

# Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 12 May 2026 commencing at 7:00 PM.

## Agenda

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

Thursday 7 May 2026

Distribution: Public

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# Council Chamber Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Seating Plan

**Cr Kelly Joy**  
Edendale Ward

**Cr Naomi Joiner**  
Bunjil Ward  
**(Mayor)**

**Cr Grant Brooker**  
Blue Lake Ward  
**(Chairperson  
Planning  
Matters)**

**Cr Peter Perkins**  
Ellis Ward

**Cr Kim Cope**  
Sugarloaf Ward

**Cr John Dumaresq**  
Wingrove Ward

**Katia Croce**  
Manager  
Governance

**Blaga Naumoski**  
Chief Community  
and Integrity  
Officer

**Cr Kate McKay**  
Swipers Gully Ward  
**(Deputy Mayor)**  
**(Chairperson  
Consultation Matters)**

**Carl Cowie**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

**Nillumbik Shire Council**

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**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held  
Tuesday 12 May 2026 commencing at 7:00 PM.**

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**1. Welcome by the Chair**

Members of the public are advised the meeting will be livestreamed and recorded and the livestream recording will be made publicly available on YouTube and Council's website.

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

**The Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chairperson**

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung as the Traditional Owner of the land on which Nillumbik is located. We pay tribute to all First Peoples living in the Nillumbik Shire, give respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend our respect to all First Peoples. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

**3. Apologies/Leave of Absence**

Committee to note any apologies by Councillors not in attendance and or considers requests for any leave of absence submitted.

**4. Declarations of conflict of interest**

Committee members and Officers should note that any conflicts of interest should also be disclosed immediately before the relevant item.

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**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**COM.001/26 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 April 2026**


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Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026.

**Recommendation**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026 (**Attachment 1**).

**Attachments**

1.  Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**COM.001/26 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 April 2026**

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6. Officers' reports

PCC.004/26 Naming proposal for Reserve in John Street, Eltham

**Item:** Consultation Matter

**Distribution:** Public

**Manager:** Blaga Naumoski, Chief Community and Integrity Officer

**Author:** Katia Croce, Manager Governance and Property  
 Natalie Campion, Coordinator Property

**Summary**

At its Council Meeting on 24 February 2026, Council endorsed:

- a) the commencement of the public consultation process on the proposed naming of the Reserve, located at the eastern end of John Street in Eltham to 'Gordon Ford Reserve' as shown on the plan in **Attachment 1** as required under Section 7 of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – 2022 (Naming Rules) and Council's Community Engagement Policy;
- b) that all residents and businesses abutting the Reserve be formally advised of the proposal to name the Reserve 'Gordon Ford Reserve'; and
- c) invites public submissions on the naming proposal for the Reserve in John Street, Eltham between Friday 27 February to Sunday 29 March 2026.

In response to the community engagement process, Council received 81 submissions, of which 79 supported the proposed name 'Gordon Ford Reserve'.

All submissions are included in **Attachment 2 (redacted)** and **Attachment 3 (unredacted)**.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received from the community consultation process in response to the proposed naming of the Reserve in John Street, Eltham.

Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

**Recommendation**

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

- 1. Considers and notes the written submissions in **Attachment 2 (redacted)** and **Attachment 3 (unredacted)** in response to the naming proposal of the Reserve in John Street, Eltham as shown in **Attachment 1**, as required under Section 7 of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – 2022 (Naming Rules) and Council's Community Engagement Policy.
- 2. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from the community in **Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3** and any verbal presentations made to the Committee on the naming proposal.
- 3. Requests a further report be presented to Council on 23 June 2026 to make a final decision on whether to proceed with the naming proposal.
- 4. Thanks submitters, for providing Council with feedback on the naming proposal.



6. Consultation Matters

PCC.004/26 Naming proposal for Reserve in John Street, Eltham

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5. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the naming proposal (**Attachment 4**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Attachments**

- 1  Plan of Gordon Ford Reserve
- 2  Redacted submissions
3. Unredacted submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*

