

SHELFORD  
COMMUNITY  
PLAN  
2014



Residents involved in the Community, with a sense of belonging and actively participating in the day to day life of Shelford.

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## 1. The Community Planning Process

The Golden Plains Shire is committed to community planning and has encouraged local communities to undertake their own vibrant, diverse and innovative approaches to developing solutions in their own community. This approach has enabled some very successful projects to be planned within the Shelford community.

As a result of community planning, the Shelford community has a model whereby it can exercise its own leadership to:

- Ensure medium term community planning for the Shelford community
- Facilitate those infrastructure developments to assist a growing community
- Promote a cohesive and dynamic local community
- Maintain open communication and consultation within the Shelford community.

As a result of working in partnership with Council, a shared vision can be developed for the future and with the assistance of Council and other government agencies; we can achieve the projects identified within the community plan.

The Shelford community has completed a planning process by:

1. Conducting a postal survey inclusive of the whole Shelford community.
2. Holding a town meeting. At this session the community identified projects and assessed their impact on the Shelford community with the idea of setting priorities. This meeting identified in excess of 30 ideas / suggestions put forward to improve our community. Not all can be implemented by the Community Coordinators group, but we intend to notify those that may be able to implement them.
3. Setting up a structure within the Community Coordinators group to have 'drivers' of individual projects. The drivers being those who take a lead role in the development of the project and guide the project to completion.
4. At the conclusion of each planned project, there will be some evaluation and identification of future improvements to be assessed with the idea of feeding back to the Shelford community.



## **2. Administering the Community Plan**

The administration of the Shelford community plan will be undertaken by local volunteers through the Shelford Community Coordinators Group.



The emphasis of the community planning group is to identify those projects and incorporate stakeholders, who may be interested in the development of any of the projects or initiatives, to assist and participate in the scoping and development of a particular community project.

The principle of local community residents undertaking the working party and scoping assessments recognises that local people have the ability to generate local solutions to problems or suggest services that best suit the community.

As a result, individuals and residents become more attached to the community with a sense of belonging in the day to day life of Shelford. The development of the plans or projects means local accountability and community consultation is undertaken the way the local community sees fit and emphasizes the capacity of the community to build processes that best address the local initiative.

The Shelford community has been able to plan for better value for the dollars spent in the community resulting in projects that provide a great sense of achievement.

The Shelford Community Coordinators group is made up of several member of the local community that hold an ongoing position in the group and then other members join and leave as their project starts and finishes. It is made up of 'Drivers' - people that have a passion for the community and a particular project.

### 3 Priorities

The majority of the priorities for the current plan recognize that Shelford has a large youth population and we need, as a community, to provide them with activities that are beneficial to their wellbeing, both physically and emotionally. We want our youth to be able to participate in activities within their own community without the need to be driven to Geelong or Ballarat. This will involve a long term plan with different aspects being added in as time and funding allow.

#### *Priority No. 1 – Wheels Facility*

The wheels facility, (skate board ramp), was initiated by our local youth putting together their own ramp on the tennis court. *"They were telling the community that this is what they wanted"*. This is high on the list but because of the cost it will not be the first thing to be developed, but in the overall development of the area, there will be a space identified for this and the other facilities will be developed with this in mind.

#### **Recommendation**

The development of what is called the 'youth area' will continue and space will be set aside for a wheels facility. Installation of the facility will be commenced as funding is sourced.



### *Priority No. 2 – A Community Garden*

The whole community has been motivated by one person in this priority, and they have thrown their weight behind this initiative.

The plan is to develop a community garden that can be used by all the community. It will be located on the east end of the current tennis court area so that both areas can be utilized more frequently and more productively.

It is envisaged that it will be a raised garden that will have wheel chair access, enabling all members of our community to enjoy this initiative.

Stage one would start as vegetables and as it develops it will move into fruit trees. It is not seen as an expense to the community but something that all will benefit from.

### **Recommendation**

Commence discussions with the Shelford Recreation Reserve Committee for the allocation of some land so that this initiative can move forward.

Source a range of materials from donations.

Undertake development via working bees.



*Priority No. 3 – Continue with the 'Duck Race'*

In our latest Community Plan Meeting (2014) the 'Duck Race' was voted Priority No. 4, proving that the Shelford community is eager to see the Duck Race continue. Each year in February Shelford comes alive; in 2014 the community had around 2 000 people attend.

The Duck Race consists of 750 little plastic ducks that are let loose to meander down the Leigh River, hopefully ending up at the finish line around 30 minutes later. The lucky winner receives a voucher to the value of \$1 000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$500.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is 250.00 and 4<sup>th</sup> prize is \$150.00.

Although the Duck Race is the highlight of the day, there are many other activities for families to participate in: live music, stall holders selling a variety of goods, food and drink and children's rides to name a few.

The Duck Race brings the community together: it also showcases what a picturesque town we live in, with the Leigh River as our backdrop.

