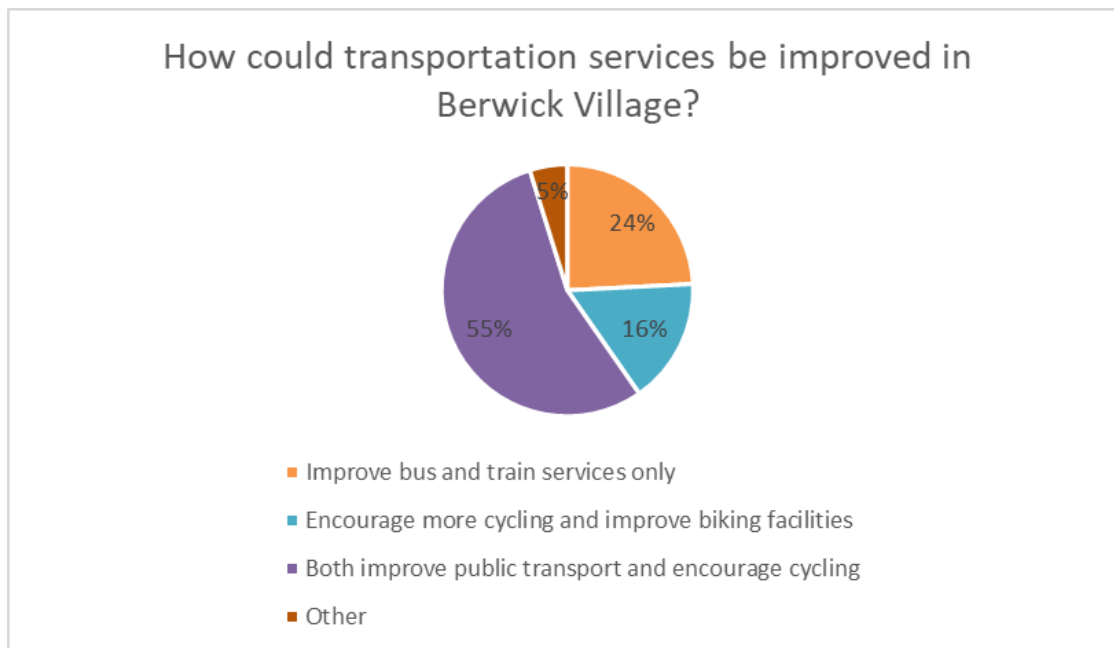
Topic	Community feedback
Keeping Berwick Village's look and feel – Interactive Map comments	- The area of High Street is crucial to the attraction of Berwick and its Village feel. - It is in the interest of the council to retain the appearance and vibe of this street. (High Street) - We should not let it be overtaken by high rises or developments that don't fit in with the current look and feel. - Residents are proud of their Berwick, and its flavour. Enhance what is great about it (vegetation, feel, vibe, community, trade, steeped in history), but do not make any development painful for residents and traders. - Site should be developed with building forms that reflect the 'Village' feel, heritage current built heights of Berwick - Give Berwick back it's unique character by removing the ugly carparks and turn this space into parks. - This is such a lovely street trees and its charm should be retained (Gloucester Avenue)

5.3 Transportation services

Respondents were asked how transportation services and cycling could be improved in Berwick Village. 55% of respondents expressed that public transport options need

improving as well as the need for cycling to be encouraged. 24% of respondents selected for bus and train services to be improved only with 16% selecting more cycling and improving biking facilities. From these responses, it reflects a need for both cycling and transport services to be improved from the majority with a percentage of respondents with a preference for a focus on either cycling or bus/train services.

5% of respondents selected other and their feedback can be viewed in the table below.



Topic	Community feedback
Other comments related to Transportation in Berwick Village from the survey	- Train improvements (station is run down) and more frequent services. Traffic is a nightmare (traffic controllers, Clyde Rod traffic, etc). - More car parking - Slow traffic to 40 in the Village as it is frightening trying to cross the street or walk along the footpath. - Reduce also the speed on Clyde Road to Harkaway Road. Living in the area and trying to drive around and to the office at 60 is just too fast with cars entering and exiting. - There are no cycle lanes through High Street for kids to ride their bikes safely to school. - Constant traffic issue during school hours (Lyllall Road) - Lyllall Road / Peel St intersection is dangerous with merging traffic
Transport – Interactive Map Comments	-The village needs bike lanes and connected walking and cycling pathways.

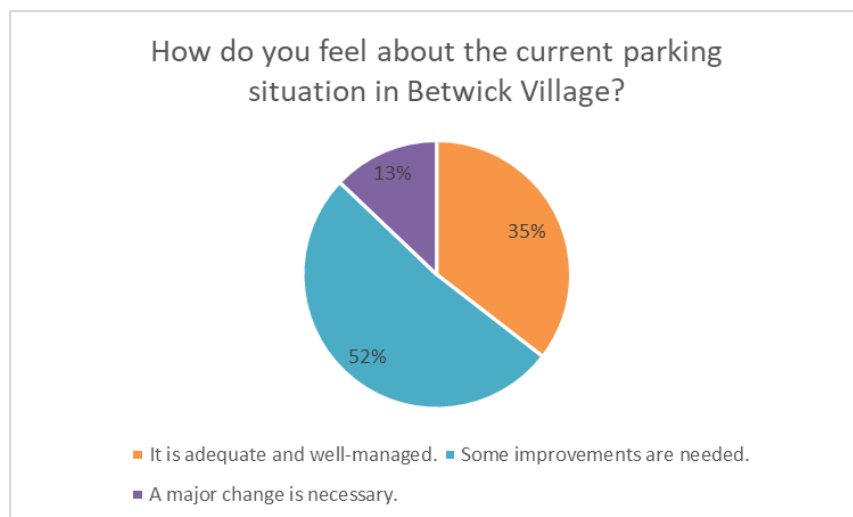
- Create a new cycleway to allow for better and safer access from central/north Berwick to the Berwick Station and reduce congestion in the area.
- We would love to ride bikes into main street but there are no bike paths and it's too busy for kids on the street. Some bike lanes and bike racks for parking would be great.
- There are no cycle lanes through High Street for kids to ride their bikes safely to school. Take out the roadside parking on both sides of High Street and replace them with cycle lanes.

