

COUNCIL POLICY**CHILD SAFE POLICY**

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CONTENTS

1. TITLE	3
2. POLICY STATEMENT	3
3. PURPOSE	3
4. SCOPE	3
5. OBJECTIVES.....	3
6. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT	3
7. POLICY DETAILS	4
7.1.....Victorian Child Safe Standards	4
7.2.....Child Safe Code of Conduct and Obligations	4
7.3.....Recruiting staff and volunteers.....	4
7.4.....Training and supporting staff and volunteers	4
7.5.....Risk management	5
7.6.....Reporting	5
7.7.....Reportable Conduct Scheme Obligations	5
8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	6
9. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.....	7
10. HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER.....	7
11. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW.....	7
12. NON-COMPLIANCE, BREACHES AND SANCTIONS.....	7
13. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS	8
14. APPROVAL	10

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22/11/2017	0.01	Draft for internal discussion
04/12/2017	0.02	Final Draft for Director endorsement
	1.00	Version 1.00 for Council Adoption

1. TITLE

Child Safe Policy

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to ensuring that all of Council's operations provide a safe environment for children, keeping them safe from harm and abuse.

3. PURPOSE

This Policy reflects Council's legislative responsibility in meeting the requirements of both the Victorian Government's Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme and our commitment to the community to create and sustain an environment where children are safe and protected from harm and abuse.

4. SCOPE

The policy provides guidance for Council's operations including those services that have direct contact with children or those that may encounter children during the course of their ordinary business. It is binding upon Councillors, all Council staff and agents of Council irrespective of their involvement in child related duties.

Agents of Council extend to include contractors, members of special committees and members of advisory committees, volunteers, work experience students or graduate placements.

5. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Child Safe Policy are to:

- Promote a child safe culture and environment to keep children safe from harm and abuse.
- Achieve compliance with legislation and in particular alignment with the Victorian Government's compulsory Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme.

6. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Alpine Shire Council Is committed to child safety and to children's best interests and will meet this commitment by:

- Upholding the right of all children who come into contact with Council to feel safe and protected.
- Actively listen to and empower children who come into contact with Council.
- Having a zero tolerance for child abuse and will take all allegations of reportable conduct and safety concerns very seriously.
- Ensuring that systems are in place to anticipate risks, document incidents and identify appropriate responses consistently and in line with policy and procedure.
- Promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

7. POLICY DETAILS

7.1 Victorian Child Safe Standards

Council's Child Safe Policy has been developed to align with the Victorian Governments compulsory Child Safe Standards to prevent and respond to child abuse.

The seven child safe standards are:

- Standard 1:** Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements.
- Standard 2:** A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety.
- Standard 3:** A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.
- Standard 4:** Screening, supervision, training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- Standard 5:** Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Standard 6:** Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- Standard 7:** Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

7.2 Child Safe Code of Conduct and Obligations

Councillors, Council staff and agents of Council are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children they come into contact with. This obligation includes:

- Adhering to the Council's Child Safe Policy at all times and abiding by the commitment and obligation to create a child safe organisation.
- Treating children with respect, by valuing their ideas and opinions, encouraging them to participate in activities and issues that are important to them and working with them in an open and transparent way.
- Being vigilant to signs of abuse, challenging unacceptable behaviour, reporting all allegations or suspicions of abuse and disclosing charges or convictions of abuse in accordance with the Criminal Records Check Policy.

7.3 Recruiting staff and volunteers

Council will implement accurate and effective screening tools during the recruitment process to employ suitable staff and volunteers. This will include robust reference checking and criminal history checks, and working with children checks for appropriate positions within the organisation.

7.4 Training and supporting staff and volunteers

Training and education is important to ensure that everyone understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility within the organisation. All staff will be made aware of their obligations and expectations of working in a child safe organisation via Council's Code of Conduct, employee induction, awareness and training sessions.

7.5 Risk management

Council recognises the importance of adopting a risk based approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy and procedures.

In addition to general occupational health and safety strategies, Council will proactively manage risks of abuse to children and ensure they comply with the Child Safe Standards.

7.6 Reporting

If you believe a child is of immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

Council is committed to complying with all legal requirements regarding child safety concerns and where a suspected incident occurs. Council takes allegations of abuse seriously and will investigate all allegations fairly and appropriately to protect and support the health and wellbeing of children.

Any staff member, Councillor, or agent of Council who suspects abusive behaviour or misconduct must immediately notify their Supervisor and the Health, Safety and Risk Officer.

The Health, Safety and Risk Officer is responsible for notifications to the appropriate child protection service and/or the police.

All positions at Council are required to report child abuse or suspected child abuse.

7.7 Reportable Conduct Scheme Obligations

The Victorian Government's Reportable Conduct Scheme seeks to improve organisations' responses to allegations of child abuse and neglect by their workers and volunteers. The scheme is established by the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* and is administered by the Commission for Children and Young People (the Commission).

The Reportable Conduct Scheme does not replace the need to report allegations of child abuse to Victoria Police.

