



24 January 2024

Community Listening Posts

In 2023 Council undertook its annual community engagement survey and subsequently an action plan was developed to address the ideas and concerns that were highlighted through the feedback received. The action plan includes a commitment to increase the visibility of elected members in the community. A new engagement mechanism will kick off in January through a "Community Listening Post" being held in townships each month.

Over the coming months Mayor Stephen McCarthy will be pleased to speak with community members in a casual setting to hear about ideas and concerns. Council Members will also be in attendance where possible.

Melrose is the location of the first session, with a Community Listening Post scheduled for 30 January at 1:30pm-2.30pm at Memorial Park on Stuart Street adjacent the Council Administration Centre.

"These monthly sessions will be a great way for the community to come along and find out about Council activities and have a chat with the Mayor and Councillors in an informal setting" said Mayor Stephen McCarthy.

"I'm looking forward to meeting with community members who are in the town at the time of the Community Listening Post, who may not always be able to engage through other channels of engagement. It will also be good to be able to talk about Council's 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget process as well as general Council-related services or infrastructure.

The face-to-face sessions are another way we're improving engagement and communication with our community. It builds on the existing mechanisms in place such as Council's quarterly newsletter, website and livestreaming Council and Committee meetings.

These sessions offer a unique way for Council to hear directly from our community and understand the key questions or issues" he said.

Community Listening Posts will be open to everyone to drop-in, without the need to register or book a time.

The schedule for the remainder of 2024 is being established. Locations and times of the sessions will be confirmed for each session and available on Council's website. Promotion of each listening post will occur via Council's Facebook and through the Council Members in their interactions with community members.

END