5.4 Car parking

Residents were asked to share their feedback on the current car parking situation in Berwick Village. There were three options in the survey to choose from. 35% of respondents feel that it is adequate and well managed. The most popular response was 52% who state that some improvements are needed with the remaining 13% stating that a major change is necessary.

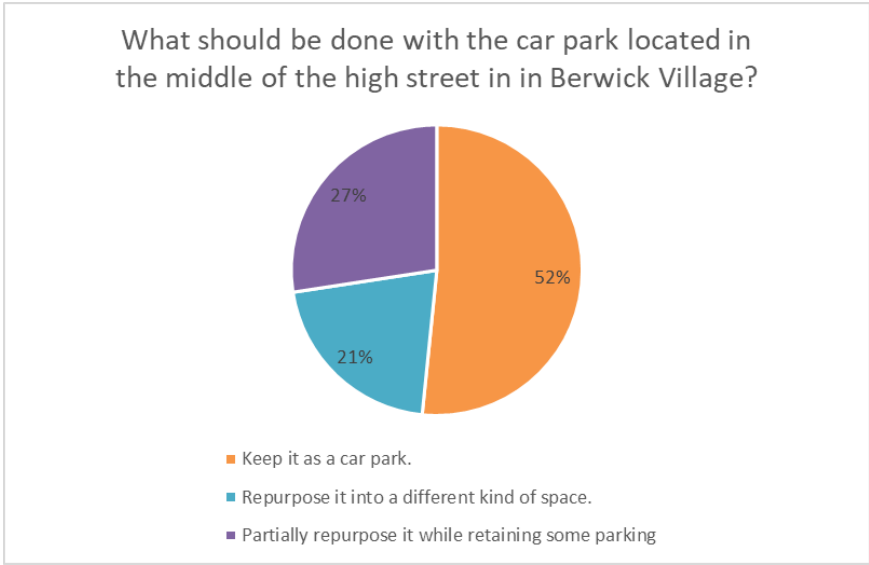
This indicates that the community supports some change however nothing major is needed – but in general the consensus is that 65% of the community would like to see an element of change and improvement.

Car parking was a theme which was recurrent across the interactive map activity.



There is a car park located in the middle of the high street. 52% of respondents from the survey indicated that they would like to see it be kept as a car park, with 21% of the community saying they would like to see it repurposed into a different space and remove the car park. 27% of respondents would prefer the car park to remain but for some of the existing space to be partially repurposed and to keep some car parking

space. This suggests that many of the respondents would like to see some form of car parking option to be available in the middle of the high street in Berwick Village.



The car park received some comments directly on the map and also further comments were made around the map about car parking in the area. The table below shows comments made surrounding the car parking in Berwick Village. The comments reflect the results from the survey however there is stronger and more support for the car park to be repurposed into a different kind of space, showing that there is a range of support and preferences which is indicated throughout the various forms of engagement.



Topic related to the car park	Community feedback
Repurpose the car park into a green space	- Make this centre carparks into a green space again (similar comment mentioned 6 times). - This middle carpark is a total waste of valuable community space. The carparks should be removed,

The need for more car parking

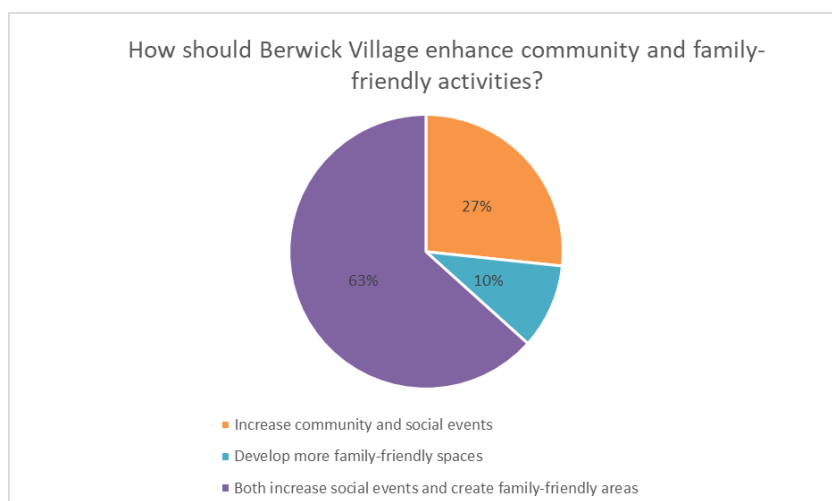
and it should be returned to the green space that it was meant to be.

- Let's get rid of the carpark. It's awful and a waste of valuable potential green space.
 - This is the main part of the village. Give Berwick back it's unique character by removing the ugly carpark and turn this space into parks.
 - Let's get rid of the carpark. It's awful and a waste of valuable potential green space.
 - The parking spaces in the middle need to go elsewhere - this space is for a Place Function.
 - Take a look at some of the cool urban ideas that inner city councils have used for their village centres. There is so much that can be done here, instead of a congested concrete carpark.
-
- Customer parking needed on the service road
 - All new developments need sufficient off-street parking
 - More parking in the overall high street area is required.

5.5 Community and family friendly activities

The community were also asked about their preferences related to activities and family-friendly spaces which all contribute to the overall experience and feeling of Berwick Village Activity Centre. The response options all reflect the option for more activities in the area however the feedback will help Council determine the type of activities to plan.

The majority of respondents (63%) selected to increase both social events and create family friendly areas. With the other respondents, 27% selecting more community and social events with the remaining 10% highlighting the importance of developing more family-friendly spaces and prioritising that over more community and social events.



The interactive map and vision board activity both received comments around family-friendly areas and the need for more community and social events. This highlights the importance of this area for the community due to the high number of comments around this. The table below reflects comments made related to improving this area which also includes ideas for more cultural events and decorations.