There are five types of reportable conduct:

1. A sexual offence committed against, with, or in the presence of a child, whether or not a criminal proceeding in relation to the offence has been commenced or concluded.
2. Sexual misconduct committed against, with, or in the presence of a child.
3. Physical violence committed against, with, or in the presence of a child.
4. Any behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm to a child.
5. Significant neglect of a child.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to ensure the Commission is notified when they form, or become aware that another person has formed, a reasonable belief that reportable conduct has occurred.

Three day notification obligations

Within three business days of becoming aware of an allegation, the CEO must notify the Commission that a reportable allegation has been made against one of Council's staff, councillors or agents of Council.

30 day notification obligations

Within 30 calendar days of becoming aware of an allegation, the CEO must provide certain detailed information about the allegations and our proposed response.

8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following positions have roles and responsibilities with respect to the Child Safe Policy and relevant procedures:

Councillors - will be made aware of the organisational commitment and will adopt the commitment within their Code of Conduct.

Chief Executive Officer – is responsible for ensuring that:

- an appropriate policy is developed and adopted;
- the organisation is committed to the safety of children; and
- the appropriate procedures and reporting mechanisms are developed, implemented and complied with.

Director Corporate- or delegate (Health, Safety and Risk Officer) is responsible for:

- providing an organisational contact for this policy;
- overseeing the implementation of the developed strategy, procedures and templates; and
- providing support to those who have reported an incident.

Health, Safety and Risk Officer - is responsible for notifications to the appropriate child protection service and/or the police.

Function	Responsibility
Implementation/Training/Recruitment of new staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors, Managers, Coordinators, Team Leaders and Human Resource Officer.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Employees, Councillors, Volunteers and Agents of Council
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager Corporate • Manager Economic and Community Development • Governance Officer • Health, Safety and Risk Officer
Interpretation/Advice/Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Safety and Risk Officer

9. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This Policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant Council policies and procedures, as well as relevant legislative requirements.

Related Legislation

- *Child Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005*
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Working with Children Act 2005*, amended 2016
- *Child Youth and Families Act (2005)*, amended 2007
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child

Related Organisational Documents

- Alpine Shire Council – Employee Code of Conduct
- Alpine Shire Council – Councillor Code of Conduct
- Alpine Shire Council - Risk Management Policy
- Alpine Shire Council – Staff Recruitment Policy
- Alpine Shire Council – Criminal Records Check Policy
- Alpine Shire Council – Child Safe Incident Reporting Procedure

Related Guidelines

- Victorian Child Safe Standards
- Victorian Reportable Conduct Scheme

10. HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

This policy has been considered in relation to the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and it has been determined that it does not contravene the Charter.

11. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Review of this policy and associated documentation will occur at least once in two years.

Any recognised change to relevant legislation; directives or guidelines issued by agencies including Victorian State Government will activate a review of this Policy to ensure it remains current.

Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the CEO at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy.

12. NON-COMPLIANCE, BREACHES AND SANCTIONS

Any breaches of this Policy must be reported immediately to the Health, Safety and Risk Officer.

Failure to comply with this Council policy, supporting procedures or guidelines, will be subject to investigation which may lead to disciplinary action.

13. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERM	MEANING
Aboriginal	Is a person who is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and is accepted as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community.
Child	A person who is under the age of 18 years
Child abuse	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any act committed against a child involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ a sexual offence; or ◦ an offence under section 49B(2) of the <i>Crimes Act 1958</i>; • The infliction, on a child, of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ physical violence; or ◦ serious emotional or psychological harm; and • The serious neglect of a child.
Child safe organisation	In the context of the child safe standards, a child safe organisation is one that meets the child safe standards by proactively taking measures to protect children from abuse.
Children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds	A child or young person who identifies as having a particular cultural or linguistic affiliations by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry or ethnic origin, religion, preferred language or language spoken at home or because of their parents' identification on a similar basis.
Children with a disability	A disability can be any physical, sensory, neurological disability, acquired brain injury or intellectual disability or developmental delay that affects a child's ability to undertake everyday activities. A disability can occur at any time in life. Children can be born with a disability or acquire a disability suddenly through an injury or illness. Some disabilities may be obvious while others are hidden.
Commission	Commission for Children and Young People
Failure to disclose	Any adult who forms a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under 16 years of age has an obligation to report that information to police, unless they have a reasonable excuse for not disclosing or exemptions apply. Failure to disclose the information to police is a criminal offence.

TERM	MEANING
Mandatory Reporter	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered medical practitioners, registered nurses (including school nurses, Maternal and Child Health Nurses, midwives) • Early years, primary and secondary school teachers and principals • Police • Youth workers and social workers
Neglect	Is the continued failure to provide a child with the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, medical attention or adequate supervision, to the extent that the child's health, safety and/or development is, or likely to be, jeopardised. Serious neglect can also occur if an adult fails to adequately ensure the safety of a child where the child is exposed to extremely dangerous or life threatening situations.
Reasonable Belief	Reasonable grounds for belief is a belief based on reasonable grounds that child abuse has occurred when all known considerations or facts relevant to the formation of a belief are taken into account and these are objectively assessed. Factors contributing to reasonable belief may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child states that they, or someone they know, has been physically or sexually abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be talking about themselves); • Behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed. • Someone else states that a child has been physically or sexually abused or is likely to be abused. • Observing suspicious behaviour.
Voluntary Reporter	Any Person

14. APPROVAL

**THE COMMON SEAL OF THE
ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL** was
hereunto affixed this.....day of
.....2017 in the
presence of:

.....

