

NEW RESIDENTS GUIDE

WELCOME TO GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE



Golden Plains Shire Council, Bannockburn.

CONTACT US

Our Customer Service Centres are open 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Bannockburn Customer Service Centre

2 Pope Street
Bannockburn, Victoria, 3331

Linton Customer Service Centre

68 Sussex Street,
Linton, Victoria, 3360

Email

enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

Website

goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Report an Issue

To report an issue needing Council's attention, you can contact us using the details on the left, or click the 'Report an Issue' link at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/report-issue

After Hours

Residents wishing to contact Council outside normal business hours, should phone 03 5220 7111.

Your call will be connected to Council's after hours service. You will hear an automated menu which will provide you with options to directly transfer your call to the relevant after hours contact.

Phone

Local call: 1300 36 30 36

Phone: 03 5220 7111

Fax: 03 5220 7100

Postal Address

Golden Plains Shire Council
PO Box 111
Bannockburn, Victoria, 3331

In case of emergency, please call Triple Zero (000).



LIFE AS IT SHOULD BE

Thank you for choosing Golden Plains – you’ve made a great choice!

This Guide provides you with handy information to help you become acquainted with your community and our fantastic municipality. We’ve developed this package to summarise the Shire’s many services, programs, facilities and features, as well as providing links to useful resources.

Our region is one of Victoria’s fastest growing, with 56 communities and 16 townships. Originally a small rural Shire, over the past decade we’ve developed into a key living destination, boasting a country lifestyle with short driving distances to everything that Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne have to offer.

As a new resident, you are encouraged to explore what’s available to you: sporting ovals, skate parks, playgrounds, trails to walk or ride, historic buildings and fantastic food and wine venues.

There’s also a state-of-the-art library in Bannockburn as well as modern community, cultural and family services centres in Smythesdale, Meredith and Bannockburn.

The Shire offers a range of community programs, such as walking groups, craft groups and planned activity groups; all great opportunities to make friends and start feeling at home in your community. Golden Plains is home to a variety of events, such as a monthly Farmers’ Market in Bannockburn, and community markets in Smythesdale and Inverleigh; along with an annual Arts Trail and many successful community events – you can find these under ‘Find an Event’ on our website.

Feel free to get involved in sporting clubs, town planning or community events – through getting yourself out and about and volunteering, you’ll meet new people and contribute to our vibrant communities, one of our Shire’s greatest strengths.



Golden Plains Farmers' Market, Bannockburn.

TASTE

Food

There's a natural flow of produce from paddock to plate in Golden Plains across our rich variety of country pubs, bistros, cafes and restaurants. Enjoy seasonal menus crafted from fresh, local produce; tasty meats, handmade cheese, delicious olives and organic vegetables.

Our Farmers' Market in Bannockburn was one of the first in regional Victoria, and has received several accolades at the Geelong Business Awards.

visitgoldenplains.com.au

Wine

There's no such thing as average wine in Golden Plains! Explore the Moorabool Valley wine region's boutique wineries and hand-crafted varieties.

Family-owned and operated wineries dominate the Valley and give both residents and visitors the opportunity to meet the winemakers who produce the classic wines on offer.

mooraboolvalleytastetrail.com

Arts and Culture

Unearth hidden creative treasures and visit artists at work in their studios and artistic spaces on the annual Golden Plains Arts Trail. On your way, marvel at the spectacular natural environment and enjoy a perfect family outing with local wine, fresh produce and country cafes.

Events and Festivals

Golden Plains Shire hosts a wide range of community events, ranging from the Shelford Duck Race to the Rokewood Rodeo, and everything in between! In addition, there are regular community markets in several towns. The best way of keeping up to date is through the Council website under 'Find an Event'.

Join the thousands of music-goers and convoys of colourful vans, tents and old couches at the legendary Meredith Amphitheatre for the Meredith and Golden Plains Music Festivals. You may also wish to get with the groove at the annual Bluestone Music Festival, held on New Year's Eve in Murgheboluc.

artstrail.com.au

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events



Bunjil lookout, Maude.