Topic	Community feedback
Community space comments from the Interactive Map	- This area could be used more widely for the community (Gloucester Avenue) - Opportunity for more family space and activity in middle gardens of High Street and surrounds if traffic speed reduced to 40 through the main area - Can we create an exciting park that's more user-friendly for our community? The current playground at Primary doesn't quite cut it for the number of families that use it. -Would be great to include some green open space for the community to use. (Lyllall Road)
Cultural/seasonal events and decorations from the Interactive Map	- Love that the central space has been used and updated, would be good to see seasonal events here - It would be nice to add some Christmas festoon lighting and other Christmas big lighting features, get a local artist to come and do some beautiful Christmas artwork on the concrete walls. - We need a larger Australian flag. The current flag is too small and getting old. - Include contemporary public art here. Opportunity to showcase the world class talent of our community, welcoming into our village. (High Street) - We could enhance these laneways to be more like the city ones. Creative lighting, interesting public art pieces, planting

- Opportunity to install public art. Showcase the world class talent of Berwick and Casey. (Margaret Street)

Facilities and opportunities from the Interactive Map

- Turn this into a centre piece for the village and its residents. With all the amazing urban design ideas that you could have, there is a wealth of opportunity here. (By ANZ)

- How about incorporating picnic areas with BBQ facilities, shaded seating for everyone to enjoy.

By investing in these family-friendly amenities, we can transform our park into a vibrant hub that brings joy and connection to our community (mentioned 6 times)

-The playground needs to be expanded and spruced up. Especially some playground equipment to suit toddlers.

-Add extra picnic tables and benches throughout the park to encourage greater usage

- This area has been an eyesore forever and needs to be developed into something that fits with the village architecture and feel. Ideally more park and recreation area would be fantastic with BBQ, Playground, Basketball ring etc.

- Considering the Aging population, generally more seats available in the Shopping Precinct and more Disabled car parks please.

- Replace the uncomfortable concrete tables with timber picnic tables under a permanent cover. A small kids play area on the grass nearby would be a great option for young families to get food from nearby restaurants and have somewhere for the kids to play. Pioneer Park/primary cafe often extremely busy

5.6 Feedback from the Interactive Map

Respondents were given the opportunity to share opportunities, issues and general comments by using an interactive map (image 1) where the area was outlined, and it was possible to zoom in to see all the parts of Berwick Village Activity Centre. This allowed for the exact area to be fed back on and for it to be as clear as possible for the community. Some comments were lengthy, allowing respondents to go into detail with their ideas.

Image 2 shows a zoomed in version of an area of a map where respondents were able to pinpoint exactly where they wanted to make a comment, creating an opportunity for valuable insight into the experiences of the community.

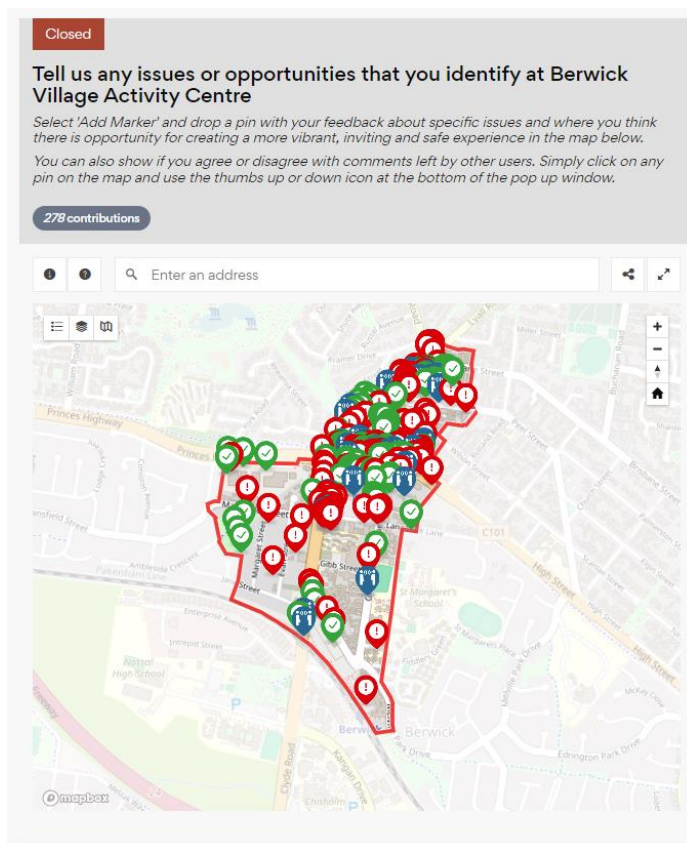


Image 1

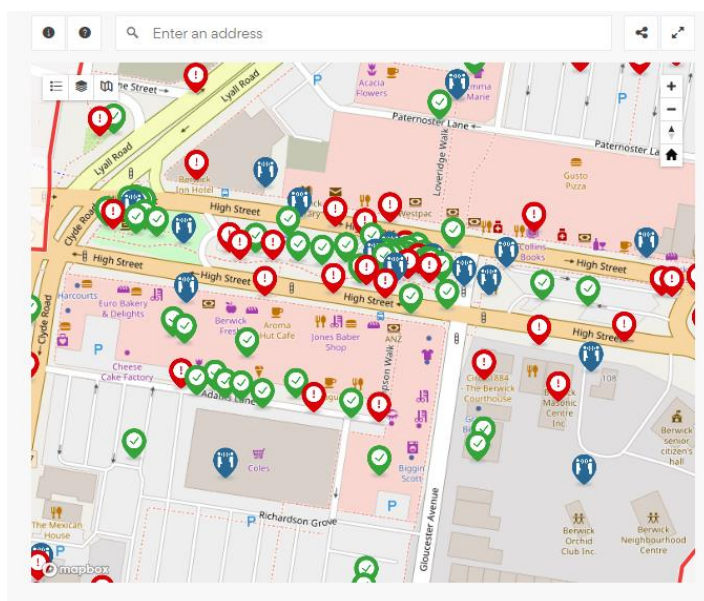


Image 2

The 278 contributions covered a range of comments which have been broken down into key categories where the comments fall under which also correlate with a Council team (excluding KFC permit comments and General comments). All categories include General comments, issues and opportunities.

- General comments
- KFC permit
- Open Space and Urban Design

- Transport
- Economic Development
- Heritage and Housing

5.6.1 Specific feedback from the Interactive Map

General comments and themes are summarised in the table below. In total, 30 comments fall into this category. Feedback which hasn't been included so far has been included below. All comments can be found on the [Casey Conversation's page](#). For the purpose of this report key comments which feed into helping Council teams and officers for future planning have been selected to be included.