**Discussion**

1. Council received an enquiry from a resident of John Street, Eltham to formally name the Reserve, located at the eastern end of John Street in Eltham ‘Gordon Ford Reserve’ as shown on the plan in **Attachment 1**.
2. The local community aim was to develop this Reserve in John Street to reflect the landscaping style of Gordon Ford who lived close by in John Street, and who was an influential landscape architect in the neighbourhood, the Shire and well beyond.
3. Council officers met with the local community group of John Street in July 2021 and agreed with locals that the land could be landscaped with the careful placement of basalt outcrops, gentle swales and planting of local indigenous/native plants, and a strategically placed seat with a brass plaque in honour of Gordon Ford. These works were undertaken by an agreed Contractor who had intimate knowledge of the landscaping work of Gordon Ford and locals have continued planting works within the Reserve.
4. It was also discussed at the time between local residents and Council officers that the reserve would be named ‘Gordon Ford Reserve’, as a tribute to Gordon Ford of which the Ford family and local community could be proud.
5. The naming proposal is subject to Council undertaking the necessary process as outlined in the Naming Rules including community consultation and making a final decision on the proposed name before submitting it to Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) for approval.
6. Council resolved on 24 February 2026 to commence the community engagement process on the naming proposal.
7. Community engagement on the naming proposal commenced Friday 27 February and closed Sunday 29 March 2026.
8. On conclusion of the process, 291 people visited the website, 81 submissions were received via Participate Nillumbik, with no additional written submission, other than one submitter requesting to amend their comments submitted via Participate Nillumbik. All submissions are included in **Attachment 2 (redacted) and Attachment 3 (unredacted)**.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.004/26 Naming proposal for Reserve in John Street, Eltham

9. Of the 81 submissions through Participate Nillumbik, 79 (97.5%) participants supported the name 'Gordon Ford Reserve' and 2 participants (2.5%) were not supportive of the name.
10. Submitters who did not support the name 'Gordon Ford Reserve' did so for the following reasons:
  - a. Prefer names based on nature and surroundings rather than people; and
  - b. Funds wasted on project, as well as no indigenous box to tick.
11. Council officers have provided comments in response to the submissions which objected to the name 'Gordon Ford Reserve' in **Attachment 2**.
12. Submitters who supported the naming proposal did so for some of the following reasons:
  - c. Gordon Ford was an icon of the Australian Native Garden genre and influence on the use of locally indigenous plant species.
  - d. Gordon Ford provided valuable contribution to Eltham.
  - e. Naming a park/garden after a local architect who had such an influence in the design of our local environment is an ideal way to honour Gordon's contribution to the community.
  - f. Gordon Ford was a much-loved, and respected, member of the local community.
13. All submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.
14. Officers have assessed the name with Geographic Names Victoria – Naming Principals, as follows:

<b>General Questions</b>			
If proposing a new name or to change a name, does the proposal conform to the principles in Section 2? Refer to principles below.			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA*</b>
Principle A - Ensuring public safety	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle B - Recognising the public interest	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle C - Linking the name to place	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle D - Ensuring names are not duplicated – full name not duplicated	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle E - Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Principle F - Names must not discriminate or be offensive	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle G - Gender equality – refer to Access, Equity and Inclusion in this Report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle H - Dual names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.004/26 Naming proposal for Reserve in John Street, Eltham

General Questions			
If proposing a new name or to change a name, does the proposal conform to the principles in Section 2? Refer to principles below.			
	Yes	No	NA*
Principle I - Using commemorative names	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle J - Using commercial and business names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Principle K - Language	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle L - Directional names to be avoided	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle M - Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the naming proposal originally came from a member of the public, does it include sufficient information on why the name would be appropriate?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Geographic Names Victoria have provided ‘in principal support’ to the naming proposal, although there are some minor name duplications within the 15km radius. GNV in this instance has agreed that Eltham can be part of a 5km duplication area given it’s grown and become more built up.

**Related Council decisions**

16. On 23 March 2021, Council resolved pursuant to section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act), that two road reserves located at the eastern end of Bridge Street in Eltham and the eastern end of John Street in Eltham (Roads) be discontinued and taken into Council ownership for public park and recreation, including pedestrian access.
17. Council resolved on 24 February 2026 to commence a community consultation process on the naming proposal ‘Gordon Ford Reserve’ for the Reserve located in John Street, Eltham.

**Options**

18. The Planning and Consultation Committee notes the submissions in **Attachment 2 and 3** and any verbal submissions.
19. Officers will review the submissions and any verbal submissions before presenting the proposed naming of the Reserve for endorsement at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2026.

**Council plans and policies**

20. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2025-2029 strategy:
- Make transparent, well-informed decisions that prioritise the community's best interests through practising good governance.

