**Council Plan 2016-2020: Community Reference Group**

The purpose of the Community Reference Group is to provide input and feedback to Council through the key research, development, and evaluation phases of the Council Plan 2017-2021.

**Selection Process**

A Community Reference Group of 27 members was selected from a range of sources (see page 2 for more information). Sources include:

* Residents who self-nominated an interest in the recent Council Plan survey
* Randomly selected ratepayers
* Randomly selected representatives from community groups across the Shire.

**Group makeup**

Members of the Community Reference Group provide representation from a demographic spread of the Shire, and bring with them a range of skills and knowledge and views from a broad range of community groups and industries. This includes but is not limited to:

* Parents of children of a range of ages
* Business owners
* Environment and sustainability including Landcare groups
* Teaching and community education
* Arts and Culture groups and industries
* Community sporting groups
* Urban planning
* Recreation and hall committees
* Community volunteers
* Emergency services including CFA and SES
* Industries including agriculture, construction, engineering
* Community and health services
* Finance
* Kindergarten and school committees
* Historical societies

**Meetings**

The Community Reference Group will meet three times to contribute to the development of the Council Plan:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Council Plan Introduction and Consultation Key Findings Workshop** | Monday 27 February 2017, 6.30pm-8.30pm | Bannockburn Cultural Centre, Bannockburn |
| **Draft Council Plan Workshop** | Tuesday 9 May 2017, 6.30pm-8.30pm | Rokewood Memorial Hall, Rokewood |
| **Project Evaluation Workshop** | Wednesday 28 June 2017, 7pm-8.30pm | The Well, Smythesdale |

**About the selection process**

Council invited Expressions of Interest from the following groups:

* 106 residents who self-nominated an interest in the Council Plan survey;
* 200 randomly selected ratepayers;
* 50 randomly selected representatives from Council’s community groups database.
* **A total of 36 Expressions of Interest were received.**

An independent consultant selected the group members based on geographical location, gender, and age group, to ensure the group reflected the demographics of the broader community. Individual capacity to attend the workshops was also taken into consideration.

* **25 reference group members were selected at this stage.**

Due to initial under-representation from certain age groups and geographic locations (people living in Bannockburn aged 16-45), the independent consultant directed Council staff to target recruitment to these sections of the community. This was done through flyers and social media posts at our Bannockburn Children and Family Services Centre, and through networks of Council staff members.

* **2 additional reference group members were selected at this stage.**
* **Council CEO approved the final reference group members of 27 people.**