5.6.2 General comments

General comments were made throughout the area of the Interactive Map which express issues, opportunities and general comments from the community. All comments have been passed on to relevant teams to help with planning and to help build a bigger understanding of the community's preferences, needs and priorities.

Topic	Community feedback
General comments	-Please allow rentals for small business in the village to stay affordable. The village does not need more real estate agencies and big business taking over. - The established introduced trees mixing well with natives. Toilet available and clean. What a good use of an old school location. The name Pioneers encapsulates all that have Ben and all that will come (Pioneers Park) - Looking at the plans this is going to cause major congestion, and more should be spent on making it walkable for families and people who love to visit Berwick for a safe breakfast/lunch and evening out (Clyde Road) - The current concrete tables and colours should go. A plan to enhance and overhaul the current garden layout in High Street should be a priority to assess the health and status of current vegetation in conjunction with future landscape layout. - Clyde Road traffic is bad enough. Berwick doesn't need more apartments. - Every time there is a vintage car meet, they park on the grass of the war memorial. This needs to be stopped and more respect shown. -More/better signs about the history of Berwick Village! Plaques maybe, like in the city? -This is such a lovely street. The trees and its charm and size should be retained. (Gloucester Avenue)

-While the outdoor dining/bar area at Eighty One is clearly well patronised and a popular venue for locals, its appearance is appalling. If Council have no ongoing issue with the use of this area, the Property owner should be obliged to improve the presentation to the streetscape and safety of the patrons of the construction site barricades that delineate the area at present.

5.6.3 Urban design and Open Space

A range of urban design comments came in with some comments highlighted below. Main themes related to urban design include:

- Enhance the current High Street and car park space area which is unique to the Berwick.
- Keep the village look and feel of the area. Keep the special, unique, rural charm.
- More creative elements – signs with historical information, local artwork, murals, water features
- Enhancement suggestions include: more seating, improved seating, BBQ and community areas.
- Consider more pedestrianised area with more outdoor dining options.
- Retain independent businesses.

Topic	Community feedback
High Street and adjoining streets	- Do something with this space! It's a golden opportunity to make Berwick the Jewel in Casey's crown. - Get rid of the concrete eyesores and horrible umbrellas here. This is the centre piece of the village. - There is a large drain here it could be incorporated into a Fountain and our rock feature potential to include history walkway with plaques, facts, etc - Create this as a central space and remove the tables as they are beginning to look tacky, and the colours look like a day-care for kids - Berwick village has something that other outer suburbs would love to have. Lane ways. We could enhance these laneways to be more like the city ones. Creative lighting, interesting public art pieces, planting - The Berwick village needs a more prominent entrance sign. Something befitting its character and historical presence. Something made of wood and metal perhaps. -Keeping the facades or "look" should be compulsory for new developers/permits.

- Significant space should set aside for open space and tree planting, to ensure the development doesn't dominate Lyall Road and the surrounding area.
- Would be great to see this space developed and incorporated into the village, not left as an overgrown fenced area. A vertical retirement village with nursing home facility would suit the ageing population.
(Gloucester Avenue)
- The facades on the shopfronts need attention. They are old and need a spruce up. They make Main St look tired.
- Perhaps some amazing mural artwork on the outside walls that blends in with the Berwick Village theme.
- Keep the village character and charm, no big money-making developments, no commercial super stores, and more greenery and public park spaces
- Please remove the concrete seating and replace it with something more comfortable and in keeping with a village feel.
- Seating, there is a great opportunity to have more people sitting outside and making the square busier! Have picnic tables scattered throughout! Make it more of an inviting place.
- Upgrade with seating and toilets so that it can be used as an area for parties and bookings possibly with a stage area for performances

Adams Lane

- Make Adams Lane more Pedestrian friendly with space for outdoor eating / drinking. Add more greenery to tidy up the area and make it more than just a concrete car park.
- Improve Adams Lane and surrounding streets to further activate the area. Potential to change the street to a shared vehicle/pedestrian street, encouraging outdoor trading. Improve connection and wayfinding to and from this area.
- Would be great to have a refresh so this has more of a pedestrian and sitting area feel. If not, some greenery here would go a long way.
- There is an opportunity for this space to be more welcoming and pedestrian-friendly. It is often dirty and feels dislocated from the rest of Berwick Village. The paths are uneven and difficult to navigate.
- Would love to see Adams Lane become a nicer and more pedestrian friendly place. Some greenery and better pedestrian connection to high street would go a long way here.

5.6.4 Transport

Transport was a key theme throughout all engagement methods. From the survey, responses shows that the majority of respondents see the need for both transport and cycling options to be improved in the area.

The comments from the interactive map were a useful activity in highlighting to council where the problem areas are especially related to parking, traffic and dangerous areas. The community were able to pinpoint exactly where the issues and challenges lie therefore this will help feed into future planning effectively.

There were a significant number of comments made related to the volume of traffic in the area as well as the safety concerns for both drivers and pedestrians. The table below outlines comments made in the engagement which provide guidance and ideas for Council to consider in future planning.

Topic	Community feedback
Car parking	-Make this dirt parking a car park spot for each business in Blackburne square, so the Blackburne car park can be only for visitors (Loveridge Walk) -This gravel carpark ideally needs to be resurfaced to be a proper carpark and livened up a little. It is often in very poor condition and it a heavily used car park which means there are always potholes when it rains. It's dirty and definitely not reflective of the Berwick Village vibe. -Remove the car parks - A great opportunity to improve the gravel car park in this area. Maybe some resurfacing works to improve the car park. It would be fantastic to see some semi-mature trees integrated into the plans. - The area in and around little by little including the car park and side facing Clyde Road needs a bit of a facelift. - Road is too narrow with parking along both sides of the road. Consider widening road or removing parking on one side and include additional parking near the cafe instead. (Peel Street) - The steel grade of this car park is an issue for those who have mobility issues. Handling a trolley cart out of the Woolworths down the hope onto the road is very difficult on the steep grade. Getting in and out of cars and transporting shopping carts to cars on this hill is difficult. The car park needs to be graded flat and better passage for trolleys. (5 Wilson Street) - Remove the car parks from the middle strip area and return this space to a public green area. It could stretch from the war memorial to the top of the village.