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.004/26 Naming proposal for Reserve in John Street, Eltham**

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**Access, Equity and Inclusion**

21. The Naming Rules includes naming principles and relevant statutory requirements which must be used to ensure names are enduring and there is no ambiguity, confusion, error or discrimination caused by the naming.
22. The Naming Rules include Principle G - Gender equality, which states 'Gender equality in the naming of roads, features and localities is encouraged. When developing a naming proposal consideration should be given to gender equality'.
23. Although the Naming Proposal is not Traditional Owner language or Gender Equality (recognition of a woman or trans and gender diverse person) the name is significant in remembering a local of John Street, Eltham. Please refer to the Naming Principals above.
24. This place naming proposal is not seen to have a direct and significant impact in the context of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
25. The proposal does not take into consideration the principles of Traditional Owner name or language recognition, or application of a gendered lens, and as such is not seen to progress equity in place naming.
26. Where possible Officers will provide the opportunity to consider alternatives to a naming proposal that progresses equity, either through Traditional Owner recognition or recognition of a woman or gender diverse person of significance.

**Sustainability implications**

27. Not applicable.

**Community engagement**

28. Council must undertake a public consultation process on the proposed name as required under section 7 of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – 2022 (Naming Rules).
29. This is a key component in the process of naming roads, features and localities. Naming authorities typically consult the public on any naming proposal and must comply with the minimum requirements under Section 7.1, where relevant.
30. Section 7.1 of the Naming Rules include that consultation with the immediate and/or extended community must be a minimum of 30 days, though may be longer.
31. Community engagement on the naming proposal commenced Friday 27 February and closed Sunday 29 March 2026.
32. Consultation took the form of a survey on Council's Participate Nillumbik site <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au>.
33. The consultation was promoted through:
  - a. Posters near the Reserve;
  - b. News release on website – explain Participate Nillumbik community engagement;
  - c. Participate Nillumbik with survey;
  - d. Social posts (where possible);

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.004/26 Naming proposal for Reserve in John Street, Eltham**

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- e. Letters to adjoining and nearby properties; and
  - f. The ability to submit hard copy submissions if requested.
34. All submitters were invited to make a verbal presentation at this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

35. The Naming Rules - Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities, was reviewed and updated to fulfil Geographic Names Victoria's requirement under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 section 6 to review the 'guidelines' once every five years.
36. The Naming Rules were developed following consultation with municipal councils, government departments and emergency response and public service providers.
37. Council as a statutory naming authority must comply with the Naming Rules, which includes naming principles.

**Collaboration**

38. Internal consultation has occurred with Governance, Community Partnerships, Gender Equity, Infrastructure, Traffic and Transport, Environment, Recreation and Leisure, Spatial IT Business Analyst, Rates, and Asset team on the proposed name 'Gordon Ford Reserve' and all relevant teams supported the name proposal for the Reserve.
39. The State Government is currently running a campaign called 'Remember a Local'. All Victorians are invited to nominate someone who has made a significant contribution in their community to be considered for commemoration in a new place name.

**Budget considerations**

40. All costs associated with the naming proposal and community consultation process have been accounted for in the Governance and Property Department operational budget.
41. Recreation and Leisure will manage the delivery of a new sign, but the budget sits with Capital Works. Signage is approximately \$5,000-\$6,000 including installation.

**Relevant law**

42. The Naming rules for places in Victoria 2022, statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities are commonly referred to as the Naming Rules.
43. The Naming Rules uphold the guidelines in the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*. They are mandatory for naming authorities in Victoria.

**Regional, state and national plans and policies**

44. Not applicable.

**Conflicts of interest**

45. All officers involved in the preparation of this report have made a declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Officers' reports

PCC.005/26 Draft Budget 2026-2027 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 submissions

**Item:** Consultation Matter  
**Distribution:** Public  
**Manager:** Bulent Oz, Chief Financial Officer  
**Author:** Robert Malignaggi, Business Services Lead

**Summary**

This report considers submissions received from the public in relation to the Draft Budget 2026-2027 (**Attachment 1**) and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 (**Attachment 2**).

Council adopted the Draft Budget 2026-2027 and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 at the Council Meeting on 24 March 2026 for the purpose of community consultation. The Draft Budget Draft Revenue and Rating Plan were exhibited for 33 days with 15 submissions received for the Draft Budget and 8 submissions for the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan. These submissions are attached to this report (**Attachment 1 and 2**).