COUNCILLOR

.....

COUNCILLOR

.....

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dinner Plain Village Green Information Booklet

HAVING YOUR SAY

Council is committed to delivering community infrastructure that improves the liveability of our beautiful shire. We have investigated the feasibility of a Village Green at Dinner Plain and undertaken preliminary planning to provide a clearer picture of how the facility would look and the benefit it could provide to the community. This information booklet has been prepared to provide you with a summary of our findings and a concept proposal for a Village Green.

Council would like to know what you think about this project, and more importantly, whether you think we should invest in and continue with this project.

INTRODUCTION

Council has committed to the delivery of \$1,500,000 worth of capital works projects within Dinner Plain by 2027; this will be funded by the Dinner Plain reserve (currently approximately \$1,000,000) and additional funds as allocated by Council.

In April 2016, Council asked Dinner Plain ratepayers about projects they would like to see developed to improve their community. The highest rating response from 46% of respondents was for a 'village green or oval open space area'. This was followed by 18% of respondents preferring 'new and improved mountain bike trails'. Council has subsequently progressed planning and design for both of these projects.

Council has undertaken work to determine the optimum size and location for a Village Green, as well as to investigate the feasibility of this proposal. While the approximately \$1.25 million development of a Village Green will provide benefits to the community, there are risks to the project, as well as visual, ecological and cultural heritage impacts that also need to be considered before proceeding.

We would now like to share our findings with you and get your feedback on whether we should advance the Village Green to the next stage.

Why are we considering a Village Green?

The idea of a Village Green was put forward during the development of the Dinner Plain Masterplan (2015). The initial idea was for an open space in close proximity to the village to support informal recreation.

After consulting with Dinner Plain Advisory Committee (DPAC) and community members, Council further developed the concept for the Village Green to be a large open grassed area that could support a broad range of recreation activities and events, including a demonstration Polo match, similar to that currently held at Cobungra Station each year.

Finding a suitable location

A Village Green is a common area within a village or community which focuses on bringing people together. To facilitate this, the infrastructure needs to be flexible and suitable to accommodate many purposes.

The Council reserve between the water tower and the Great Alpine Road was chosen as the most suitable location. An extension to Tower Road would need to be constructed to access this site. However, this location is relatively close to the village, has little impact on existing trails and other established uses, is sufficiently large and has lower visual impact than other locations. The following table includes all the locations that were considered and the reasons that they were not preferred.

OPTION	LOCATION	PREFERRED		REASONS
		N	Y	
A	Lot 1: North east of water tower.		●	
B	Lot 2: (currently used for waste water irrigation)	●		Additional construction costs as a result of existing waste water irrigation infrastructure. Potential restriction on use of the space due to operation of waste water irrigation. Distance from the established village.
C	Bottom of ski slope	●		Insufficient space due to existing infrastructure.
D	Adjacent to tennis courts	●		High visual impact. Impact on existing infrastructure. Impact on tour operators (i.e. sled dogs)



Figure 1. Proposed Village Green location

PROPOSED PROJECT DETAILS

The current proposal is for a large flat open grassed area approximately 90 m wide and 150 m long. An access road and car parking along two sides of the grassed area are proposed, as well as public toilet facilities.

The surface of the flat open grassed area will be rough mown native grass. Given the challenges and high cost of maintaining a quality turf surface throughout the winter months in an alpine environment, it is not intended that Council mow and maintain the grass as they would an oval surface.

The Village Green could be used for the following purposes:

- Informal recreation, such as kicking the footy, walking the dog or high altitude training;
- Events such as polo, markets, temporary ice skating rink or festivals; or
- In the event of an emergency, a temporary emergency services operating base or to land a helicopter.

The Village Green could not be used for the following purposes:

- A neighbourhood safer place, due to inadequate buffer distances to vegetation; or
- A football oval, due to the proposed rough grass surface and inadequate size.

The images below illustrate the current proposal for the Village Green.



Figure 2. Dinner Plain Village Green concept plan



Figure 3. Dinner Plain Village Green artistic visualisation, looking east



Figure 4. Dinner Plain Village Green artistic visualisation, looking west

What are the benefits of the Village Green?

The Village Green would provide a large flat open space suitable for informal recreation or for cultural and sporting events. This type of space is not currently available in Dinner Plain or in the village at Mount Hotham.

A Cost Benefit Analysis prepared for the proposed project has estimated a benefit cost ratio of \$1.08 returned for every \$1 spent. This is based on the following assumed benefits:

- Improved community health as a result of additional exercise;
- Increased value-add associated with a greater level of retail expenditure within the community;
- Increased amenity for residents; and
- Increased visitor welfare resulting from an additional recreation options.