Corindhap Avenue of Honour, Corindhap.

NATURE AND RECREATION

Golden Plains has stunning natural attractions and open spaces to explore.

You might like to explore the Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail, a wonderful trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Trail passes through open grasslands, eucalypt forests, over historic bridges and through attractive townships along the way.

You can enjoy spectacular vistas from atop Flagstaff Hill Lookout just outside Linton or Bunjil Lookout in Maude, or take in the beautiful country atmosphere of Leigh River junction at Inverleigh.

Set in a low range of mountains, dissected by rocky gullies, the unusual geology of the Brisbane Ranges National Park has preserved plants that have vanished from other parts of the region. There are a number of options for bushwalking, ranging from short walks to three day walks. This park is also popular for picnicking, scenic drives and camping.

visitgoldenplains.com.au

Heritage

Relive a time gone by through the history-rich towns of Golden Plains.

You can explore the treasury of historic buildings and goldfields history at the Smythesdale Historic Precinct, enjoy breathtaking views from Nimons Bridge in Newtown, or explore the Corindhap Avenue of Honour, an artistic tribute to the servicemen and women of the two World Wars.

Tour the Linton township or Steiglitz Historic Precinct for some well-preserved buildings or visit the various cemeteries that form part of Victoria's earliest history. Local history lives and breathes in Golden Plains.



Nimons Bridge, Newtown.



Council provides a range of child and family services, including maternal and child health, family day care, long day care and kindergarten.

For more information on child and family services, phone Bannockburn Family Services Centre on 5220 7230/32 or look for the 'My Family' link on Council's website.

Bannockburn Family Services Centre

The BFSC located behind the main Council Building in Bannockburn is the main office for our Family Day Care, Kindergarten, Occasional Care, Maternal and Child Health and Childcare services. Additional services offered at the BFSC including; speech pathology, physiotherapy, diabetes education, counselling, dietitian and family support services.

Maternal and Child Health

Council's Maternal and Child Health services assist families with children up to six years old, through advice, support and developmental monitoring.

Free services include:

- Regular health and development assessments between birth and 3.5 years
- New Parents Group
- Parenting and information sessions
- Information regarding local services
- Referrals to early intervention services
- Breastfeeding support
- Family health education and parenting support
- Drop-in sessions to discuss any concerns

EDUCATION AND CARE

Family Day Care

Golden Plains Family Day Care is a home based registered children's service operated by Golden Plains Shire Council. Throughout the Shire, there are a number of Family Day Care educators who provide care and education for children from 0-12 years in their approved homes or venues.

Family Day Care educators can provide before school, after school and vacation care for school-aged children.

Childcare

A Council operated childcare service operates from the Bannockburn Family Services Centre at 2 A Pope Street. The service provides high quality learning and care experiences for children from six weeks to five years of age. This also includes a Government-funded four year old kindergarten program. The Service is open from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Contact us on 5220 7230

Late 2017 an independent Childcare Centre opened in Bannockburn. Bright Minds offers funded Kindergarten and Pre Kindergarten Programs.

Kindergarten

There are a number of Services operating funded Kindergarten and Pre Kindergarten programs across the Shire. These services offer high quality learning experiences for children in the year before school and during their Pre School year. In addition to the Bannockburn Children's Service other Council operated Kindergartens are located at Inverleigh, Rokewood, Teesdale and Meredith. Eureka Community Kindergarten Association operate services at Haddon and Woady Yaloak (Scarsdale).



Occasional Care

Occasional Care provides high quality learning and care experiences for children from six weeks to five years of age. There are occasional care services in Haddon, Inverleigh, Meredith and Rokewood.

Outside School Hours Care

This is a licensed service provided for school-aged children before and after school. Available at most schools throughout the Shire. For more information contact the Schools directly.