Traffic

- Redesign so the majority of traffic travelling north-south Clyde to Harkaway doesn't have to enter roundabout and is separated from local village traffic. Add a third lane that allows continuous flow.
- This intersection is becoming very busy and dangerous. Langmore Lane traffic has increased significantly due to units replacing houses on acreage. This is a small intersection which cannot cope with the traffic using it. Visibility is also poor. (Gloucester Avenue)
- Traffic congestion horrendous. Parallel parking to be removed. (High Street)
- This intersection is very difficult to navigate with two entrance/exits to adjoining but separate car parks. (Wheeler Street)
- Forcing traffic on High Street to give way to cars coming through the Roundabout into Wheeler Street is a disaster. We must have Traffic lights at this intersection to prevent the inevitable accidents and slow down the traffic going up the hill and coming around the corner into Wheeler Street
- This roundabout is so dangerous. Have seen many accidents and even more "near misses" over the years. Too many vehicles driving up the hill go straight through without stopping/giving way. I think part of the problem is the ped lights just prior to the roundabout. (81 High Street)
- Roundabout needs to be remodelled
- Congestion along Clyde Rd could be reduced by allowing though roads to parallel side streets.
- Right hand signal from Reserve Street is slow to activate even when Clyde Road is clear. Having a quicker signal could help the traffic down Reserve Street at school drop off / pick up and other peak times.
- Reserve Street is constantly banked up to nearly the roundabout during peak hours. A better system is needed.
- This roundabout is not designed to handle the amount of traffic it has, especially down from Lyall Rd in the mornings.
- Cars turning left on to Princes Hwy from Clyde Rd never watch for traffic turning in to the service station here. The tiny third lane at the servo entrance here seems to be the issue. Cars trying to get to the servo from Lyall Road have to make a quick lane change to this third lane as soon as they get around the corner.

Signage for cars to give way to turning traffic would be very helpful

Adams Lane

- Adams Lane needs to be more pedestrian and shopfront friendly. Back in the day Adams Lane was more like a back street and didn't have as many shopfronts. But now, Adams Lane has many retail and hospitality businesses along it, which has brought lots of foot traffic.
- This part of Adams Lane can be dangerous because many drivers do not know that it is a dead end and have to stop to reverse backwards to get out, as there is no room to do a 3-point turn. This is dangerous and awkward because there are many pedestrians also using the road to walk on (because there are no pedestrian pathways on Adams Lane)
- There are no proper pedestrian walkways on Adams Lane and the car parks are just in the way of all the shop fronts. It needs to have more of a high street feel, after all most of the foot traffic from high street joins onto Adams Lane. The road itself is also run down, uneven, and needs to be resurfaced.
- This part of Adams Lane can be dangerous because many drivers do not know that it is a dead end and have to stop to reverse backwards to get out, as there is no room to do a 3-point turn. This is dangerous and awkward because there are many pedestrians also using the road to walk on
- Connect via lane access to high Street and make pedestrian friendly with potential for seating as per la Baguette Cafe. Remove parking all together on north side. (12b Adams Lane)
- This section of Adams Lane could become one way, and have angle parking on the Coles side, so as to enhance some of the sections on the North side of Adams Lane, with some vegetation and outdoor seating etc. (12b Adams Lane)

Pedestrian and driver safety

- Pedestrian lights very slow. Central lights do not provide enough time for pedestrians to cross highway in one cycle.
- Traffic exiting Berwick at 60kmh is too fast for the residential area and the many residents trying to gain access to High Street out of streets off Harkaway Road and Lyall Roads
- Better pedestrian crossings needed at this roundabout intersection

- The car parks need more entry and exit points and safer pedestrian crossings (Wheeler Street)
- Create a safe way for pedestrians to cross the highway over to Wilson Botanic Park (mentioned 4 times)
- A footpath is needed on the other side of Langmore Lane
- Crossing this road is next to impossible. Can there be an overpass or pedestrian lights (29 Lyall Street)
- Pedestrians (especially with prams) have to leave the shop front area and walk into the car park thoroughfare between parked cars.
- Bus stop is too close to corner of Rutland Street. It blocks drivers and pedestrians from seeing traffic coming up hill out of the village. (118 High Street)
- People have to walk on the road or uneven ground on this side of the road. A footpath is needed. A lot more people are walking around the station area, crossing roads etc and they have not been accommodated for. Traffic is crazy on this tiny little street. (21 Reserve Street)
- There should be a pedestrian people for those wishing to access the shops/cross to Primary Cafe etc - there is no safe spot to cross
- The 3 options for pedestrians crossing Lyall road to and from the park are terrible and unsafe, especially with young children.
- We require improved pedestrian crossings and traffic signalisation.
- After crossing from Clyde Road to Lyall Road, the bicycle lane suddenly stops and then cyclists must merge and ride next to cars.
- Create raised pedestrian crossings throughout Berwick to enhance the space as a pedestrian focused zone.
- The traffic lights at this intersection need to be upgraded and turning arrows installed for traffic turning onto Clyde Rd from the side roads. There are too many accidents at this intersection due to cars. It is giving way to oncoming traffic. (Clyde Road)

5.6.5 Economic Development

Ideas and suggestions related to Economic Development of the area came through the Interactive Map.

The majority of ideas are related to various events which could take place, which would bring residents to the area, allowing for economic growth and development for

local businesses. This feedback from this area indicates that residents enjoy local markets and events which bring together the community.

Topic	Community feedback
Economic Development	- Local Farmers market would be a great opportunity for locals to meet & buy fresh produce. This is something sorely missed since the big fruit & veg store at Akoonah Market closed. - Weekly weekday markets! Start at Blackburne square and have them dotted all the way up and down the Main Street! Get the community wanting to stay in Berwick and visit our wonderful shops. - Great opportunity for a little foodie and shopping village! No more apartments, houses! Have it connected to Blackburne square so people can start here, wander off to Blackburne square and then continue through Loveridge lane to get to Main Street! - Markets throughout the car park on Sundays! Businesses all shut on a Sunday here so would be great to give them some confidence to open on Sundays! Bring food trucks to the area, get it pumping. - Something needs doing to allow the mall shops to thrive and survive! Most are empty or never look busy. Maybe making Adams Lane pedestrianised will help draw foot traffic here. - The mall is tired looking and outdated. Opportunity for a face lift. - Love this cafe. Really hoping that in the future it won't be overlooking a giant, modern multi-level apartment complex. The community has expressed extreme displeasure in this type of development in the village. Let's hope the council listens to the community over developers (Primary@Pioneers Park) - Allow the Circa 1884 business to continue to celebrate the heritage of the old courthouse without strict adherence to antiquated rules. - Have an Annual Christmas Market much like other small European Villages. For one week in December, the entire High Street middle strip could have small huts that are local traders selling their wares and Christmas gifts. It could have lights, activities and a large Christmas tree in the middle square where those awful concrete tables are. It would be great for tourism, the local traders and the community. A real drawcard for Berwick.