If you would like to know more, a copy of the Cost Benefit Analysis is available on the Alpine Shire Council's website.

What will the Village Green cost?

The construction of the Village Green is estimated to be in the order of \$1.25 million. This includes the following costs:

- planning, design and project management fees;
- cultural heritage investigations, reporting and master plan;
- native vegetation investigations, reporting and both general and specific offset requirements; and
- construction costs including earthworks, surface finishes, access road, carpark, amenity block and services.

There will also be ongoing maintenance and native vegetation offset management costs which are estimated to be in the order of \$32,500 annually. This includes:

- weed control;
- minor repairs to parking and road surfaces, signage and barriers;
- power water and sewerage charges;
- toilet cleaning; and
- management and maintenance of specific native vegetation offsets for a period of 10 years.

What are the impacts of the Village Green?

Construction of the Village Green as it's currently proposed requires the disturbance of an area of high cultural sensitivity and the removal of 1.848 hectares of existing native vegetation. The loss of native vegetation will require the provision of offsets. Offsets are the conservation of native vegetation with the same biodiversity value elsewhere. This will incur establishment costs and maintenance costs for a 10 year period.

If you would like to know more, a copy of the Flora and Fauna Assessment Report is available on the Alpine Shire Council's website.

Extensive earthworks will be required to provide a flat grassed area and the surrounding car parking. The fill batter will be up to 5 metres high at a slope of 2:1 and will be visible from the Great Alpine Road. The removal of 1.848 hectares of Snow Gums will also impact the existing landscape character of this area of Dinner Plain.

NEXT STEPS

Provide your feedback before **18 September 2017**

You can either:

- Visit Council's 'On Exhibition' page <http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/onexhibition> or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPVGAug17> and complete the online questionnaire; or
- Email your responses to simonj@alpineshire.vic.gov.au; or
- Complete the enclosed questionnaire and post it to PO Box 139, Bright, VIC, 3741.

Want to know more?

- Attend the **Public Information Meeting** at the Hotel High Plains, Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain from **11:30 am - 12:30 pm** on **Saturday 2 September**;
- **Drop-in** to the Hotel High Plains, Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain from **12:30 - 2:30pm** on **Saturday 2 September** and discuss the proposed project with Council officers; or
- View the presentation given on 2 September online by visiting Council's 'On Exhibition' page <http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/onexhibition> between 7 and 18 September 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please don't hesitate to contact the Project Manager Simon Jones via email simonj@alpineshire.vic.gov.au or phone on 5755 0555.

Alpine Shire Council
Dinner Plain Village Green project
community engagement report
October 2017

projectura.com.au



Document information

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projectura

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the community engagement activities implemented during September 2017. The aim of the engagement was to validate the prioritisation of the Dinner Plain Village Green Project before proceeding further into detailed design. Dinner Plain has 538 rateable properties, and 465 unique ratepayers.

Engagement activities took place during September and included a community briefing session, an open drop-in session, and an online survey of all ratepayers. A total of 185 people participated in the engagement activities, of which we can confirm 138 were unique ratepayers.

Key findings

- The survey highlighted the community's split opinion on the project with approximately 50% of respondents stating the project was very or somewhat important to them, and just under 50% stating the project was not really or not at all important to them.
- The survey also showed 37% wished to proceed with the current proposal, 53% were not happy with the current proposal, and 9% were unsure. When asked about the aspects of the proposal they were unhappy or unsure about the top three reasons after "other" were it costs too much, the environmental impacts are too significant and the visual impacts are unacceptable.
- The community were also divided on the benefit of the project with 47% suggesting the Village Green would benefit Dinner Plain community 42% believing it will not benefit the community, and the remaining 10% being unsure.
- Non-ratepayers who completed the survey were less supportive of the project with 76% stating the project is not really or not at all important to them, and 23% stating the project was important. 88% of non-ratepayers believe the project won't benefit the community and again 88% aren't happy with the current proposal. This point should be read in caution due to the small sample size.
- Key points mentioned through the engagement activities included the cost benefit of the project, the environmental impact, the opportunities of high altitude training and sporting activities such as polo and football.
- The 17 email submissions provided people with an opportunity to voice their opinions. The submissions demonstrated the community divide on the project and presented both support and opposition for the project, alternative ideas, and strong concern over the environmental impacts and the cost.
- Anecdotally, project supporters seem happy that there is investment and progress in Dinner Plain. Conversely, project detractors are split into two camps; those who are passionate about the Village Green project and don't believe that the current proposal is strong enough; and those who strongly do not support the project for ecological or cost reasons.

Conclusion

The engagement analysis shows that the community is divided on the proposal and therefore the validation of priority has not occurred. The survey results show that there is a strong divide in the community with 50.32% believing that the Village Green project is important, 47.74% stating that the project wasn't important to them, and 1.94% unsure. The survey also shows that 53.55% of the respondents are not happy to proceed with the current proposal, 9% are unsure, and 37.42% are happy to proceed with the current proposal.



CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	6
Background	6
Project objectives.....	6
Why did we engage?	6
Limitations.....	6
Methodology	7
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS	8
Community briefing session	8
Open house session	9
Survey	9
Email submissions	14
Identified issues and concerns	15
Conclusion.....	16



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

The *Dinner Plain Masterplan 2015* provides strategic direction for public and private investment to increase visitation and subsequent economic activity at Dinner Plain. Developed through extensive community consultation the Masterplan identifies a 'Village Green' as a high priority public investment opportunity.

In April 2016, Council asked Dinner Plain ratepayers about projects they would like to see developed to improve their community. The highest rating response from 46% of respondents was for a 'village green or oval open space area'. This was followed by 18% of respondents preferring 'new and improved mountain bike trails'. Council has subsequently progressed planning and design for both of these projects.

Council has committed to the delivery of \$1,500,000 worth of capital works projects within Dinner Plain by 2027; this will be funded by the Dinner Plain reserve (currently approximately \$1,000,000) and additional funds as allocated by Council. It was proposed that these funds be used to finance the construction of the Village Green.

Council has undertaken work to determine the most favourable size and location for a Village Green, as well as to investigate the feasibility of this proposal. While the approximately \$1.25 million development of a Village Green will provide benefits to the community, there are risks to the project, as well as visual, natural and cultural heritage impacts that also need to be considered before proceeding.

Before progressing further with the design of the Dinner Plain Village Green project, Council wanted to confirm that the Dinner Plain ratepayers supported the project.

Project objectives

The purpose of the community engagement was to seek feedback from all Dinner Plain ratepayers prior to proceeding with detailed design and construction.

Why did we engage?

Alpine Shire Council engaged with stakeholders because this is a costly project with both impacts and benefits, as well as risks.

Limitations

Given the nature of the community engagement and variations in the engagement methods, there were some limitations arising from the engagement. Where possible Projectura has used the best of their ability to analyse and collate all submissions and feedback provided during the consultation process.

Respondents to the online survey were asked to provide their ratepayer address to ensure no multiple entries were conducted. In the review of this data there were four instances identified where multiple responses had been received for one address. It must also be noted that a number of ratepayers own multiple properties in Dinner Plain, which is difficult to identify within the engagement results.

While we do not believe these potential limitations have had an impact on the engagement findings, they should be considered when interpreting results.

Methodology

The community engagement period began on 2 September 2017 and officially concluded on 18 September 2017. Some email submissions were received soon after the formal closing date but it was agreed by Council officers to include these submission in the reported findings. A mix of engagement methods were used to engage over 200 people during the September 2017 engagement period.

METHOD	IAP2 LEVEL	DATE	STYLE	SUMMARY	PARTICIPATION
Community briefing session	Inform	2 September 2017 11:30am – 12:30pm	Qualitative exploration	Council to provide an overview of the project and information on the way forward. Following the session, attendees were provided a Q&A opportunity.	26 residents/ratepayers 3 Council officers 1 Facilitator
Video of briefing session	Inform	Posted 8 September 2017	NA	The video of the briefing presentation was made available online for people to view, particularly targeting those who could not attending the session.	32 views
Open house session	Inform	2 September 2017 12:30 – 2:30pm	Qualitative exploration	The open house session enabled ratepayers to communicate one-on-one with staff and consultants. It also provided a discussion opportunity for those who were unable to attend the briefing session.	4 residents/ratepayers
Online survey	Involve	2 – 18 September 2017	Quantitative measurement Qualitative exploration	The survey was available online and as hard copy which was emailed to Dinner Plain ratepayers. 155 respondents completed the survey with almost a 50/50 split on the importance of the project to the community.	155 responses
Submissions	Involve	2 – 18 September 2017	Qualitative exploration	People were invited to make submissions if they wished. Submissions were open response and varied in content.	17 email submissions

Figure 1. Summary of engagement methods

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Alpine Shire Council consulted widely with the Dinner Plain community during the 2017 snow season to seek validation of the prioritisation of the Village Green project.

A community briefing session was held, along with an open house session, an online survey, and people were invited to make submissions.

This section shows the results from these engagement activities.

Community briefing session

Alpine Shire Council held a community briefing session on Saturday 2 September on the Dinner Plain Village Green proposal. Projectura facilitated the session and presented the proposed plan for the village green. The session provided attendees with information on the process, a project overview, and where to next. The session was also made available on video via the Alpine Shire Council website so that anyone who was not able to attend would be able to view the presentation and understand the discussion being held in the community.

Participation

30 people attended the community briefing session. This consisted of 26 residents/ratepayers, three council officers and one facilitator.

Questions

Questions posed during the Q&A following the presentation included:

“What period of time are the benefits calculated for?”

“The size of the field is not big enough for a polo match.”

“If 48% were saying yes to the village green, how many were saying yes because of sport and recreation opportunities?”

“How many people responded to the survey?”

“The survey asked people to make their choices, rated from 1 to 6”

“Where has the money come from, is it from the Dinner Plain ratepayers reserve fund?”

“Was the altitude training included in the economic impact, and why wasn't it?”

