

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013



PREPARED BY THE LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013



What is a Community Plan

Community Planning is a program encouraged and supported by the Golden Plains Shire, which enables local communities to establish goals and priorities they see important to the future development of their community. Council provides some support funding, including \$5,000 in seed funding once the plan is adopted (to allow small projects to get a quick start), but Council does not take any role in writing the plan. It is important that the plan expresses the issues and ideas from the community's perspective.

Community Plans are useful in many ways. Firstly, Council may consult with the plan as a first point of reference when considering any proposal that might affect the area. Similarly the Community Coordinators are often the first point of call when considering any consultation and considers both short and long term proposals.

The Lethbridge Community Plan provides an opportunity for local groups to be coordinated to achieve goals as the community sees as being important for the future. Suggestions identified via community-completed surveys have been further discussed and developed with priority projects being identified for inclusion into the 2013 plan through a clubs & group consultation session held earlier in the process and a public review of the plan held in October.

The role of the Lethbridge Community Planning Group is to develop in consultation with the Community a Community Plan to assist in the coordination and delivery of the priority tasks and to enhance communication within the community.

The following residents make up this group. Feel free to contact them at any time:

Diane Lang	0417 594 170	Yvonne Perdrisat	0427 819 323
Fran Robbins	0408 817 456	Kirsty Blake	0427 811 971

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Lethbridge

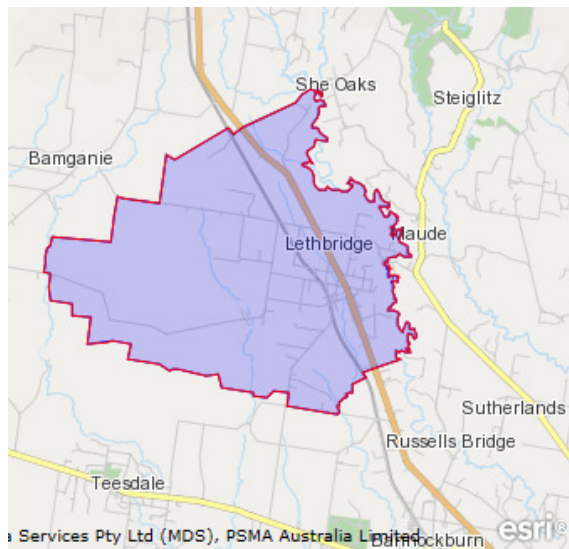


Lethbridge is a rural township nestled on the Midland Highway between Bannockburn and Meredith. Famously known for its bluestone many Melbourne buildings including the steps of Parliament house were quarried from our rural town.

Lethbridge has a primary school, a sports recreation facility boasting two football/cricket ovals, tennis courts, a town hall, an active county fire authority, general store and a home produce bakery and tea rooms. The railway line travels through the town carrying mostly goods and supplies, a derelict heritage listed station remains as a reminder of what once was a stop for diggers on their way to the goldfields.

A 2010 Lethbridge Town Structure Plan was adopted by Council identifying and partly rezoning land believed to supply 50 years of residential growth.

Lethbridge & District Township ABS Census 2011 Data



Population	Lethbridge Stats
Total	950
Male	488
Female	462

Persons Age	Lethbridge Stats
0-9 years	158
10-19 years	154
20-29 years	80
30-39 years	112
40-49 years	179
50-59 years	143
60-69 years	74
65-69 years	26
70 + years	48
Median age	35

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Achievements - Lethbridge Community Plan 2010



Community Co Coordinators have achieved many great outcomes for our town including Two BBQ shelters and BBQ installations at the Lake, the removal of the old pier and installation of the new pontoon, upgrades to play equipment and the building of a new gazebo at the playground on Russell Street.

More recent achievements include the erection of the Lethbridge Town Entrance Bridges on the highway, a 'What's On' sign and the beginning of the refurbishment of the Memorial Gates.

A Community Plan is a very worthwhile process and has been fundamental in achieving all of the actions above. A big thanks goes those whom invested a lot of time and effort to see the projects completed. Current and Non Current Members of the Community Planning Group are to be congratulated for their efforts.

