

15.4 Regulatory (Development)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.4

A regulatory environment that is supportive of and enables appropriate development.

15.4.1 Oatlands Village Square Development

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)
ON BEHALF OF THE OATLANDS VILLAGE SQUARE WORKING GROUP

Date: 18 FEBRUARY 2026

Attachment(s):

Report on the Community Consultation Survey Responses to the Oatlands Village Square Consultation Process

ISSUE

Council to consider the *Report on the Community Consultation Survey Responses to the Oatlands Village Square Consultation Process* which emanated from the public display.

BACKGROUND

The process for developing the Village Square concept in Oatlands was initiated in recognition that this project was identified as the highest recommendation within the Oatlands Structure Plan adopted by Council in September 2021.

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 28th August 2024:

[EXTRACT]

Council Minutes from the 28 August 2024

16.9.1 Oatlands Village Square Development

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 22 AUGUST 2024

ISSUE

The development process for the establishment of the Village Square in Oatlands, which was a recommendation that was identified in the Oatlands Structure Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Oatlands Structure Plan was adopted by Council in September 2021 and there were a number of recommendations that came out of the Community Consultation and the final report that acknowledged the creation of the Oatlands Village Square, as identified below in extracts from the Oatlands Structure Plan.

Oatlands Structure Plan 2021 [Extract]

Fostering and Enlivened and Historic Rural Town

1.0 Executive Summary

Key Actions of the Structure Plan are to:

- *Create an Oatlands Town square in front of Oatlands Town Hall and the Old State School fronting High Street as a focal point for town events;*
- *Improve the recreational activities on Lake Dulverton by creating an accessible walk into the lake (including information on the importance of the local habitat) and creating a destination point (such as an art installation) on the eastern end of the lake utilizing the 4km pathway to it along the lake edge.*
- *Encourage affordable housing and rural support opportunities within the town and boost local employment;*
- *Improve the streetscape by developing a streetscape palette for landscaping, street furniture and finishes for the town and undertake an urban design plan for Main Street;*
- *Upgrade parking, vehicle access and pedestrian wayfinding across the town, including the possibility of a widening of the Esplanade, creating designated Recreational Vehicle and bus parking points, and installing signage and refuges to improve pedestrian movement; and*
- *Increase the resilience of the town to climate change by undertaking a bushfire management plan for the town and exploring options of power resilience.*

These actions have been developed through the community and stakeholder engagement process, and are both costed and prioritised in the Implementation Plan. They will deliver the vision for Oatlands as an enlivened historic rural township which balances its functions as a rural service centre and a major tourist destination.

(Oatlands Structure Plan page 5)

Action 1.1 - Create an Oatlands Town square fronting High Street.

1. Improved Passive Recreation Opportunities

There is an opportunity to create a space to support public events, festivals and markets in an area that includes the forecourts of both the Oatlands Town Hall and the Old State School fronting High Street. The space crosses Stutzer Street, thus some urban design treatment would be required to delineate this part of the street as a pedestrian zone.

The Town square can connect to the Barrack Street Car Park (via Mason Street) or the Military Precinct and Lake Dulverton via Campbell Street. The hub would act as an important focal point on the main street and the main pedestrian link to and from Lake Dulverton, the residential areas to the south-west, and the community facilities to the north of High Street.

A town square design plan (or master plan) is to be prepared and include public consultation prior to a final design being prepared for implementation.

(Oatlands Structure Plan page 43)

4.0 The Structure Plan

Land Use and Development Directions



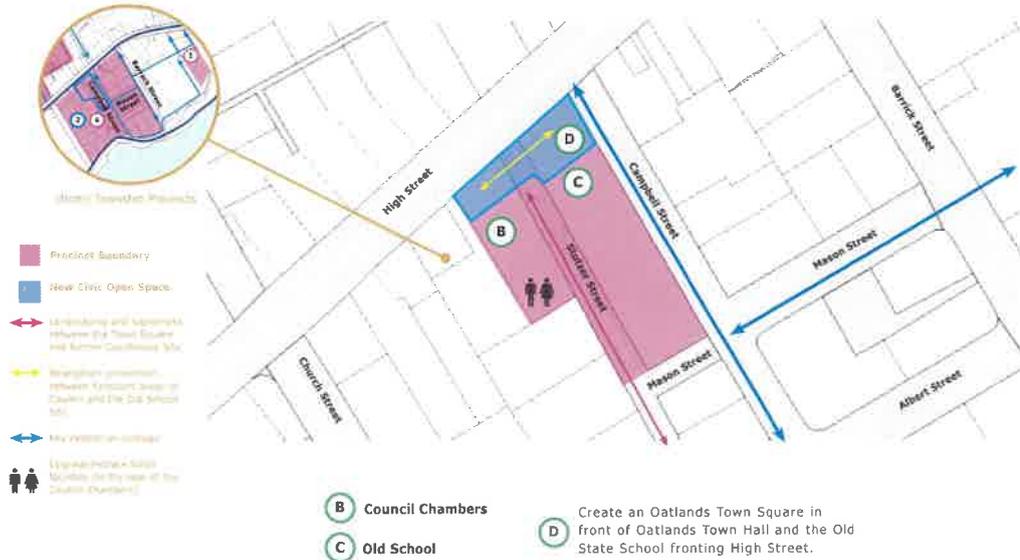
Key actions for Oatlands have been translated into development directions for the township and those with a spatial application are shown in the following maps (excluding those for traffic found in Appendix C).