“Does this site factor in any winter activities?”

“Has the cultural significance been looked into?”

“What would be the maintenance level for this reserve? Spraying? And will this impact any water supply?”

Findings

Discussion was then held around:

- Altitude training; who was interested, who had committed and questions were raised about what the requirements would be. Information a ratepayer had previously provided about altitude training had not been taken into account into the cost benefit analysis.
- Concern around the money of the cost, design and planning and how much money had already been spent.
- Discussion held around snow polo opportunities.
- Concern over the cultural heritage significance not being investigated yet.

Open house session

The open house session was held after the community briefing session on Saturday 2 September 2017, to provide an opportunity for people to ask further questions about the proposal and the way forward. It also gave people the opportunity to express concerns or issues in a more private forum. Four people attended these sessions who were unable to attend the community briefing session time.

Participation

4 residents/ratepayers attended the open house, along with two council officers and one facilitator.

Findings

People were interested to know what was happening with the project, what is the process and where to now and the way forward.

Survey

The survey was open from 21 August 2017 to Monday 18 September 2017.

The purpose of the survey was to determine whether the Village Green proposal was supported by the Dinner Plain residents and whether they would like to proceed with the project based on the current proposal. This involved a series of questions that would assist in determining the community's position on the project. The survey questions were:

Q1. Have you read the Dinner Plain Village Green Information booklet and understand the scope of the Village Green Project?

Q2. Are you a Dinner Plain ratepayer?

Q3. Please provide your street address

Q4. Is a Village Green for Dinner Plain important to you?

Q5. Do you think that the proposed Village Green project will benefit the Dinner Plain community?

Q6. Would you like the project to proceed based on the current proposal?

Q7. What aspects of the proposal are you not happy with or unsure about?

Participation

A total of 155 responses were collected.

Findings

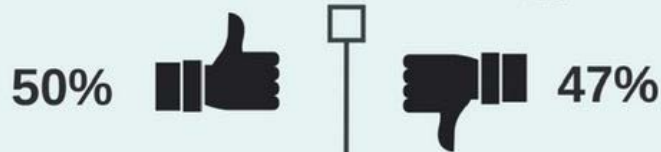
See following pages.



RATEPAYER PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE SURVEY

RATEABLE PROPERTIES	ALL RATEPAYERS	PARTICIPATED	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
538	465	30%	70%

IS THE VILLAGE GREEN IMPORTANT TO YOU?
n=155



DO YOU THINK THE VILLAGE GREEN WILL BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY?

YES	NO	YES	NO
88%	12%	5%	95%
	n=78	n=74	

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROCEED WITH THE CURRENT PROPOSAL?

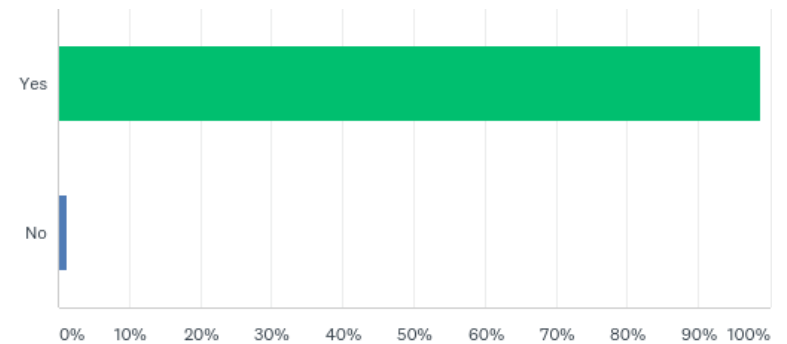
YES	NO	YES	NO
72%	28%	3%	97%
	n=78	n=74	

WHAT ASPECTS ARE YOU NOT HAPPY OR UNSURE ABOUT?



Q1. Have you read the Dinner Plain Village Green information booklet and understand the scope of the Village Green Project?

This question was to ensure people understood what they were being asked, which majority of people have.

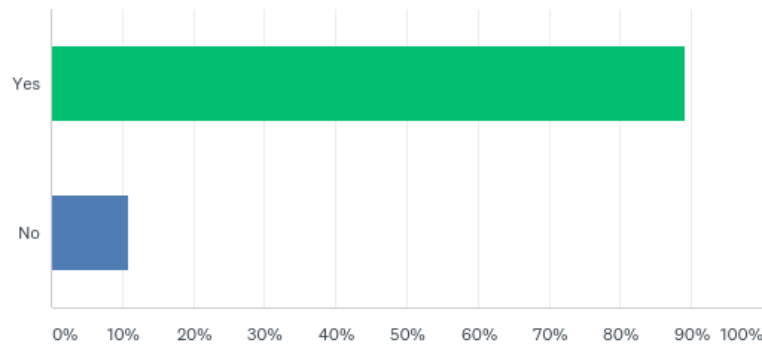


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	98.71% 153
No	1.29% 2
TOTAL	155

Figure 2. Q1 responses



Q2. Are you a Dinner Plain ratepayer?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	89.03% 138
No	10.97% 17
TOTAL	155