Playgroups

Playgroups provide parents and carers with the opportunity to meet new people, support each other and exchange parenting ideas. They also allow babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers to socialise as they play and learn together. Playgroups are active in most communities.

Primary and Secondary Schools

There are 14 Government primary schools in the Shire. The Bannockburn P-12 College opened in 2018 and is initially taking enrolments up to Year 8 (and up to Year 12 by 2020). The Shire's first independent Primary School also opened in 2018, St Mary McKillop will offer all Primary classes P-6.

Immunisation

We provide immunisation services for preschool children using experienced staff from Ballarat City Council. Clinics are held in Bannockburn, Rokewood, Linton and Haddon. Contact Ballarat City Council for more information on 5320 5500.

State Government data has revealed that our Maternal and Child Health 'Key Age and Stage Visit' (KASV) program is one of the best in the Central Highlands region in relation to attendance levels.

The KASV program is a schedule of 10 appointments for Golden Plains Shire children, from their first new born home visit through to their 3.5 year check-up.



Maternal and Child Health Service Coordinator.



Rokewood transfer station.

Rubbish and recycling collections

Residents are provided with a weekly recycling service and a fortnightly waste service.

Our aim is to reduce the amount of household waste going into landfill. Together we can play a part in preserving the beauty of Golden Plains Shire and improving the environmental health of our region.

Up to 50% of waste collected consists of green organics, including grass clippings and vegetable scraps. This material can be readily composted into a valuable soil additive for your garden or vegetable patch. Compost bins are available from Council at cost price.

Supply of waste and recycling bins

Residential properties should have two 240 litre bins – one for recyclables and one for general waste.

New owners or tenants are required to purchase their bins from Council. The form required is under the 'Kerbside Rubbish & Recycling Collection' section of Council's website.

Recycling Service: weekly

- Keep all recycling loose – do not place recyclable material in plastic bags
- No need to rinse, just scrape clean
- Don't overfill the bin – the lid must be able to close

Waste Service: fortnightly

Items that cannot be reused, recycled or composted should be placed in your waste bin.

Typical acceptable items include:

- General household waste
- Broken glass (wrapped)
- Crockery and ceramics
- Nappies (bagged)
- Don't overfill the bin – the lid must be able to close

Transfer Station

Residents have access to Council's Rokewood Transfer Station for extra waste or large bulky items. The site, located at 141 Meadows Road Rokewood, is open Sundays from 10.00am – 3.00pm, except declared Total Fire Ban days. More information, including materials accepted and charges, is available under the 'Transfer Station' section of Council's website, or call 5220 7111.

Septic Tanks

In Golden Plains Shire, only three areas are serviced by reticulated sewerage: Bannockburn (south of the railway line), Smythesdale and Enfield. For properties in other areas, all wastewater should be serviced by an onsite septic tank system.

If you have a septic system, we encourage you to familiarise yourself with its operation and maintenance requirements to ensure it works – and continues to work – effectively.

Further information including Council's Septic Tank Brochure can be accessed on Council's website under 'Septic Systems'.



Septic Tank system being installed.



Community Protection

In order to protect residents from dogs, cats and other wandering livestock, Council operates a Community Protection service.

Animal issues – response

Council's Community Protection Officers are available during office hours to respond to animal management issues (e.g. dog attack, wandering dogs, livestock on roads). Additionally, an after-hours emergency response service is available should a response be required when a dog attack or roaming livestock issue arise. The contact number is 5220 7111.

Dog and Cat Registration

As new residents, we remind you of the importance, and legal requirement, to register your dogs and cats with Council.

Registration enables your pet to be returned to you should it go missing, rather than ending up in the Geelong Animal Welfare centre or the Ballarat Pound, at considerable cost to the owners.

All dogs and cats over three months of age must be registered with Council by 10 April each year. To assist with identification, pets must wear their registration tag at all times. Registrations are payable annually.

Further information on dealing with barking or menacing dogs is available on the 'Your Home' section of Council's website.