- 1 Create an Oatlands Town square in front of Oatlands Town Hall and the Old State School fronting High Street.
- 2 Construct new toilets facilities at the new playground and upgrade the toilet facilities at the rear of the Council chambers to a high standard.
- 3 Strengthen trail links around Oatlands.
- 4 Create a Conservation-based interface with Lake Dulverton.
- 5 Unlock residential growth in the town through site identification, master planning and services upgrades.
- 7 Foster development of a knowledge-based economy development centred around Heritage.
- 8 Create a Village Design Plan that focuses on strengthening the High Street's identity, and provides a cohesive and unified approach to streetscape works in the township.

(Oatlands Structure Plan page 57)

4.0 The Structure Plan

Proposed Town Square Precinct



(Oatlands Structure Plan page 62)

Appendices

A. Implementation Plan

| STRATEGIES | ACTION | RESPONSIBILITY | EST. COSTS (APPROX) | PRIORITY (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) & TIMING |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. IMPROVED PASSIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES. | Action 1.1 - Design and co-create an Oatlands Town Square in front of Oatlands Town Hall and the Old State School fronting High Street. | Council | \$600K | High |
| | Action 1.2 - Continued development of the playground. | Council | \$800K | High |
| | Action 1.3 - Construct new toilets facilities at the new playground; upgrade the toilet facilities at the rear of the Council chambers (potentially other public spaces) to a high standard. | Council | \$1M | High |
| | Action 1.4 - Promote the former rodeo paddock for events. | Council | Operational Budget | Medium |
| | Action 1.5 - Increase conservation-based activities on Lake Dulverton (pathway and focal point). | Council | \$850K | Medium |
| | Action 1.6 - Increase walking activities around Lake Dulverton (pathway and interpretation point) | Southern Midlands Council/ PWS | \$350K | Medium |

(Oatlands Structure Plan page 66)

Oatlands Structure Plan 2021 [End of Extract]

This matter was listed for preliminary discussion at the August 2024 Council Workshop. The Deputy General Manager proposed a preliminary timeline, consisting of the following elements;