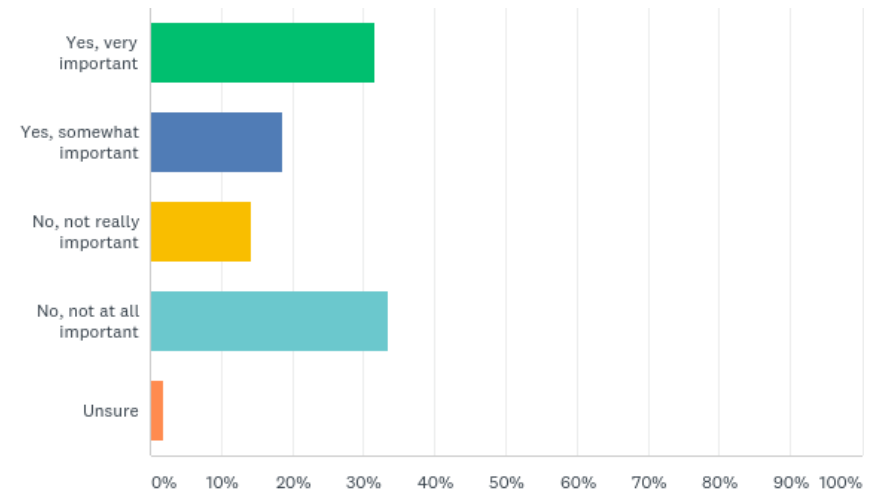
Figure 3. Q2 responses

Q3. Please enter your Dinner Plain address

This was to ensure there were no multiply responses by a single ratepayer. Addresses have been cross-checked to ensure there has been no unusual multiply responses.

Q4. Is the Village Green for Dinner Plain Important to you?

This question shows there is almost an even split between the community with 50.32% believing the Village Green is important to Dinner Plain and 47.74% believing it's not important and 1.94% being unsure.

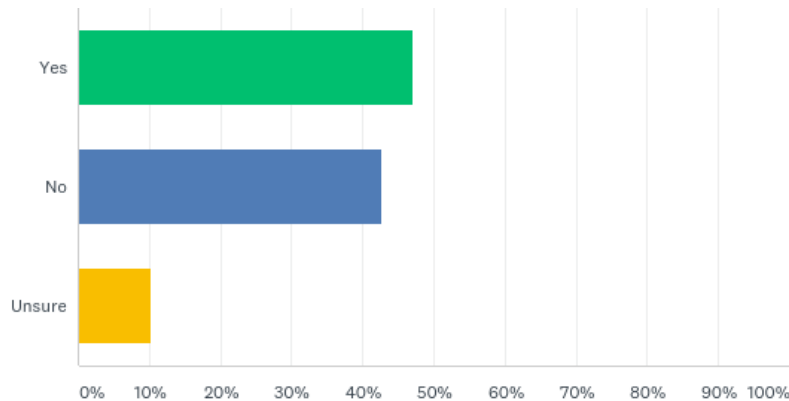


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes, very important	31.61% 49
Yes, somewhat important	18.71% 29
No, not really important	14.19% 22
No, not at all important	33.55% 52
Unsure	1.94% 3
TOTAL	155

Figure 4. Q4 responses

Q5. Do you think the proposed Village Green project will benefit the Dinner Plain Community?

The community is almost split on this question as well, with a larger number being unsure on how this might benefit the community.

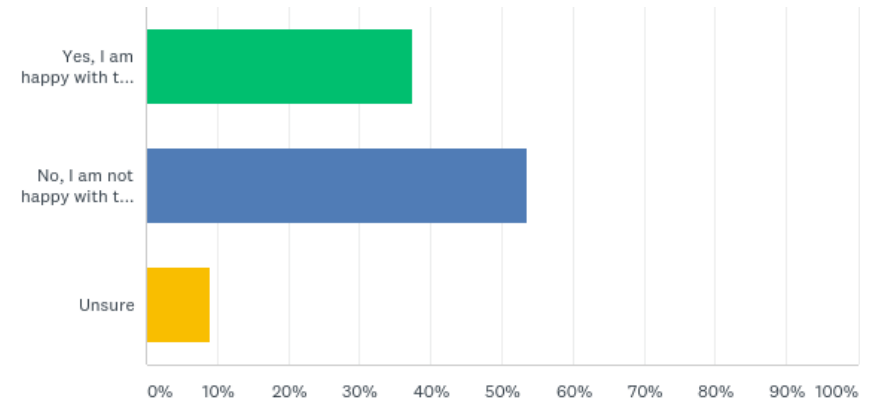


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.10%	73
No	42.58%	66
Unsure	10.32%	16
TOTAL		155

Figure 5. Q5 responses

Q6. Would you like the project to proceed based on the current proposal?

Over 50% the respondents to this question answered they no, I'm am not happy with the current proposal.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I am happy with the current proposal, please proceed with the project	37.42%	58
No, I am not happy with the current proposal	53.55%	83
Unsure	9.03%	14
TOTAL		155

Figure 6. Q6 responses

Q7. What aspects of the proposal are you not happy with or unsure about?