The Community Coordinators is a very small group of people working together to try to make a difference in our town, many hands make light work and if you feel passionate about something listed within this plan and wish to volunteer to assist in getting the action up and running, please contact us!

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013



Streets & Streetscape

Lethbridge currently does not have any formal street planting in place and currently many empty garden beds are scattered around the town, mostly down the main street. Many survey responses requested the existing garden beds be upgraded and planted, along with potential plantings around the Memorial Gates and Lethbridge Entrance signs located on the highway. Street tree planting was also raised along with concerns that some property owners were accumulating rubbish on nature strips and not maintaining properties in a manner that reduces the overall fire risk of the town.

Actions

- Investigate an 'interactive town approach' to have garden beds planted and maintained, incorporating Memorial Gates, Town Entrance bridges on the Highway, the Lake and include other Community Facilities ie: Hall, Tennis Club etc. Possibly with a historic farming or railway inspiration.
- Review street tree planting, how other towns have achieved good design and funding. Continuation and replacement of Spotted Gum along Russell Street. Consider drainage issues.
- Raise Community Awareness of maintaining properties to decrease fire risk, tidy town promotion (CFA & Golden Plains Shire– Referred).
- Street Lighting review (see next page).
- Street Speed Restrictions & Signage – check responses.

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Paths & Trails



The Community has indicated Lethbridge lacks safe walking, jogging, & cycling paths. In particular paths for children to safely get to and from the school, parks etc. Lethbridge is identified and strongly represented in the Golden Plains Shire Paths & Trails Strategy thanks to previous campaigning by Community Co-ordinators and residents. Many additional routes were identified during consultation for this plan, additional consultation with the Golden Plains Shire will be made to try to increase/refine the identified areas.

Street Lighting in the areas where these paths both currently and are proposed to exist is also a concern of the residents, seeking a safer way to commute on foot / bike etc. Also of concern was the Railway pedestrian crossing on Tall Tree Road.

Carried on from the previous plan and still in the community's responses is a potential Rail Trail link between Bannockburn and Lethbridge and developing a historic walk featuring the historic sites of the town.

Actions

- Review existing street lighting and develop a recommendation to Golden Plains Shire & Powercor for new installation.
- Investigate Safe pedestrian crossing at Railway crossing on tall tree road installation of new crossing on the northern side of the crossing. (Victrack, Golden Plains Shire & Vicroads referral).
- Review Paths and Trails Strategy against survey responses – promote paths for safe walking, jogging & children's bike riding.
- Investigate requirements around developing a Rail Trail link between Lethbridge & Bannockburn.
- Review with Council the 'safety' of the 'pedestrian walking bridge' on Russell Street.
- Create a Historic walk around the town featuring bluestone bridges etc.

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Community & Recreational Facilities



Many Community survey responses received were around the development and repair / maintenance of the former school site and the Old Railway station – both of these sites are owned by government bodies. Whilst members of the Lethbridge are keen to see these sites developed and maintained it is unlikely this process 'The Community Plan' that we can govern any such process. However future business opportunities / investment within these sites should be encouraged. Other suggestions included revamping the existing tennis courts & improved parking at the cemetery was a major outcome of the groups and clubs discussion meeting.

Actions

- Liaise with the Tennis Club regarding the conditions of the Tennis Courts and support club to achieve three playable courts. Also develop a concept plan for the immediate surrounding area, landscaping etc. Investigate future of old club rooms.
- Support improvements to be made in regards to carparking at the cemetery.
- Continue a 'finger on the pulse' approach with the progress of the Old School Site & Railway Station.
- Assist where possible with the Cricket clubs goals ie: Cricket Nets, Longterm Turf Pitch project etc

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Community Input

A reoccurring survey response was around increasing community communication. Suggestions around re-introducing the newsletter, creating a community Facebook page / website, updating notice boards and even introducing a new notice board on the service road near the old school have all been suggested. Increasing the town's awareness of the Community Plan and the Coordinators will also be beneficial.

Actions

- Investigate the need to have a Township Map in-place in the service road near the old school. Re-vamp and possibly better utilise / organise the existing Notice Board located at the front of the shop.
- Create a process around advertising on the 'Whats On' sign, including appointing a standard contact person and communicating this to the wider Community.
- Investigate the re-introduction of a Lethbridge Newsletter, or an article to be incorporated in a surrounding town's newsletter.
- Explore the need to create a Community Facebook Page and or Webpage.



LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN - ACTION LIST 2013

2013 – Onwards (Listing of actions – priorities etc)

	Action	Priority / Timeline	Action Officer
Streets & Streetscapes	Investigate an 'interactive town approach' to have garden beds planted and maintained, incorporating Memorial Gates, Town Entrance bridges on the Highway, the Lake and include other Community Facilities ie: Hall, Tennis Club etc. Possibly with a historic farming or railway inspiration.	Review TPP	All
	Review street tree planting, how other towns have achieved good design and funding. Continuation and replacement of Spotted Gum along Russell Street. Consider drainage issues.	Review TPP	All
	Raise Community Awareness of maintaining properties to decrease fire risk, tidy town promotion (CFA & Golden Plains Shire- Referred).	Fire Season Yearly	Yvonne
	Street Lighting review	Review TPP	Kirsty
	Street Speed Restrictions & Signage – check responses.	Review TPP	All
Paths & Trails	Review existing street lighting and develop a recommendation to Golden Plains Shire & Powercor for new installation.	Review TPP	Kirsty
	Investigate Safe pedestrian crossing at Railway crossing on tall tree road installation of new crossing on the northern side of the crossing. (Victrack, Golden Plains Shire & Vicroads referral).	6 – 12 months	Kirsty
	Review Paths and Trails Strategy against survey responses – promote paths for safe walking, jogging & children's bike riding.	Review TPP	All
	Investigate requirements around developing a Rail Trail link between Lethbridge & Bannockburn.	2 yrs – ongoing	Diane
	Review with Council the 'safety' of the 'pedestrian walking bridge' on Russell Street.	Review TPP	Kirsty
	Create a Historic walk around the town featuring bluestone bridges etc.	Review TPP	All
Community & Rec' Facilities	Liaise with the Tennis Club regarding the conditions of the Tennis Courts and support club to achieve three playable courts. Also develop a concept plan for the immediate surrounding area, landscaping etc and investigate future of old clubrooms.	Immediate	Kirsty
	Support improvements to be made in regards to carparking at the cemetery.	Immediate	Kirsty
	Continue a 'finger on the pulse' approach with the progress of the Old School Site & Railway Station	Ongoing	Fran
	Assist where possible with the Cricket clubs goals ie: Cricket Nets, Longterm Turf Pitch project etc	Ongoing	Diane
Community Input	Investigate the need to have a Town Map in-place in the service road near the old school. Re-vamp and possibly better utilise / organise the existing Notice Board located at the front of the shop.	Immediate – 2yrs	All
	Create a process around advertising on the 'Whats On' sign, including appointing a standard contact person and communicating this to the wider Community.	Immediate	Yvonne
	Investigate the re-introduction of a Lethbridge Newsletter, or an article to be incorporated in a surrounding town's newsletter.	Immediate	Yvonne
	Explore the need to create a Community Facebook Page and or Webpage.	Immediate	Yvonne / Fran

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Alterations or Disputes

Administration and Process

The community planning group retains the right to establish procedures that will manage community affairs when implementing the community plan. These procedures will be developed to ensure transparency and a democratic process.

Alterations to the Community Plan

Since the Community plan has been established through a public process, any alterations to the Community plan also need to be undertaken through a public process. The community planning group therefore reserves the right to establish the procedures associated with any proposed change in order to retain the Community plan as a vibrant, flexible and dynamic document.

Review of the Community Plan

The Community plan will be reviewed approximately every two years through a public process to be determined by the community planning group.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of any dispute, all parties concerned should meet, discuss and resolve the matter as soon as possible. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they must hold a meeting in the presence nominated through the Golden Plains Shire Council.

For further information about Community Planning in the Golden Plains Shire, and how to get involved, become a coordinator, get involved with a project or just be kept informed please contact.

Damian Waight, Community Development Team Leader, Golden Plains Shire

Phone: 03 52 207 159 / Mobile: 0427 935 190 / Email dwaight@tplains.vic.gov.au

