

# Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 14 February 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

## Minutes

**Carl Cowie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Friday 17 February 2023

Distribution: Public

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**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held  
Tuesday 14 February 2023. The meeting commenced at 7:00pm.**

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**Councillors present:**

Cr Ben Ramcharan	Sugarloaf Ward ( <b>Mayor</b> )
Cr Richard Stockman	Blue Lake Ward
Cr Natalie Duffy	Edendale Ward
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward ( <b>Chairperson Planning Matters</b> )
Cr Frances Eyre	Swipers Gully Ward ( <b>Chairperson Consultation Matters</b> )
Cr Geoff Paine	Wingrove Ward ( <b>Deputy Mayor</b> )

**Officers in attendance:**

Carl Cowie	Chief Executive Officer
Blaga Naumoski	Director Governance and Communications
Rosa Zouzoulas	Director Planning and Community Safety
Vince Lombardi	Chief Financial Officer
Leigh Northwood	Manager Strategic Planning
Katia Croce	Governance Lead

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**1. Welcome by the Chair**

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chairperson Consultation Matters  
Cr Frances Eyre.

**3 Apologies**

An apology for this meeting was received from Cr Karen Egan.

**Committee Resolution**

**MOVED:** Cr Natalie Duffy  
**SECONDED:** Cr Ben Ramcharan

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) notes the apology of  
Cr Karen Egan.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4 Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 November 2022

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**Summary**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2022.

<b>Committee Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr Ben Ramcharan

**SECONDED:** Cr Natalie Duffy

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2022 (**Attachment 1**).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. Officers' reports

**PCC.001/23 Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy Outcomes of Phase 2 Engagement**

**Item: Consultation Matter**

**Distribution: Public**

**Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Director Planning and Community Safety**

**Author: Leigh Northwood, Manager Strategic Planning**

**Summary**

The development of both a new Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS) and Housing Strategy (HS) are priority actions in the current Council Plan 2021-2025.

The project to develop a NCS is fully funded over 2 financial years (see budget implications below) and is significantly advanced with a consultant team comprising Ethos Urban and Chatterbox Projects engaged to assist with much of the technical and consultation to develop the new NCS along with Council officers.

The areas covered by the Strategy include all residential land within the Shire (this does not include Green Wedge).

This most recent round of engagement (Phase 2 – Draft NCS) was specifically about seeking feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy itself.

Engagement was conducted over a 6 week period between 29 August 2022 and 10 October 2022.

The engagement activities were effective in reaching over 1,500 people, with 107 providing direct feedback via a survey or submission, 175 people visiting the place-based pop-up events and over 1,200 people visiting the Participate Nillumbik project page (refer below for further detail with regard to outcomes of consultation).

With regard to relevant feedback to Phase 2 engagement, three key and interrelated topics were prominent:

- a) The strength of the document;
- b) Development and density; and
- c) Trees and vegetation.

Particularly written submissions to the draft NCS are lengthy and have a lot of technical matters that need to be unpacked and effectively responded to.

Subject to this PCC, officers will bring recommendations to a future Council briefing which will include a detailed analysis of submission responses including commentary from officers including the Project Working Group. This briefing will identify recommended direction to consultants with regard to changes to the draft NCS and its next iteration.

Subject to changes to the draft NCS with consideration of feedback provided through Phase 2 engagement, officers will subsequently seek approval from Council to put the draft NCS out for a third round of engagement (close the loop) at a Council meeting in mid-2023.

After conducting this third round of engagement, the next step in the project is for Council to consider:

- a) Adopting a final draft (potentially with further changes) of the NCS.

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.001/23 Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy Outcomes of Phase 2 Engagement**

- b) Initiating a planning scheme amendment to give weight to the NCS in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme noting this process involves another formal round of consultation whereby the final adopted version of the NCS will be exhibited to the community and stakeholders pursuant to the notification requirements of the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*, who will have another opportunity to provide comment.

*The following people addressed the Committee with respect to this item:*

- 1 Jim Connor
- 2 Tim Phillips on behalf of Graham Fildes
- 3 Tim Phillips
- 4 Carlota Quinlan on behalf of Eltham Community Action Group
- 5 Carlota Quinlan
- 6 Teresa Dominik on behalf of Brougham Street Cohousing Group
- 7 Kathy Armour
- 8 Sue Dyet
- 9 Janice Davies on behalf of Warrandyte Community Association
- 10 Michael Dove

**Committee Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**  
**SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Notes the public responses, as outlined in this report, to the Phase 2 engagement for the Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS).
- 2. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted copies of written submissions and survey responses to the Phase 2 public engagement of the Draft NCS (at **Attachments 2 and 3**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in Section 3(1)(f) of *the Local Government Act 2020*.
- 3. Writes to all respondents to the public engagement to express Council’s gratitude for their contribution and to advise them of the Committee’s resolution and the next steps in the project on the updated Participate Nillumbik page.
- 4. Notes officers will bring an updated draft of the NCS to a Council meeting in mid-2023, to seek Council’s approval to undertake a third round of public engagement on the draft NCS, as updated as an outcome of Phase 2 engagement.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Katia Croce, Governance Lead temporarily left the meeting at 7.42pm and returned at 7.44pm, during submissions.*

**7. Supplementary and urgent business**

Nil

**8. Confidential reports**

Nil

**9. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8:02pm.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cr Frances Eyre, Chairperson Consultation Matters