Council provides a free take home service to dogs found wandering at large that are registered with the Council and that have not been involved in an incident.

Fire Prevention

As a community, we all have a responsibility to be prepared for fire. Council works with the community and fire agencies to identify fire risks and how to manage them, to reduce the potential impact on our communities.

Council acts to reduce fire risk by slashing sealed road verges, maintaining Council reserves, issuing Fire Prevention Notices and facilitating Country Fire Authority planned burns on roadsides and reserves.

Residents can assist in reducing fire risk by managing fine fuels (e.g. grass, leaves, twigs and bark) around their home and property in the lead up to summer.

Council officers commence fire hazard inspections in November each year. Residents who receive a Fire Prevention Notice should either act on it or contact Council to discuss. The penalty for not complying with a Fire Prevention Notice currently exceeds \$1,500.

Visit Council's website for a comprehensive section on fire and fire preparedness.



Cleaning gutters as a fire prevention.



Our Health and Wellbeing team is a partnership initiative between Golden Plains Shire Council, Ballarat District Nursing and Healthcare, Ballarat Community Health and Barwon Health and delivers a broad range of quality services to residents.

We are committed to promoting physical and mental health and wellbeing, as well as building healthy communities through increased physical activity and good nutrition.

Our Service Centres

The Health and Wellbeing team provides a range of activities and services from five main hubs.

These include:

- Northern Community Centre, Haddon
- The Well – Smythesdale Community Hub
- Dereel Community Centre
- Bannockburn Family Services Centre
- Bannockburn Cultural Centre

Health and Wellbeing program

The Health and Wellbeing partnership provides a range of activities and programs. These include:

- Annual Seniors Festival activities – month of October
- Chat and Chew community meals
- Health promoting programs such as VicHealth Walk to School and H30 Challenge
- Food Network Groups
- ‘Trailblazers’ walking groups

Gem of an Idea grants

These small grants (up to \$500) are available for non-profit community groups to undertake projects or activities which promote community connections, better nutrition, physical activity and/or mental health and wellbeing. Contact the Health and Wellbeing team on 5220 7111 for further information or access the Council website under the ‘My Family’ section.

Woody Yaloak Primary School, Smythesdale

Walk Around the Shire Class Challenge

Class name: _____

Walking is fun because...

Places we visited on our walks...

We discovered...

Walking is healthy because...

Walk to School is a VicHealth initiative

www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au

KEY

1 panel = 10km

Total Shire perimeter = 350km

Some of Golden Plains Shire Council and VicHealth’s Walk to School promotion in 2017.



Our Aged and Disability Services provide a range of supports for eligible people living in our Shire who are aged or living with a disability. Fees are charged according to income and those receiving government benefits are charged a minimal fee for each service.

Home Care

This service works with residents in need, offering assistance with household tasks such as cleaning, washing and ironing.

Personal Care

We offer personal care assistance to eligible residents, including help with showering and dressing. Assistance is also offered with shopping and preparing meals.

Respite Care

Flexible respite can be offered either in the home or in the community. Our staff can work with you to determine the best options for you and your family.

Meals on Wheels

Nutritious meals are provided each week to older residents and people with disabilities. They are distributed by volunteers from Bannockburn and Linton on Wednesday each week.

Home Maintenance

This service provides assistance with minor indoor and outdoor repairs and maintenance that does not require a qualified tradesperson. Priority is given to safety and security tasks, such as repairing doors and installing handrails.

NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is located at 33 High Street Bannockburn and provides local area co-ordination for this service.

Social Support and Planned Activity Groups

Planned Activity Groups programs provide support for people who are frail, aged or have a disability. For a small fee, a two-course meal is provided at each program and transport to and from the program is available.

Planned Activity Groups are located at:

- Bannockburn Cultural Centre
- Northern Community Centre, Haddon
- Rokewood Memorial Hall
- Social Men's Groups are located at Bannockburn and Rokewood.

Senior Citizens

There are five active Senior Citizen groups located at Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Rokewood, Meredith and Linton.