:

5.6.6 Heritage and Housing

Due to the nature of the current feel and look of the area, the theme of heritage was a regular occurrence as well as the development of the area linked to housing.

The majority of the comments from the Interactive Map as well as the other forms of engagement highlight the importance of Heritage in the area, how this must be maintained, and any new developments should respect the heritage of the area.

The table below includes some comments around Heritage and Housing for Council consideration.

Topic	Community feedback
Heritage	-A continued emphasis on the plaques, statues etc. educating people of the history of Berwick and the surrounding area would be ideal. The cenotaph and Edwin Flack pieces are already great and illustrate the importance of this public space as a place of historical reflection. Perhaps even a focus on the Bunurong pre-colonial history of the Berwick area would be a decent idea in the form informative plaques and replanting the native trees. -Please respect the integrity of the heritage overlay of the village buildings when designing new structures -Any development of this area should respect the traditional heritage aesthetic and scale of the village which are highly valued by the local community.
Housing	-Not to build multi storey houses. This will increase the traffic congestion and increased number of risks to residents and drivers. -Not to destroy the Berwick village character and build too many houses as it will create traffic congestions and more accidents. A lot of elderly people live in this area, and it will be very risky. -Redevelopments in this area must respect the village feel, 3 storey buildings are not appropriate. -Keep development down to town house not multi-story apartments. Traffic will be horrendous if so. -No high-rise apartments on Lyall Road- it will completely destroy the character and charm of the St. Traffic is already an issue on Lyall. (Mentioned 4 times) -We do NOT want to see more plans for another 5-6 level modern apartment/ office building that towers over

the rest of the village and disrespectfully stands out like a sore thumb.

-Big apartment buildings will increase congestion and destroy the village character.

-Whatever happens with this site, it should be recognised that the community was extremely dissatisfied with the modern monstrosity that was previously planned to be built here.

5.6.7 KFC Permit

Due to recent progressions around the construction of a KFC in Berwick, the community shared their thoughts on the development. Comments can be found on the Interactive Map, where a total of 39 were made from the community. The table below summarises some of the comments. The general consensus around the KFC permit remains consistent throughout the feedback from community. Reasons for lack of support include disturbing the current village feel, adding to local traffic, and the concerns around a big business in competition with independents. The table below highlights some of the comments made on the Interactive Map.

Topic	Community feedback
KFC Permit	-Very disappointed to hear a KFC is being put here. Totally ruins the village feel. - A KFC in this location is not required and will likely cause significant traffic congestion to both Langmore Lane and Clyde Road which is already becoming a significantly busier intersection. -The village has managed to be free of fast food chains for nearly 200 years and allowing this to happen is simply disrespectful to the village and the people who call it home. -The area is congested daily especially mornings, school pick up and afternoons. -This will take away from the Berwick feel and definitely cause traffic congestion in the already busy area -This will completely disrupt restaurants and small other businesses within the village. -Fast food not needed so close to main street. Will only create congestion and litter. -There are already a lot nearby, it will add to traffic in the area and take away from the village feel.

5.7 Feedback from the Vision Board

The Vision Board was an opportunity for residents to provide feedback with no limitations – to share ideas, comments and visions for Berwick Village Activity Centre.

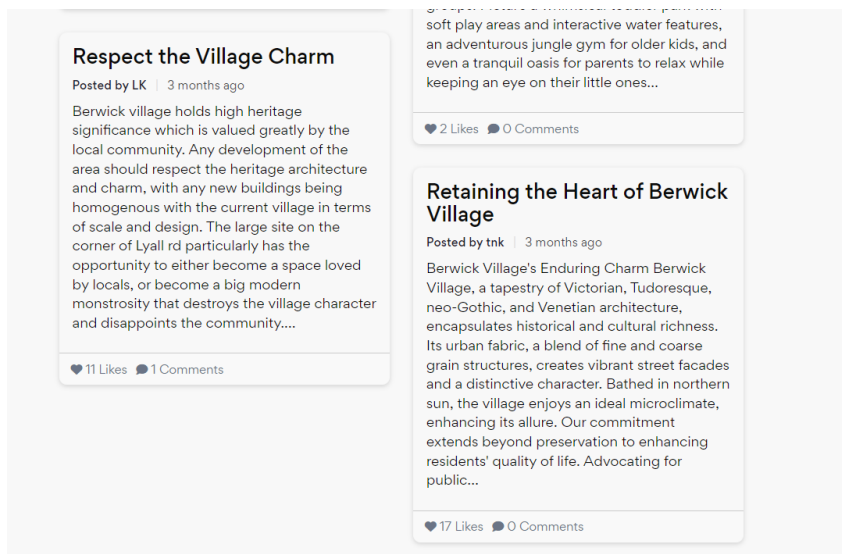
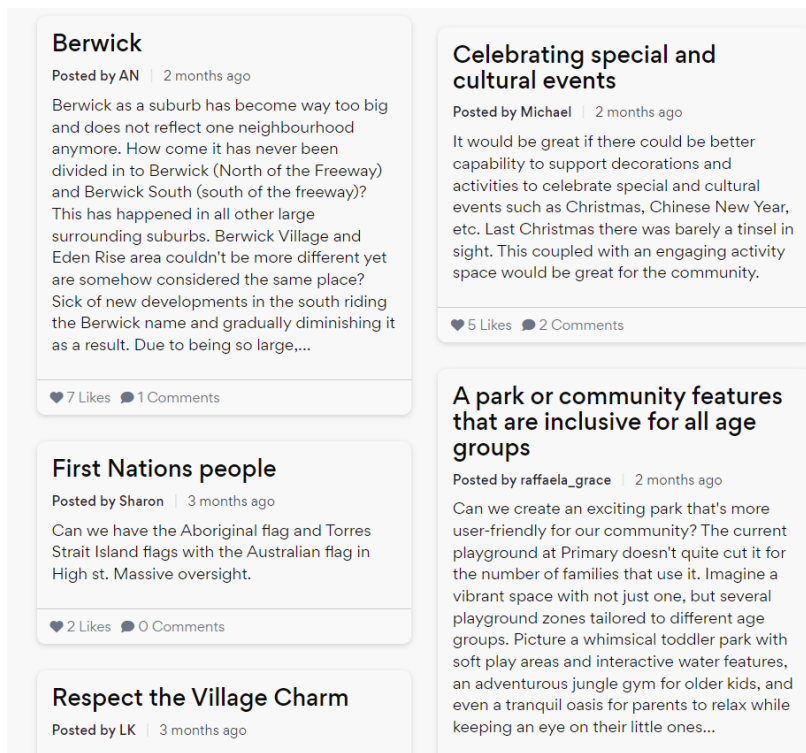
The images below show the feedback from this stream of engagement. Common themes echo which was shared in the Survey and Interactive Map, allowing for a strong case to be built up by residents on their thoughts. The Vision Board was also an opportunity for residents to provide more detailed feedback compared to the Map and the Survey. Key themes include:

- Maintaining the village charm, look and feel
- More green space
- More cultural events
- Cutting Berwick in half

The themes echo all the feedback from the other engagement tools. Please see below for the Vision Board contributions.

The Vision Board displays five community posts:

- A village in Crisis**
Posted by Despondant | a month ago
I have lived in Berwick for nearly 20 years. In that time, i have witnessed the slow demise of Berwick and it's character. Slowly but surely, the trees and green spaces have disappeared and the village atmosphere has been diluted by greedy investors, idiotic planners and corrupt council members. Now, a shell of it's former self, you only have to look at what's happening to see that it shows no signs of stopping. Five storey medical clinics on Langmore Lane along with a KFC, the destruction of...
2 Likes 0 Comments
- Amend planning advertising**
Posted by BH | a month ago
There should be amendments to the planning advertising process where the community is actually notified of major applications. The community shouldn't have to be checking the planning application register daily just to make sure someone isn't trying to destroy the village. The application for the KFC has 0 objections on it and was approved. If people knew about it the objections would be in the hundreds. I encourage everyone to go to planningalerts.org.au, create an account, and set an...
1 Like 0 Comments
- Cut Berwick in half**
Posted by Harry | 2 months ago
Completely agree that Berwick should be divided in half at the Monash freeway. I've been saying this for years and anyone who I speak to agrees. With the new estates in the south and the higher density in the north the population of Berwick as a whole would be approaching 60,000. That's triple the population of most suburbs. They are two different neighbourhoods and should be recognised as such. There is an opportunity for the south side of Berwick to be given its own identity and have its...
6 Likes 2 Comments
- Berwick versus Berwick South.**
Posted by Ally | 2 months ago
Divide Berwick into 2 suburbs. North of Freeway - Berwick. South of Freeway, Berwick South. It is TOO BIG.
8 Likes 1 Comments
- Berwick village**
Posted by rp | 2 months ago
Must preserve the heritage significance of Berwick village.
6 Likes 0 Comments



5.8 Written submission feedback

We received 1 written submission from a Berwick resident of 15 years. Feedback extracted from the submission includes the below. The full submission has not been included due to length.

'Key Principles may include:

- A traditional English village flavour
- Fostering and supporting small to medium sized businesses
- Low density living
- Abundance of greenery and pedestrian access
- Residential housing limited to two storeys.

No mixed-use areas.

Mix Use Developments - I do not support mix use developments in any designated area – clear demarcations are preferred. For example, an area is either for residential or commercial purposes, but not both.

High Order Retail Store - The reference to a “high order retail store” in item 3 of 4.1.2 of the Structure Plan requires clarification. It is not a term I am familiar with. And in any event, if it refers to a high turnover stores, like Kmart, etc, this should NOT be permitted.

Retail and Entertainment should exclude any major food chain (e.g., McDonalds or KFC) or major retail store (e.g., Kmart, Myer, etc).

Residential – there should be a preference for detached houses or medium density units only, consisting of semi-detached, detached or terraces and in any event, not greater than two (2) stories. Thirty (30) dwellings per hectare should be the maximum.

High Street should primarily consist of retail and entertainment premises. Again, no major retail or food chain should be permitted in this area.

The central car park at High Street should remain as is – it has two key purposes: (i) it slows down traffic and (ii) provides easy access to the shops and eateries that run along this road. The addition of tables and seating in the middle of the car park was a welcome addition, but no further amendments are required.

Introduce strict planning and design controls to ensure any developments are in keeping with the relevant area (see earlier points regarding the apartment complex proposed for Lyall Road and the inclusion of KFC on the corner of Langmore Lane; these two developments were contrary to this principle) and/or are consistent with the village feel desired by many, accordingly, key design features include low scale, character centric, no greater than 2 stories, easy pedestrian access, adoption of traditional materials (e.g. wood, reclaimed bricks, etc), and the retention or addition of landscaping suited to gathering as a community.

5.9 Engagement summary

The community engagement for Berwick Village Activity Centre concluded on the 23rd of April 2024. The total number of 363 contributions from community members have provided an insight into the current needs, desires and ideas of respondents in 2024 which will help feed into the update of the Berwick Village Activity Centre Structure Plan which is now over 13 years old.

Key highlights include:

- Strong support for the look, feel and village charm of Berwick Village to remain and to be considered in all future planning.
- Further investigation needed to ensure the traffic and parking concerns in the area are addressed. Residents were able to provide exact pain points via the Map, providing Council with a more detailed understanding.
- The need for improved transport and cycling options.
- There is support for more green space and facilities for families and the local community to be able to use the space.

- Pedestrian safety and crossings need to be considered and new options explored.
- There is a strong consensus that there should be no developments which include multi-story homes as this will contribute to the current traffic issues and interfere with the look and feel of the area.
- More community events are needed, and this can be done by utilising the existing space.