<b>Recommendation</b>
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**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):



1. Receives and notes the submissions received in respect of the Draft Budget 2026-2027, (**Attachment 1**) and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 (**Attachment 2**) in accordance with the section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Acknowledges the matters raised through the submissions and requests that they be considered as part of the ongoing development and finalisation of the Budget.
3. Acknowledges presentations made to the Committee.
4. Resolves to re-exhibit the Draft Budget 2026–2027 for a further three-week consultation period from 13 May 2026 to 3 June 2026.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice, in accordance with section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, of Council's intention to consider adoption of the Budget 2026–2027 at a Council Meeting to be held at 7.00 pm on 30 June 2026.
6. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake all administrative actions necessary to support the re-exhibition process and to enable Council to meet its obligations under sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
7. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted submissions contained in (**Attachment 3 and 4**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.005/26 Draft Budget 2026-2027 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 submissions

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**Attachments**

- 1 Attachment 1 - 2026-2027 Draft Budget Submissions\_Redacted 
- 2 Attachment 2 - 2026-2029 Draft Revenue and Rating Plan Submissions\_Redacted 
3. Attachment 3 - 2026-2027 Draft Budget Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*
4. Attachment 4 - 2026-2029 Draft Revenue and Rating Plan Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*

**Discussion**

1. The *Local Government Act* provides that a council must:
  - *Prepare a budget for each financial year – section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 2020*
  - *Ensure that the budget contains financial statements, description of services and major initiatives and a statement as to how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan, indicators of service performance that are required to be reported against in the performance statement and any other details required by the regulations– section 94(2).*
  - *Undertake public consultation in line with Council’s community engagement policy.*

**Submissions**

2. In response to the public exhibition, the community provided fifteen (15) submissions on the Draft Budget 2026–2027 and eight (8) submissions on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026–2029.
3. Submissions and accompanying attachments for the Draft Budget 2026–2027 are provided in Attachment 1, while submissions and attachments for the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026–2029 are provided in Attachment 2.
4. A copy of the un-redacted submissions and attachments to the Draft Budget 2026-2027 are contained in (**Attachment 3**), and a copy of the un-redacted submissions and attachments to the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026–2029 are contained in (**Attachment 4**). It is recommended that these submissions and attachments remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
5. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submissions.

**Related Council decisions**

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.005/26 Draft Budget 2026-2027 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 submissions**

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6. The Draft Budget 2026-2027 and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 was endorsed for the purposes of community consultation on 24 March 2026.
7. The Draft Budget 2026-2027 and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 will be presented for adoption at the 30 June 2026 Council Meeting commencing 7:00pm.

**Council plans and policies**

8. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2025-2029 strategy:
  - Strengthen financial sustainability to support long-term service delivery and community infrastructure.

**Access, Equity and Inclusion**

9. A Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted and Gender Responsive Budgeting included within the guidelines as a priority consideration throughout the budget development process.

**Sustainability implications**

10. Council's financial sustainability is informed by the indicators set by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).
11. These indicators comprise of both short term and longer-term measures. The indicators are calculated and considered as part of the budget process.

**Community engagement**

12. Following on from Council's adoption of the Draft Budget 2026-2027 and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029, public notice was provided, inviting the community to lodge submissions. Public exhibition was for 33 days. The Draft Budget was available for inspection at the Civic Centre and on Council's website.
13. Following the consideration of any submissions, the Budget and the Revenue and Rating Plan will be presented for adoption at the Council Meeting on 30 June 2026, whereby Council is then required to formally adopt the final Budget for 2026-2027 and the Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

14. Continuous improvement and innovation opportunities identified have been considered.

**Collaboration**

15. The Drafting of budget is conducted in consultation with managers and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).
16. The development of the proposed amendments to the Revenue and Rating Plan involved consultation with relevant internal teams responsible for the administration of the existing rebate programs, together with the Executive Leadership Team.
17. Councillors were also briefed on the proposed changes to the rating framework, including the transition from rebate arrangements to differential rate categories for Sustainable Agriculture Land and Trust for Nature Land.

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.005/26 Draft Budget 2026-2027 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 submissions**

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18. Broader community engagement will occur through the public exhibition process, which will provide residents, landowners and other stakeholders with the opportunity to review the draft Plan and provide submissions prior to Council considering the final adoption of the Plan.

**Budget considerations**

19. The costs of preparing and exhibiting the Budget and the Revenue and Rating Plan are funded from operating budget allocations.

**Relevant law**

20. *Local Government Act 2020*, sections 94 and 96.
21. The approach to the budget and the composition of the financial statements are prepared reflective of the overall compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards.
22. Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is relevant to consideration of an updated Revenue and Rating Plan.

**Regional, state and national plans and policies**

23. Not applicable

**Conflicts of interest**

24. All officers involved in the preparation of this report have made a declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

- 7. Supplementary and urgent business**
- 8. Confidential reports**
- 9. Close of Meeting**