Many of the above services and programs are supported by funding from the Federal and Victorian governments.

Contact the Aged and Disability team on 5220 7111 or the 'My Family' section of Council's website.



Enjoying the hobby of painting.



Community Planning

Community Planning is where local residents develop and implement a plan to improve their community.

Local residents known as Community Coordinators volunteer their time to coordinate the development and implementation of a Community Plan. Residents within a community are consulted and assist to implement projects – such as an improved streetscape or new events - with the help and support of our independent community facilitators. We encourage you, as a new resident, to get involved in this process. If you're interested, the first step is to check Council's website under 'My Community' then 'Community Planning' for your current Community Plan.

\$7,500 in seed funding is available from Council to kick-start implementation of three-year Community Plans. Over 20 communities in our Shire now have active Community Plans and the process is open to all residents – we encourage you to get involved, it's a great way to get to know your new community.

Community Directory – Peruse the Community Directory to find local groups and projects to join. Go to the Golden Plains Council Website and choose "My Community" then "Community Directory"

Community Events – Look at the events Calendar to see local events going on in your town. Go to the Golden Plains Council Website and choose "My Community" then "Events Hub"

Volunteering – See the opportunities available on the opposite page.

If you have any questions about how to get involved in your new local community please call Council on 5220 7111 and ask to speak to the Community Development Team Leader.

Town Pages

The Town Pages under the 'My Community' section of Council's website are available for each town as a central point of information. If you would like more information included about your town, get in touch with Council via enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

Community Engagement

We are committed to giving our community members the opportunity to participate in Council's planning and decision-making processes. Community engagement is how Council consults with the community on a range of issues affecting them, as well as Council services, strategies and projects.

Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations to get involved and have your say.



Cape Clear Playground.



Arts and Culture

Arts and culture is an important part of the health, wellbeing and liveability of our Shire. Culture is a broad term which can relate to celebrations, gatherings, recreation, traditions, stories and heritage.

Arts and culture in Golden Plains Shire takes many forms – from public art such as the Bunjil lookout at Maude to events like the annual Golden Plains Arts Trail where artists across the Shire open their studios to showcase their work.

Council also offers the START Arts Grants program and there are a number of ways you can get involved in and enjoy arts and culture including arts groups, writer's groups, historical societies and community events and festivals.

The wider Geelong and Ballarat region is also home to some of Victoria's best music festivals, regional galleries, theatres and arts spaces.

Arts events and competitions include the annual Arts Trail and the Spring in the Shire photo competition. You can contact us on arts@gplains.vic.gov.au or check out artstrail.com.au



Samantha Thompson, 2016 Arts Trail.

VOLUNTEERS

Benefits to you as a volunteer

Volunteering provides you with many benefits and opportunities, including meeting new people, gaining valuable skills, as well as a sense of achievement. Our volunteer program provides a wide range of vital community services and we encourage you, as a new resident, to consider volunteer work. Council's volunteer coordinator can be contacted on 5220 7216.

Meals on Wheels

Once a week, this service delivers meals to health and community care eligible clients.

Planned Activity Groups

Volunteers work alongside staff to help clients participate in activities such as arts and craft, gentle exercise, gardening and outings.

Golden Connections Community Transport

Our transport service provides safe transportation of elderly, frail and people with a disability to attend medical appointments, shop and pay bills.

Trailblazers

Volunteers provide assistance with community walking programs in various locations.

Chat and Chew community meals

Staff and volunteers work together to provide a nutritious meal for up to 30 residents.



Our Youth team is committed to improving the health and wellbeing, education and training of young people, and maximising opportunities for young people within our Shire. We are dedicated to ensuring that all programs are safe, inclusive and accessible.

Many of our programs are designed and run by young people themselves.

Our vision is that young people in the Golden Plains Shire are healthy, resilient, empowered and actively contribute to building a better world.