Tranche 1 – Project Definition

Tranche 2 – Project Research

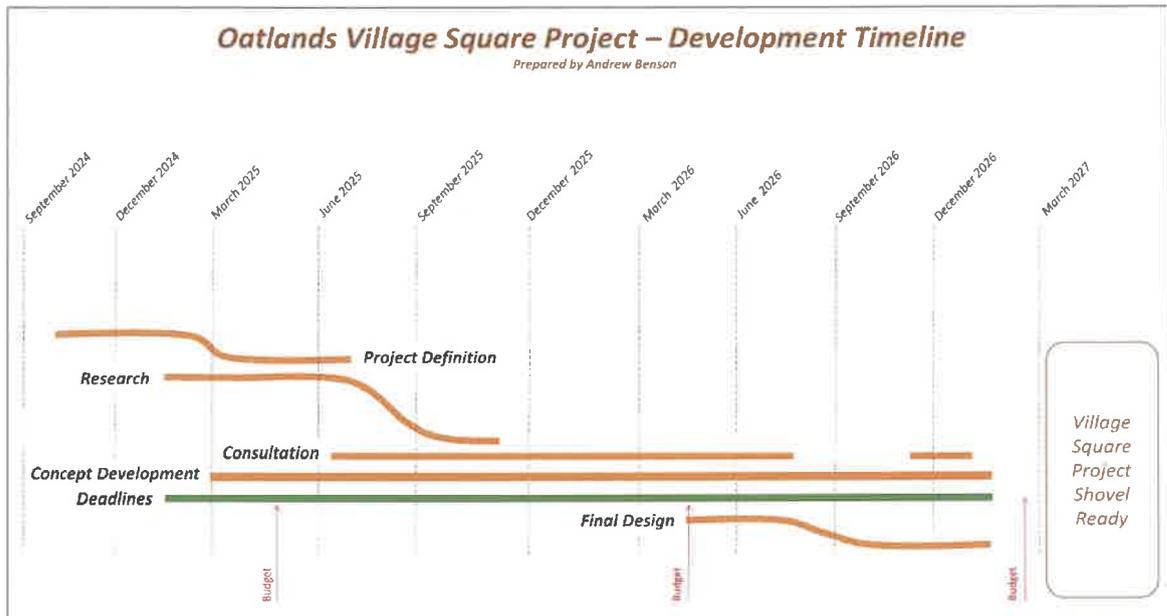
Tranche 3 – Project Consultation

Tranche 4 – Project Concept Development

Tranche 5 – Project Deadlines

Tranche 6 – Project Final Design

Many of these Tranche elements overlap to ensure the integrity of the development process, and of course the Community Consultation Tranche would be a major element in the development process, building on the consultation from the Oatlands Structure Plan project.



DETAIL

This is a project that can be scoped and developed by Council’s in-house team. They have a range of skills and knowledge that would underpin the solid progression of the project, rather than contracting a consultant to undertake the development / design process. If the project is undertaken in this manner, the recommendations from the Oatlands Structure Plan can be implemented in a cost effective manner, albeit taking some additional time to deliver the end design result. Time can be a ‘friend’ rather than an impediment, when undertaking a project that will have such a major impact on the Village of Oatlands



Site Plan

It is recommended that a Project Steering Committee be established to undertake the project as shown in the Development Timeline above, and that Committee consist of the following members;

Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon - Committee Chair

Clr Tony Bisdee OAM

Clr Don Fish

Deputy General Manager Andrew Benson – Project Manager

Manager Heritage Projects – Brad Williams
Manager Infrastructure & Works – David Richardson
Manager Development & Env. Services – Grant Finn
Manager Natural Resource Management – Maria Weeding
Manager Community & Corporate Development – Wendy Young
Executive Assistant – Jemma Thomas

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Steering Committee Members as detailed above and in-house officer time.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – The Oatlands Structure Plan consultations provide an excellent basis to move this project forward, with a continuing public consultation framework as shown in the proposed development timeline on the previous page

Policy Implications – Nil at this time

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Commence as soon as possible with periodic progress reports being provided to future Council meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the Report;**
2. **Establish the Oatlands Village Square, as identified within the Oatlands Structure Plan, as a project of significance, with it being implemented in accordance with the proposed timeline;**
3. **Appoint the Project Steering Committee as detailed within the Report, to have the carriage of the project; and**
4. **Require periodic reporting to Council on the progress of the project.**

DECISION

Moved by Cllr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the Report;**
2. **Establish the Oatlands Village Square, as identified within the Oatlands Structure Plan, as a project of significance, with it being implemented in accordance with the proposed timeline;**
3. **Appoint the Project Steering Committee as detailed within the Report, to have the carriage of the project; and**
4. **Require periodic reporting to Council on the progress of the project.**

CARRIED

| DECISION | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Councillor | Vote FOR | Vote AGAINST |
| Mayor E Batt | ✓ | |
| Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon | ✓ | |
| Cllr A E Bisdee OAM | ✓ | |
| Cllr D Blackwell | ✓ | |
| Cllr B Campbell | | ✓ |
| Cllr D Fish | ✓ | |
| Cllr F Miller | ✓ | |

[EXTRACT] Council Minutes from the 28 May 2025

DETAIL

The Project Steering Committee, Chaired by the Deputy Mayor, have met on a number of occasions and at the first meeting it was resolved to focus on issues within the precinct that would impact on the Village Square development. Issues such as the recommendation from the Oatlands Structure Plan consultation to connect the forecourts of the Council Chambers and Roche Hall, which then leads to what happens with Stutzer Street that bisects the two spaces. Do we close it off or do we make it an ephemeral street. That then led to how many vehicles use Stutzer Street. The traffic counter was deployed in Stutzer Street, near High Street with the result being that ninety eight daily vehicle movements was recorded. By deduction it was determined that over half of those vehicle movements were users of the public toilets in the Council carpark. That then led the Committee to consider the public toilets in the carpark and it was clear that the public toilets (circa 1970s) certainly do not meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA). This was also identified in the Oatlands Structure Plan.

