

Consultation snap-shot

Stage Two: Transforming our neighbourhoods together Bentleigh

Background

In 2016 Council undertook a major Planning Scheme Review and identified the need for the introduction of structure plans for Bentleigh, Carnegie and Elsternwick Activity Centres. Throughout December 2016-February 2017 Council started the process by asking residents what they love about their shopping strip. The Bentleigh survey was completed by 443 respondents, with responses used to develop a draft vision, objectives and concept project ideas.

Methodology

Stage two of consultation *transforming our neighbourhoods together* sought to test this vision, objectives and concept project ideas with the community. Consultation ran from 10 March – 9 April 2017. Details of how to provide feedback were mailed to Bentleigh residents and emailed to those who completed the Stage one survey and also promoted in various Council publications. Feedback on the ideas was captured through an online survey, at community drop-in sessions, via mail/email submissions, Facebook comments and telephone calls.

Stage two consultation

Surveys: 126

Drop-in sessions: 77

Email/mail submissions: 6

Facebook comments: 6

The information has been analysed to identify specific patterns and themes in responses. The summaries have been generated from all forms of feedback however percentages only relate to surveys.



Concept one 'Create a new green space in the heart of Bentleigh'

Strong support – 40.3%
Some support – 16.1%
Do not support – 37.9%
Not fussed – 5.6%

Those who supported the idea felt that the existing area is outdated, uninviting and underused. They wanted to see the area activated, wanted more passive community spaces to sit, rest and gather and felt that it would create a 'heart' which the centre currently doesn't have.

Others either didn't like the idea or didn't like the location – suggesting near the station, rotunda or post office as better locations. Some were concerned about the impact on traffic flow and loss of parking spaces.

Concept two 'Create new community hub and additional car parking'

Strong support – 27.4%
Some support – 45.2%
Do not support – 19.4%
Not fussed – 8.1%

Many agreed that Bentleigh needed more parking. They felt that this concept if well designed could be a positive addition to the centre to reduce the impact of parking on local streets. Some felt a hub would encourage people to visit the centre and create a 'heart'.

A high percentage of people indicated 'some' support as they liked part of the concept (usually parking or community hub) but not others (usually green space, the location or parking being multi-storey). Others thought we should focus on encouraging walking, cycling and public transport to the centre instead of focusing on parking

Concept three 'Transition Bentleigh to a pedestrian friendly centre'

Strong support – 34.4%
Some support – 32%
Do not support – 28%
Not fussed – 5.6%

The main reasons for supporting this project were improving safety for pedestrians and making the area more appealing to attract visitors and locals alike. Both one-way conversion and two-way shared zone received strong or some support.

There were some concerns that traffic flow would be adversely affected and that Vickery Street wasn't the right location for this feature. Some respondents thought more focus should be placed around the station/west end of Centre Road. Others felt that we needed more medium density development in the area for these concepts to work.

Concept four 'Create a vibrant and safe train station precinct'

Strong support – 72.0%
Some support – 16.0%
Do not support – 8.8%
Not fussed – 3.2%

Concept four was the most widely supported concept. Respondents saw it as an opportunity to define Bentleigh and strengthen the shopping strip on both sides of the station. It was seen as the best location for development as it is central and they felt it would have less impact on residents than other areas. Some concerns were raised about safety, parking and not wanting high rise development in Centre Road.

Development

A mixed response was received around development. Some respondents didn't want any high rise development at all. Others saw a need or advantage in bringing more people into the strip to make it more viable and to grow. Some identified areas which would be best suited for development – namely around the station and rail corridor.