Get Involved

The Youth Development Team offers a range of free events and activities in the Shire across the year including:

- Events- Music, Skate/BMX/Scoot, Art etc
- Groups and committees
- Work experience and job readiness
- Training workshops
- Parent workshops
- School holiday programs
- *All Youth Development activities are drug, alcohol and smoke free*

Stay Connected

Stay up to date on all upcoming events, activities and opportunities:

- Facebook- facebook.com/goldenplainsyoungpeople/
- Website- goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-family/youth
- Email- goldenplainsyouth@gplains.vic.gov.au
- Phone- 03 5220 7106
- Youth Lounge- Bannockburn Cultural Centre (BCC), 25-27 High St, Bannockburn.

OUR PROGRAMS

Youth Events and Activities Calendar

To stay up to date with youth events including National Youth Week, school holiday activities, training, FReeZA gigs and more, go to our website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth or search 'Golden Plains Youth' on Facebook.

FReeZA

FReeZA is an innovative program to provide young people between the ages of 12-25 with the opportunity to organise affordable and accessible music and cultural events. Recruitment for young people interested in helping to deliver FReeZA events happens every year.

National Youth Week

National Youth Week is an annual Australia-wide celebration of young people aged 12-25. We offer a range of activities and programs to celebrate this special week.

Youth Lounge

Our Youth Lounge is located at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre and is a designated space for secondary school-aged youth to relax, study, make friends and develop networks. It's also available to host youth activities and events.

Skate, BMX and more

Check out our range of skate parks, BMX tracks and other active spaces across the Shire.

We also facilitate opportunities for young people to plan and deliver events at their local skate park. Events have included the annual Barwon South West Skate Park Series, Anti-Graffiti Street Art Project and twilight skate, BMX and scoot competitions.

iVAN

The Golden Plains Youth Van, iVAN, provides a mobile space for young people to interact and have fun while engaging with all the elements iVAN has to offer.



Bannockburn Soccer Pavilion and Surrounding Facilities.

Our Recreation team works to create and maintain healthy communities, maximise participation in physical activity and promote social connections.

As a new resident, you will be able to enjoy a range of sporting activities and amenities, recreational opportunities and outdoor adventures.

The Community-Council partnership

We recognise the significant role that you – the residents and volunteers of our Shire – play in managing clubs, organisations and recreation and community facilities.

As new residents, there are many opportunities for you to become more active in your community. To find out more about local clubs, groups and activities in the Shire visit our website. Alternatively, you may wish to take on a role as a Committee of Management member, working to ensure the effective management of a sporting facility or community hall.

Community grants

Council offers an annual grant program, with funding of up to \$5,000 available on a matched basis for community projects. For more information, contact our community development team on 5220 7111.

Clubs and facilities

Our Shire has over 120 sport and recreation clubs and community groups, and over 140 recreation and community facilities; including playgrounds, halls and community centres, tennis facilities, sporting ovals and pavilions, skate and bike parks, golf clubs, lawn bowling facilities and equestrian centres. Check out the 'What's Near You' link on Council's website to find facilities close to you.



Cricket nets at the Bannockburn Recreation Reserve.

Strategic Planning

Strategic land use planning is a vital process for determining how our Shire will develop now and into the future. Examples of planning documents include the Inverleigh Structure Plan and the Northern Settlement Strategy.

Our strategic planning functions are based around the preparation of forward planning policies and strategies that form part of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme, providing direction for land use and development across the Shire.

Statutory Planning

Statutory planning involves administering the Golden Plains Planning Scheme and assessing permit applications. The Planning Scheme is a tool planners use to guide land use and development within our Shire.

The Planning team provides information and advice about when a planning permit is required and the process involved. Planning officers consider whether or not to grant a planning permit and what conditions are appropriate. Some more complex planning decisions are referred to Council for a decision.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a planning permit?

Many types of land use or development require a planning permit, including (but not limited to):

- Clearing or lopping of native vegetation
- Building a house or a shed
- Establishing a business, including working from home
- Industrial or commercial development
- Breeding animals
- Subdividing land

How do I apply for a planning permit?