If we are then required to do something about Stutzer Street, (circa 1950s kerb and channel/footpath) the road geometry has been an issue for many years with the camber on the road adjacent to the footpath outside the side entrance. Passengers alighting from a vehicle alongside the footpath, jam their car doors on the footpath, not allowing them to alight the vehicle. The side grade on the footpath outside the Stutzer Street entrance to the Council Chambers is way too steep and on a frosty day a number of people have slipped & ended up on the ground with physical injuries.

The redevelopment of the side access to the Council Chambers from Stutzer Street to make it DDA compliant, has been in the planning stage for at least the last five years, given that people with a physical disability are unable to access the building through the front entrance. Further, if we are continuing to develop Oatlands as a cultural progressive place, with the arts and related activities the Town Hall above the Council Chambers is a space that is significantly underutilised, not the least by being inaccessible under the DDA, but also with non-compliant toilets, circa 1960s, for staff or indeed the public.

High Street has been a significant issue for Council to consider over recent years, with speed reduction, pedestrian access and other traffic management issues. This project is also seeking to provide a solution in respect of those matters within the precinct as well.

This all sounds like a cacophony of issues that go on and on, in a mind boggling way. How does one make sense of the impact of all of these individual, but related matters? We see that, as the Steering Committee's role to develop a comprehensive project that defines, then analyses the issues, seeks consultation and then provides solutions for Council consideration, which could be funded through grants as individual elements of the overall Oatlands Village Square project.

These and more issues are all part of the precinct and they are briefly described in Slide 12 of 26, then in detail in the attached package as matters to be considered before Council is able to cover off on the actual detail of the Village Square itself.

Clearly it can be seen from the brief outline above that the precinct has been somewhat neglected for many years, with the desire of Council to support other locations/activities across the Southern Midlands, although the standout is the Oatlands Aquatic Centre which has been constructed in recent years and is a regional facility. The historic village of Oatlands is unique in Australia, and Council has an obligation to ensure that it is adequately maintained and sensitively enhanced for current and future generations.

The Oatlands Village Square Project Steering Committee is mindful of those obligations and seeks to provide Council and the community with the next stage of the of community consultation that was started with the Oatlands Structure Plan. Through the attached slides and the associated survey document we are seeking community input/comments in assisting

to consolidate designs to specific projects, supporting the precinct and in bringing the notion of the Oatlands Village Square into reality.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – *The project timeline indicates that planning and design will extend through to approximately March 2027. This work will be undertaken 'in-house' without the need to engage any significant external resources.*

At that time, Council will then be in a position to identify potential grant opportunities in order to progress individual components of the project or consider direct funding depending upon available resources.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – *The Oatlands Structure Plan consultations provide an excellent basis to move this project forward, with a continuing public consultation framework as shown in the proposed development timeline on the previous page.*

Policy Implications – *Nil at this time*

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – *Commence as soon as possible with periodic progress reports being provided to future Council meetings.*

CONCLUSION

This report is seeking Council support for a community consultation period of two weeks with the attached slides, at A3 being displayed for the public to review at the Supreme Court building, as well as online, and then for the community to share their views by completing the attached Survey document. Following that the Steering Committee would review all of the responses and then provide a further report to Council, as the development journey is progressed in a logical and systematic manner.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Report;**
- 2. Endorse the public display of the attached Slides 1 – 26 for public viewing as well as feedback via the Survey document and;**
- 3. Receive a report on the feedback from the community consultation.**

Moved by Cllr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Report;**
- 2. Endorse the public display of the attached Slides 1 – 26 for public viewing as well as feedback via the Survey document and;**
- 3. Receive a report on the feedback from the community consultation.**

AMENDMENT

Moved by Cllr F Miller, seconded by Cllr B Campbell

THAT Council defer a decision to enable further detailed discussion in a workshop arrangement (possibly Council Workshop scheduled for 10th June 2025).

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST

| DECISION | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Councillor | Vote FOR | Vote AGAINST |
| Mayor E Batt | | ✓ |
| Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon | | ✓ |
| Clr A E Bisdee OAM | | ✓ |
| Clr D Blackwell | | ✓ |
| Clr B Campbell | ✓ | |
| Clr D Fish | | ✓ |
| Clr F Miller | ✓ | |

THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PUT

Moved by Clr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Report;**
- 2. Endorse the public display of the attached Slides 1 – 26 for public viewing as well as feedback via the Survey document and;**
- 3. Receive a report on the feedback from the community consultation.**

CARRIED

| DECISION | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Councillor | Vote FOR | Vote AGAINST |
| Mayor E Batt | ✓ | |
| Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon | ✓ | |
| Clr A E Bisdee OAM | ✓ | |
| Clr D Blackwell | ✓ | |
| Clr B Campbell | | ✓ |
| Clr D Fish | ✓ | |
| Clr F Miller | | ✓ |

[END OF EXTRACT] Council Minutes from the 28 May 2025

DETAIL

The survey and associated consultation sessions were designed to gather the next level of detailed community input for the Village Square project in Oatlands. This work builds on the broader engagement and planning undertaken during the development of the Oatlands Structure Plan 2021

Whilst these community consultation sessions are addressing the precursor issues within the Village Square project scope, once these matters have been resolved and design solutions have been put in place, the next stage will focus on the development of the Village Square itself.