**Recommendation**

The Duck Race continues in its present form and we will support and facilitate broad community involvement in the running and enjoyment of the event.



*Priority No. 4 – Redevelopment of the tennis court / recreation area*

The township currently has a three court tennis area that is underutilized. The community, in particular the youth, have spoken and would like some activities in this area. The Community Coordinators Group has already been approached with the idea of using the area for organized activities, in particular by the school with netball.

**Recommendation**

Move forward with the basketball, netball and rebound area on the east end, number 1 court, so that it can be used by the community.







*Priority No. 5 – Use the 'Common' in the township in a manner that will benefit the health of the community*

It is the recommendation of this group, through community consultation, that the 'Common' be developed it provide the community with a facility it can use to exercise on, in a manner that is safe and healthy.



This is an area of several acres within the township that is currently mowed by the Golden Plains Shire but is underutilized as a community area. As the name implies it is an area that should be put to use for the 'Common' good of the community, an area that will help with the health and wellbeing of all ages who can use the area without fear of injury.



**Recommendation**

Make contact with Golden Plains Shire and the Recreation Reserve Committee to hire equipment to develop areas on the common that can be used for activities, i.e. bike riding, walking, and jogging, that will assist with the health and wellbeing of the community.

*Priority No. 6 – Push for the improvement of telecommunications in the township*

Telecommunications is a major issue in the township of Shelford, in particular mobile phone reception in the valley. At times it is non-existent. This causes a problem, not only with the households in the area but it limits how organisations conduct their business and what type of businesses can be run in the township.

At the 2014 Duck Race a petition was collected and this was then presented to the Federal Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia by our local member The Hon Sarah Henderson MP

Since that presentation the organiser has received a letter stating that Shelford is eligible for the black spot programme. The Minister for Communications The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP has tasked his Department to contact the petition organisers and provide any assistance that is necessary

**Recommendation**

Continue with discussions with our local member of Federal Parliament to bring to the township of Shelford a telecommunication system that is reliable and at a speed that would be comparable to other towns in the district.



## *Priority 7 - Redevelopment of the Postal Hub*

With the closure of the general store several years ago the Shelford community lost not only their post office but their incidental meeting place. The community responded by funding and installing in a central location 24 post boxes which are managed by the community and serviced by Australia Post contractors. The addition of a notice board and a what's on sign served to make the post boxes a community hub – functional, but far from inviting.

The idea to improve the area around the post boxes was raised by Golden Plains Shire during the 2013 Shelford Structure Plan process. They have already helped out with funding for the installation of an extra 16 post boxes, a project the community was about to undertake to cater for increased demand. The shire also went as far as having plans prepared showing a proposed vision for the site. Specifically, the plan for the area is to improve the landscaping by providing paving around the post box area to clearly identify the 'postal hub' together with some planting and outdoor seating to allow the community using the postal boxes to pause and sit comfortably, enjoying the space and engaging with other people in their community.



We have been successful in gaining a \$6125 grant from Australia Post, through their "Our Neighbourhood Community Grants" program. Whilst this will not cover the costs of the entire project it will allow us to split the work into phases and make a great start.

### **Recommendation**

Continue with this project. It has been 'gifted' to the Shelford community through the pro-active efforts of Golden Plains Shire and generous Australia Post funding and can be done in parallel to other community projects.

A plan will be documented, confirming the phases that can be completed with existing funding and which are not dependent on nor risk the remaining phases. Community and stakeholder consultation will continue, especially with those most directly affected. Work will be undertaken by a combination of paid professionals and community working bees. Assistance will be sought from the Golden Plains Shire, particularly in the areas of detailed mapping, drainage, permits, construction works and sourcing materials.

As further funding becomes available subsequent phases will be undertaken until the complete vision is realised and its benefits enjoyed by the community.

*Priority No. 8 – Historic pavilion*

Develop a structure that not only provides a historical presence in the area but it also provides a point of interest that can also be used for shade and shelter when other events are taking place.

**Recommendation**

Identify and gain broad community agreement to:

- Location
- Critical elements
- Content

of a structure that highlights the history of Shelford.



## **4 Other Administrative Matters**

### Administration and processes

The Shelford Community Coordinators' 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 democratic processes.

### 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 Shelford Community coordinators 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 Shelford Community Coordinators' 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 of a person nominated through the Golden Plains Shire Council.

## **Appendix A - Other Suggestions from the Public Town Meeting**

Footpaths and trails around the town

Up keep of the roads in the township

Swimming Pool

Business Activities

Additional use of the 'What's on Sign'

Re-new / upgrade of the toilets in the township

Town by-pass

Amenities around the river

Postal Hub

Utilize the halls

Leave the town as it is

Clean the existing toilets

Work with other town to our mutual benefits

General clean-up of the township

Seal the roads

Do something with the derelict houses in the town

Historic signage around the township and district