If you require a planning permit, you will need to:

- Complete an application form
- Provide appropriate supporting information (depending on the type of application – a planning officer can provide specific advice)
- Provide a copy of title and any covenants/agreements applying to the land
- Provide plans showing the proposed development (siting, elevations and layout)
- Ensure that the property is clearly identified from the road so that inspections can be undertaken without delay
- Pay the appropriate fee
- Lodge the application

The application form and fee schedule can be obtained from the planning permits page on the Council website (goldenplains.vic.gov.au – search ‘planning permits’)

How long will it take for the planning permit to be ready?

The time it takes to obtain a planning permit is dependent on the complexity of the proposal, and if objections are received. Providing all necessary supporting information early will hasten the process. A pre-application meeting with Council officers will assist in determining the information necessary to assess the application.

Building permits

As a municipal authority, we are responsible for complying with various regulations and government acts to ensure buildings meet relevant building and safety standards.

Building applications are required for new buildings, removal of homes, demolitions, alterations and additions to existing buildings, sheds, roofed patios and roofed pergolas.

Local Laws

Golden Plains has two Local Laws, which are laws enforced throughout the Shire by Council.

Local Law No. 1 sets out the processes and meeting procedures of Council.

Local Law No. 2 – General Public Amenity was recently revised after consulting with the community and covers issues and activities including:

- Dog on lead areas within townships
- Unsightly land
- Camping
- Keeping of domestic animals
- Burning of offensive materials
- Signs on road reserves
- Trees on road reserves
- Roadside trading
- Outdoor eating facilities
- Droving and grazing of livestock on roads

A copy of the Local Law is available on the Council website.



Our Economic Development team works with business, industry, government and investors to generate increased business activity, jobs, services and infrastructure that will support the growth of the local and regional economy.

Economic Development Quarterly – ED-Q

Our service includes keeping you informed of what's happening. With our Economic Development newsletter (ED-Q), we keep you informed of major developments in the Shire, as well as upcoming business training opportunities and more.

To sign up, email business@gplains.vic.gov.au or sign up under 'Contact Us' on the Council website.

Business opportunities and how we can help

Our team is available to provide you with assistance in commercial, industrial and agricultural investment.

With strong projected population and economic growth, our Shire is a great place to invest – we will work with you to help you develop your business.

Golden Plains is a perfect place to start or grow your business – with easy access to Geelong, Ballarat and Melbourne, along with a range of training and networking opportunities for business owners and operators.

Overview of major developments

The following major developments are occurring in Golden Plains Shire:

Natural gas connection to Bannockburn

Bannockburn is now connected to natural gas, which will give more than 1,400 homes and businesses access to a reliable and secure energy supply.

NBN in Golden Plains

NBN fast broadband now reaches many communities in our Shire, with more towns set to be connected to fixed wireless NBN in the near future.

Bannockburn is now connected to fixed line NBN, while most communities in the north of the Shire have the option to connect to fixed wireless NBN.

Bannockburn P-12 College

A new P-12 school has been built in Bannockburn and opened in 2018. Please contact the school on 5281 1755 for enrolment details.

Golden Plains Food Production Precinct

Constructed by Barwon Water with support from federal and state governments, an \$11.78M pipeline supplies water to 4,000 hectares of land zoned for intensive agriculture near Lethbridge. The Precinct is projected to generate 775 jobs and \$160M in investment over 10 years.

For more information visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business or call 5220 7111.



Free Range chickens.



Your annual rates amount helps fund over 100 different important services and programs.

How your rates and charges are calculated

Local government is required to determine the combination of rates, charges and fees needed to fund the services we provide to our communities.

Council rates are calculated on the capital improved value for each property.

We are required by legislation to levy a separate charge for domestic waste management services, as not all properties receive a collection service. The cost of these services cannot be financed from ordinary rates, and the charge needs to be sufficient to recover reasonable costs to provide the services.