Where was the Display? Supreme Court Building, 7 Campbell St Oatlands

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| When and at What Times? | Tues. 15 July 2025 from | 11.00am to 2.30pm |
| | Wed. 16 July 2025 from | 11.00am to 2.30pm |
| | Wed. 16 July 2025 from | 4.00pm to 6.30pm |
| | Thur. 17 July 2025 from | 11.00am to 2.30pm |
| | Fri. 18 July 2025 from | 11.00am to 2.30pm |

Mon. 21 July 2025 from 11.00am to 2.30pm
Mon. 21 July 2025 from 4.00pm to 6.30pm
Tues.22 July 2025 from 11.00am to 2.30pm

Two evening sessions were included in the consultation schedule.

The Oatlands Village Square Project flyer was circulated throughout the Oatlands area, in the following locations; the Post Office, IGA Supermarket, the Kentish eatery Bargain Centre, Council Chambers, and the Historic Society, as well as being hand delivered to the cottages in Stutzer Street, plus inserted into the Southern Midlands Region News, Council website / Facebook page.

Deputy General Manager Andrew Benson, who is the Project Manager for the Oatlands Village Square Working Group, participated in all of the consultation sessions. He assisted community members with their questions regarding the display panels, the survey, and the overall project. During the sessions held at the Supreme Court building, he also advised participants that Council was keen to hear the community's views on the project.

The Slides were displayed at the venue in a laminated A3 format, with A4 copies available for attendees to take home, along with copies of the Survey form. Some attendees elected to complete their responses on the spot. A few community members reviewed the documentation on the Council website and compiled their survey responses from the information provided online.



Former Oatlands Supreme Court
2025 Consultation Session



Former Oatlands Supreme Court
2025 Consultation Session

Whilst on the subject of community consultation and engagement, I would draw the meeting's attention to the Report that the then Manager Development & Environmental Services, David Cundall, provided to Council on the *Oatlands Structure Plan* development process, at the August 2021 Council meeting and the section in relation to community consultation/engagement, namely;

2. Stakeholder and community engagement feedback (Oatlands Structure Plan 2020/21)

This section provides detail on the two (2) phases of general community and stakeholder engagement. This includes the key themes that were discussed during consultation.

The Phase 1 Public Consultation commenced in August 2020. The consultation process involved the following community engagement and information gathering exercises:

- *The Consultant JMG Engineering and Planning held a session with the students of the Oatlands District High School and captured their thoughts, aspirations and vision for Oatlands.*
- *A stall was setup in the High Street next to the IGA to promote the Structure Plan and gather early feedback. Approximately 30 people stopped and participated.*
- *A public workshop and information session was held at the Gay Street Hall. Approximately 30 people attended for the 2 hour session with Council Officers and JMG.*
- *Online Survey*
- *Written submissions to the General Manager from the on-line survey 40 responses.*

In total, around 100 people provided feedback on the formation of the Structure Plan. The Phase 1 consultation was considered successful. The Oatlands community and stakeholders overall supported the objectives of the Plan and showed keen interest and support in preparing a plan for the township.

Phase 2 of the community consultation commenced in January 2021 with a 6 week exhibition period which included a second public workshop and information session held at the Gay Street Hall on the 20th January 2021. 17 members of the community attended the session with further Council Officers and Councillors. A total of 11 written submissions were then received during the exhibition. The community were generally supportive of the draft recommendations. Significant support was given for the following during the second phase of the consultation – in [priority] order:

- A. *To create a town centre/civic hub around Roche Hall, Town Hall, the Aquatic Centre and High Street area.*

It is noted from the extract above, that 128 people participated and provided feedback during the development process of the Oatlands Structure Plan in 2021. That figure in a village of 728 people (ABS Census 2021) amounts to an 18% participation rate.