This question allows people to provide more input if they answered that they were not happy with the current proposal and highlights the main concerns the community has regarding the project. The top three being after "other";

- It costs too much;

- The environmental impacts are unacceptable; and
- Its visual impacts are unacceptable.

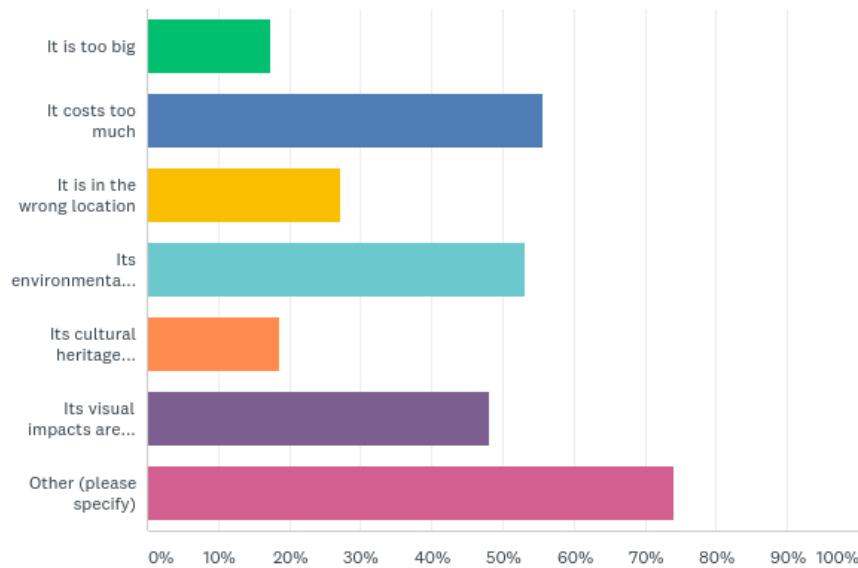


Figure 7. Q7 responses

Question 7 Other (please specify)

There were 60 responses for “other” which have been categorised in the follow, with some of the responses being across two or more categories. Appendix one is a copy of all 60 responses.



Figure 8. Q7 ‘Other (please specify)’ responses categorised

Email submissions

There were seventeen (17) email submissions received, and the full versions of these submissions are available in Appendix 2.

Of those 17 submissions:

- Six supported the proposed village green project;
- Ten of the submissions were not supportive of the project proposal, expressed concern and/or providing alternative ideas; and
- One submission was neutral but had queries relating to the project.

As per the themes in Q7 of the survey the emails fall into the following categories, with many emails crossing in two or more categories.

CATEGORIES	RESPONSES
Project supporters	19.2%
Cost benefit	23.0%
Environmental impact	26.9%
Alternative ideas	19.2%
Doesn't suit purpose	7.7%
Unnecessary project	3.8%
BASE n=26	

Figure 9. Email submission categorised

Identified issues and concerns

Through revisiting the project there have been a number of issues identified with the site and the proposed activities for the Village Green.

There are features of the project that need to be investigated further such as the altitude training, emergency services and the ice skating rink.

Information has been provided by Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) that could further impact the going forward with the project which would involve obtaining the necessary approvals to clear the required amount of vegetation. Council would have to ensure that appropriate offsets are provided for the identified species and proof of insignificant impact to the environment is presented. Both of which are highly unlikely to be achieved due to the large amount of vegetation needed to be removed for the project.

The cultural heritage significance is also an unknown factor for this project and an assessment would be required before this project could proceed.

These issues and concerns pose a risk for Council and the community as there are too many unknown factors that could influence the success of the project.

Outlined below are the identified risks associated with proceeding with current proposal and the risks with not proceeding.

Risks associated with proceeding with current proposal

- Community dissatisfaction (potential uproar) at the removal of sub-alpine woodland for the project;
- Project not approved by DELWP, despite effort and investment to meet the State's requirements;
- Project may not be approved due to potential cultural heritage significance;
- Ongoing financial costs associated with further planning, without knowing if project can proceed;
- Not known whether the requirements for the specific offsets can be met;
- Unknown financial costs for offsets required; and
- Potential excessive capital costs due to unknown landscape issues.

Risks associated with not proceeding with current proposal

- Negative community response;
- Time and resources spent on project already; and
- Disengaged community.

Conclusion

The purpose of the engagement was to seek feedback from all Dinner Plain ratepayers prior to proceeding with detailed design and construction.

Engagement activities took place during September and included a community briefing session, an open drop-in session, and an online survey of all ratepayers. A total of 185 people participated in the engagement activities, of which we can confirm 138 were unique ratepayers.

The engagement analysis shows that the community is divided on the proposal and therefore the validation of priority has not occurred. The survey results show that there is a strong divide in the community with 50.32% believing that the Village Green project is important, 47.74% stating that the project wasn't important to them, and 1.94% unsure. The survey also shows that 53.55% of the respondents are not happy to proceed with the current proposal, 9% are unsure, and 37.42% are happy to proceed with the current proposal.



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