Paying your rates

If making a single payment for the full year's rates and charges, your payment is due on or before 15 February each year.

You may choose to pay your rates by quarterly instalments, in which case we will send you instalment reminder notices.

The payment dates for each instalment are as follows:

- First instalment – 30 September
- Second instalment – 30 November
- Third instalment – 28 February
- Fourth instalment – 31 May

If you are having difficulty paying your rates, please contact Customer Service on 5220 7111 or enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au to arrange alternative payment terms.

Fire Services Property Levy

Your rates notice includes a Fire Services Property Levy. The Levy is collected with every Victorian property owner's Council rates. This levy replaced the Fire Services Levy previously charged on building and contents insurance premiums.

As with Council rates, the levy can be paid in four quarterly instalments.

Further information about the FSPL is available at firelevy.vic.gov.au

Customer Service

Our friendly customer service staff are your first point of call for all the services we offer. We can assist with your enquiries, or follow up with the relevant department or officer.

You can also report issues (such as fallen trees, potholes, or hazards) through the 'Report an Issue' link on Council's website.



Denise and Halina, Customer Service Staff.



Back row, left to right:
Cr Les Rowe,
Cr Nathan Hansford,
Cr Owen Sharkey,
Cr David Evans, Front
row, Cr Joanne Gilbert,
Cr Des Phelan and
Cr Helena Kirby.

Your Councillors 2016-2020

Cr David Evans

First elected: December 2016

David is a Bannockburn resident and is passionate about making Golden Plains' rates fair and equitable and is interested in making budgetary cost savings wherever possible.

Cr Nathan Hansford

First elected: November 2012

Nathan has a young family that ensures his involvement within the community. His focus is on working together to achieve the best outcome possible for the Shire.

Cr Joanne Gilbert

First elected: November 2016

Joanne believes community consultation is paramount and is strongly committed to improving infrastructure and services. Born and raised in Napoleons, Joanne lives in Cambrian Hill with her family and is an active member of her community.

Cr Helena Kirby (Mayor 2018)

First elected: December 2008

Helena is a resident and business owner in Rokewood. She is keen to represent the interests of residents of Rokewood and district and to see that communities within Golden Plains Shire are maintained and have access to future opportunities.

Cr Des Phelan

Re-elected: November 2012

Des has lived and worked in Golden Plains Shire all his life. He has served on the Grenville and Golden Plains Shire Council for 28 years, including five terms as Mayor.

Cr Les Rowe

First elected: November 2016

A life-long Golden Plains resident, Les owns and operates a business in Sutherlands Creek. Les is active in his community and lobbied for the new Bannockburn P-12 College. Les is committed to supporting Golden Plains residents, ratepayers and community organisations.

Cr Owen Sharkey

First elected: November 2016

Owen lives with his family in Batesford, where he is involved in the community, and works in Bannockburn. He would like to be seen as an approachable councillor whose decisions benefit the whole of the Shire.

Councillor contact details are available on the website under 'My Council'.

Council meetings

Council holds its regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December – third Tuesday) commencing at 4.00pm. Meetings alternate between Council chambers in Bannockburn and Linton.

Ordinary meetings of Council are open to the public.

How can I get involved?

Golden Plains Shire Council welcomes input from community members. You can get involved in formulating the Community Plan for your local area or register to provide input to our regular community engagement opportunities. Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or phone 5220 7111 to find out more.

**Bannockburn Customer
Service Centre**

2 Pope Street, Bannockburn,
Victoria, 3331.

**Linton Customer
Service Centre**

68 Sussex Street, Linton
Victoria, 3360.

Phone

P: 5220 7111

F: 5220 7100

Postal address

Golden Plains Shire Council
PO Box 111, Bannockburn,
Victoria 3331.

General Enquiries

P: (03) 5220 7111 or 1300 363 036*

*Local call cost from within the Shire,
excluding mobile phones

F: (03) 5220 7100

E: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

goldenplains.vic.gov.au