In respect of the Oatlands Village Square development project, (noting that the Village Square project was the highest priority established by the community feedback), a total of twenty-three comprehensive survey responses were completed and returned, representing three, point two percent of the Oatlands population. Further, six people attended the display session at the Supreme Court building, but they did not provide a survey response. The interpretation of this figure, being that if they had a problem with what was being proposed, they would have provided a response and shared their view. Additionally the information was provided on-line via the Council website, however there is no recording mechanism for determining how many people actually visited the website.

Therefore a 3.2% survey response rate plus the others who were exposed to the information, as well as the 18% in respect of the original work for the Village Square project (21.2%) is considered a valid response rate given the exploratory nature of the consultation. Because the objective was to gather indicative insights rather than produce statistically representative data. The number of responses of the Village Square project do offer meaningful and high-quality feedback, particularly within the context of our small rural village.

Moreover, in communities with a strong level of trust in the Council and a well-established record of effective governance, lower participation, especially during the middle of winter, does not necessarily indicate disengagement or opposition. Instead, it clearly reflects the residents' confidence in the Council's ability to make sound decisions on their behalf. In this context, the responses received can reasonably be interpreted as a meaningful expression of community sentiment. They provide valuable input to inform infrastructure planning and development, complementing the broader understanding the Council already holds regarding local needs and priorities of the community, as articulated in the Oatlands

Structure Plan. The community input and observations in respect of the Village Square project has been greatly appreciated and it serves as a further benchmark of understanding of the community, building on the Oatlands Structure Plan 2021. It is noted that many of the elements of the overall Village Square project will require a discretionary Development Application, where the community will again have the opportunity in registering their comments to Council.

Council's attention is drawn to the document attached to this report, titled *Report on the Community Consultation Survey Response to the Oatlands Village Square Consultation Process*, which is attached to this agenda item. The Report compiles the results of the Community Consultation Survey, including the 'Yes or No' responses and the 'Other Comments' provided by participants. For ease of interpretation, the material has been organised into three components: the presentation 'Slides', (which articulated the issues in a visual and verbal manner for ease of interpretation), alongside the 'Yes/No' response summary, and the collection of 'Other Comments'. A copy of the *Community Consultation Survey Questionnaire* is also included as an attachment to the Report.

All information contained in this Report faithfully represents the responses provided by the respondents. The names of respondents are not included in the Report. A separate file exists that correlates names with individual responses; however, that information will not be made publicly available and will only be accessed if further clarification is required during the design stage.

The Community Consultation Survey Response to the Oatlands Village Square Consultation Process is a substantial Report that incorporates all survey information to be carried forward into the design stage of the project. The Report presents the outputs of the tabulated data, along with a design concept submitted by one respondent as an appendix to her survey response.

Where a Respondent has provided more than one comment under the 'Other Comments' section, these have been numbered to indicate that they originate from the same individual, offering additional context to their broader responses.

This information has been compiled and tabulated by Andrew Benson to support the Oatlands Village Square Working Group and Council in understanding the views and aspirations expressed by community members. It provides a structured basis for analysing the responses and considering, where appropriate, community suggestions may be explored during the design phase of the project.

The following section presents a brief summary of the 'Yes / No' responses to each survey question, supported by the consultation *Slides* provided.