6 Consultation evaluation

This report presents the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered during community engagement from 12 March – 23 April 2024. The length of consultation was four weeks, with a continuous stream of responses throughout the engagement.

The consultation was promoted to residents and business owners within Berwick Village Activity Centre as well as the rest of Berwick and residents of Casey as the area is accessible by all throughout Casey and beyond. Community members who are subscribed to receive communications about Berwick were emailed.

There was a website news story and an inclusion in the Casey Catch-Up e-newsletter also ensured the wider Casey community was given the opportunity to provide feedback.

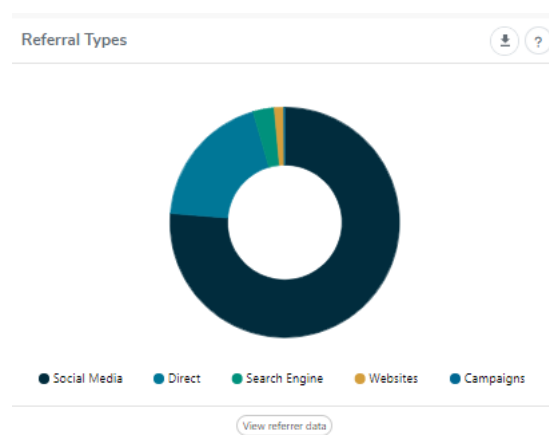
A specially curated social media video was created to promote the consultation, which was a walk through of the area, showing the community what they can comment on and reflected how the area looks like now, with the aim of inspiring more ideas and comments to be shared for consideration for the Structure Plan.

Social media posts were also made on Facebook and Instagram with both organic and paid targeted social media posts which were targeted towards residents of Berwick. Stories were also shared weekly on Instagram and Facebook to keep the messaging going around the promotion of the consultation.

The Berwick Star also ran an article in their publication on 18 April further promoting the engagement activities to the broader Berwick and Beaconsfield communities. The engagement also had two paid half page ads in the Berwick Star in both March and April.

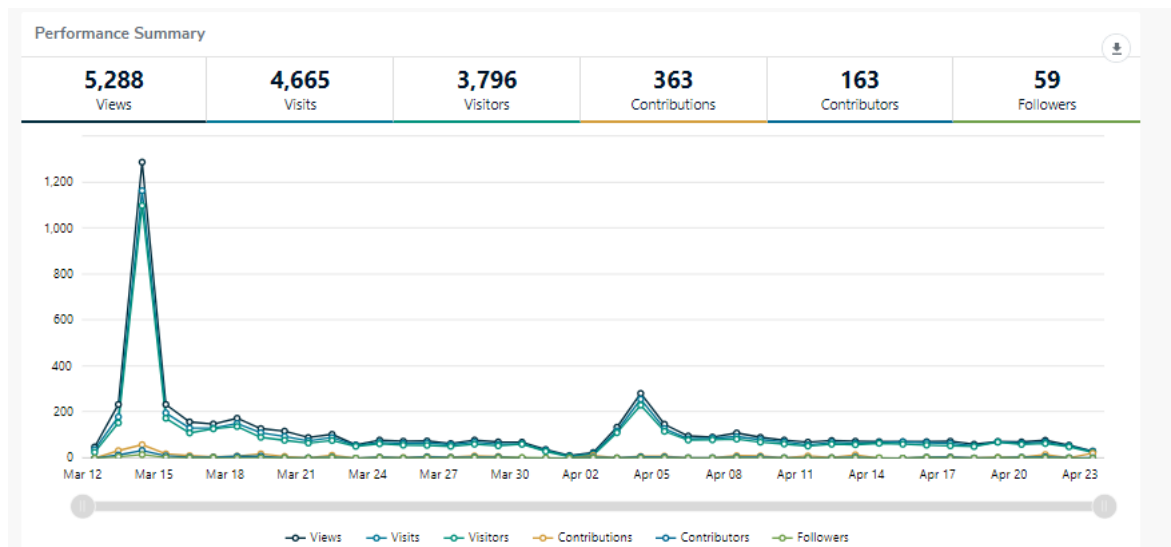
Residents and businesses in and around Berwick Village Activity Centre received postcards promoting the engagement and a total of 8 signs were placed around the area, in key locations with a QR code directing the community to the page.

The graphic below shows that 76.3% of visitors arrived to the engagement through social media, indicating the success of the social media campaign.



6.1 Casey Conversations project page

The page received 5,288 views with a total of 363 contributions during the engagement period. There was a steady rate of visitors to the page with 3.64% of visits where at least 1 contribution was made. 30.31% of visits lasted for at least 1 active minute.



The table below shows the breakdown of the contributions with the social map being the most popular form of engagement. As the primary method of gaining feedback and the map being promoted throughout the communications, this was the expected result.

Contributions by Activity

Activity	Contributions	%
Social Map	276	76.03%
Form	63	17.36%
Gather	18	4.96%

6.2 Satisfaction with engagement process

Survey participants were generally satisfied with the consultation process and materials, with a majority of participants selecting they had the required information to participate, and it was very (45%) or mostly (40%) easy to find/understand. It is noted that some participants found the information mostly hard (7%) to find/understand or were not sure (8%).

6.3 Engagement plan

The engagement plan for this project was published and is available to view at: [Berwick Village Activity Centre Engagement Plan | Berwick Village Activity Centre | Casey Conversations](#)

6.4 Next steps

Following public consultation and the consolidation of the feedback all of the feedback has been passed on to the relevant Council teams and officers.

The next steps involve integrating findings from community engagement and various technical reports into the key issues paper. We will share these outcomes with relevant teams both within and outside the council, focusing on specific project aspects to align with their responsibilities. This approach ensures we leverage insights that reflect broader community expectations effectively.

Moving forward, the team plans to:

- Draft a new structure plan that incorporates community feedback and aligns with our strategic goals.
- Update the urban design guidelines to mirror current community preferences and meet technical specifications.
- Schedule additional meetings to discuss these documents' development and ensure they are in line with overarching council objectives.

The current timeline is for the draft structure plan to be finalised by early 2025 to be presented to councillors. To stay up to date with any updates, please click the Follow+ button on the engagement page.