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|
| Slides 3 to 5 – What Gave Rise to this Project? | <i>I participated in the Oatlands Structure Plan Consultation in 2021</i> | 23% | 77% |
| | <i>I agree with the Consultant's recommendations in the Report</i> | 78% | 22% |
| | <i>Other comment(s): There were nineteen comments made in respect of these Slides (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.)</i> | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 10 – Project Site Scope | <i>I agree with the Project Site Scope</i> | 90% | 10% |
| | Other comment(s): There were six comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.) | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|--|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 12 – Identified Issue(s): Within the Site Scope | <i>I agree that the issues identified require addressing</i> | 90% | 10% |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 13 – Identified Issue: <i>Public Toilets at the Rear of the Council Chambers</i> | <i>I understand the issue and agree that the issues identified require addressing.</i> | 96% | 4% |
| | Other comment(s): There were ten comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.) | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 14 – Possible Responses: - Remove the current Public Toilets - New Public Toilets - New Location | <i>I agree with the proposed concept to address the issue.</i> | 89% | 11% |
| | <i>I agree that we remove the existing public toilet facility</i> | 83% | 17% |
| | <i>I agree that we need a new public toilet facility in another location.</i> | 74% | 26% |
| | <i>I agree with the proposed location in Slide 14 in Barrack St car park.</i> | 30% | 70% |
| | <i>Do you have another site suggestion (if so, please share with us the location and reason for that location in the comments below).</i> | 69% | 31% |
| | Other comment(s): There were fifteen comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.) | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|--|-------|------|
| Slide 15 – Identified Issue: Car Parking at the Rear of the Council Chambers | <i>I understand the issue and agree that the issues identified require addressing.</i> | 83% | 17% |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|--|-------|------|
| Slide 16 – Identified Response: Install Accessible parking bay | <i>I agree with the proposed concept to install Accessible Parking in the carpark.</i> | 100% | 0% |
| | Other comment(s): There were eleven comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.) | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|---|--|-------|------|
| Slide 17 – Possible Responses: Stutzer St Footpath is has too much slope Roadway camber makes parking a problem | <i>I agree that the issues identified require addressing</i> | 96% | 4% |
| | <i>I agree that the footpath has too much slope and is dangerous</i> | 92% | 8% |
| | <i>I agree that the camber on the roadway makes parking a problem.</i> | 91% | 9% |
| | <i>I agree that there should be a Village Square connection between the frontage of Roche Hall and the frontage of the Council Chambers.</i> | 86% | 14% |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Slide 18 – Possible Response: Reconstruction of Stutzer Street | <i>I agree with the proposed concept to reconstruct Stutzer St with one-way for half the road, then with one-way plus parking for the balance of Stutzer St to the rear boundary of Roche Hall.</i> | 48% | 52% |
| | NOTE: <i>Notwithstanding the abovementioned question/response, a more detailed analysis of this question and the comments of the Respondents, realised that whilst Yes / No referred to a one way design of part of Stutzer St, ie should the Village Square go right across in front of Roche Hall and the Council Chambers in one large space, unencumbered by a roadway, or should a one way roadway be included as an ephemeral or transient roadway that could be blocked off when events take up the whole of the space in front of the buildings. There was another response that people made, ie maintain the street as it is. So the figures read</i> | 48% One way part of Stutzer St | 35% Block off Stutzer St 17% Leave as is |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| | Yes = 11 (48%), No = 8 (35%) & 'Leave as is' = 4 (17%) | | |
| | <i>Other comment(s): There were twenty three comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.)</i> | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|--|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 19 – Identified Issue: <i>Provide better access to the side entrance of Council Chambers</i> | <i>I agree that the issues identified require addressing</i> | 100% | 0% |
| | <i>Other comment(s): There were twelve comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.)</i> | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|---|--|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 21 – Identified Issue: <i>Current fencing around the Council Chambers</i> | <i>I agree that the issue identified requires addressing by the fence being removed</i> | 91% | 9% |
| | <i>Other comment(s): There were eleven comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.)</i> | | |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|---|--|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 22 – Identified Issue: <i>Safe Pedestrian Access across High Street</i> | <i>I agree that the issue identified requires addressing</i> | 93% | 7% |

| Slide No. and Description | Statement / Question | Yes % | No % |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|
| Slide 23 – Identified Response: <i>Comprehensive Pedestrian Crossing arrangement</i> | <i>I agree with the proposed concept to construct a wide-ranging elevated access arrangement to connect the public spaces on High Street</i> | 82% | 18% |
| | <i>Other comment(s): There were fifteen comments made in respect of this Slide (Refer to the attached Report for detail of those comments.)</i> | | |

Community Response Summary; There appeared to be overwhelming support for the project and more specifically these prerequisite elements that need to be decided upon and undertaken prior to the actual detailed design of the Village Square, can take place.

However there was one element that the community was not supportive of, which was detailed in *Slide 14*. A total of 70% said ‘No’ to the relocation of a proposed new toilet block to the Barrack Street carpark. There was 83% of Respondents in support of a new public toilet facility as the current one does not meet disability access provisions and 74% of Respondents were in support of relocating the public toilet away from the existing location, with a range of locations being suggested. Therefore the next stage of this element of the overall project would require an investigation and analysis of other sites that have been identified, along with concept design and budget costing for consideration by Council.

There was one other element in the consultation that, whilst not disagreed with by the majority, however, it had a close *Yes/No* outcome. That was *Slide 18*, with a possible response for Stutzer Street being *One Way* or *Closed Off* across the Village Square section of the street.

In considering the responses to *Slide 18*; in the previous *Slide 17*, 96% responded that they agree that Stutzer Street requires to be addressed and more specially, as detailed below.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| Slide 17 | <i>I agree that the issues identified require addressing</i> | Yes 96% No 4% |
| | <i>I agree that the footpath has too much slope and is dangerous</i> | Yes 92% No 8% |
| | <i>I agree that the camber on the roadway makes parking a problem</i> | Yes 91% No 9% |
| | <i>I agree that there should be a Village Square connection between the frontage of Roche Hall and the frontage of the Council Chambers</i> | Yes 86% No 4% |

Therefore, the majority of Respondents required the geometry and the surface of Stutzer Street along with the footpath to be addressed. However, it was less clear about the *One Way* option or the *Close it Off* option. There were twenty three ‘*Other Comments*’ (the highest number of comments for this element in the Survey – which certainly denotes this being perceived as a high value issue).

| | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Slide 18 | <i>I agree with the proposed concept to reconstruct Stutzer St with one-way for half the road, then with one-way plus parking for the balance of Stutzer St to the rear boundary of Roche Hall</i> | Yes 48% No 52% |
| | As detailed above in the Report; There was another response that people made, ie <i>maintain Stutzer street as it is</i> . So in breaking that down further; | |
| | <i>I agree with the proposed concept to reconstruct Stutzer Street with one-way for half the road,</i> | Yes 48% |
| | <i>I agree with the concept to reconstruct Stutzer Street with no access to High Street</i> | Yes 35% |
| | <i>I agree with leaving Stutzer Street as it is</i> | Yes 17% |

So, given 17% responded that they would like Stutzer Street left as it is and the remainder is split between a *One Way* section and *Close Off*, this element of the overall project needs further detailed consideration.

Where to from here? Let's return to the beginning and briefly revisit the reason for this wide ranging group of elements being part of the Village Square project. At first view, one could ask "*Why do we need to do anything with these elements as they don't really impact on the Village Square site*".

The Oatlands Village Square Working Group felt that each one of these identified elements do, to a greater or lesser extent have an impact on the Village Square and that each element needs to be considered and dealt with, in a manner that is consistent with the sense of practicality, that also fits with the 'sense of place', in enhancing and not detracting in this historic village.

What does a 'sense of place' mean?

A sense of place is defined as the deep, subjective emotional and psychological connection people form with a specific location, turning a mere "space" into a meaningful 'place' through feelings of belonging, comfort, identity, or even negativity like fear. It's shaped by physical environment, history, culture, and personal memories, making a spot unique and fostering attachment, as seen in community identity or a childhood home.

The objective was to look at the overall precinct and remedy all of the issues through a good project management methodology and not having to 'come back' and deal with them later, working in and around works that had already been undertaken and finished. The position that the Oatlands Village Square Working Group has taken has strong merit and is consistent with 'best practice' project management.

CONCLUSION

Now that this information is to hand, the next stage, subject to Council approval, will be breaking all of these elements down into individual projects that will be considered in detail, designed and costed ready for integration into the overall framework of the Village Square project, then the final Consultation with the community, ready for Council consideration and approval, and then the 'shovel ready stage' / 'grant ready stage', for individual elements within the project. Then, the task is to consolidate the design considerations for the actual Village Square itself.

Finally, it is appropriate to acknowledge the appreciation by Council to the members of the community who took the time to provide input to the Oatlands Structure Plan and more recently, those who visited the display in the Supreme Court building and/or visited the Oatlands Village Square project on the Council website. Those individuals then took the time and effort to consider the detail provided in the *Slides* and then respond to the *Survey* questions, with their considered views. The opportunity to engage face to face in the Supreme Court building with members of the community who wanted to share and discuss their views was a privilege that not all Council Officers are afforded. The engagement was at times, passionate, insightful and thought provoking, and many people were excited to be part of the journey, in the Oatlands Village Square becoming closer to a reality.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Receive and Note the Report;
2. Acknowledge with appreciation the community responses in the *Report on the Community Consultation Survey Responses to the Oatlands Village Square Consultation Process*; and
3. Request the Oatlands Village Square Working Group break all of these elements down into individual projects that shall be considered in detail, designed and costed ready for Council consideration/approval, followed by a further community consultation and then integrated into the overall framework of the Village Square project.

DECISION

Moved by Cllr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Cllr D Fish

THAT Council:

1. Receive and note the Report;
2. Acknowledge with appreciation the community responses in the *Report on the Community Consultation Survey Responses to the Oatlands Village Square Consultation Process*; and
3. Request the Oatlands Village Square Working Group break all of these elements down into individual projects that shall be considered in detail, designed and costed ready for Council consideration/approval, followed by a further community consultation and then integrated into the overall framework of the Village Square project.

CARRIED

| DECISION | | |
|------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Councillor | Vote FOR | Vote AGAINST |
| Mayor E Batt | ✓ | |
| Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon | ✓ | |
| Cllr A E Bisdee OAM | ✓ | |
| Cllr D Blackwell | ✓ | |
| Cllr B Campbell | | ✓ |
| Cllr D Fish | ✓ | |
| Cllr F Miller | ✓ | |