



TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK



# Mindeera Advisory Group

Notes – 6 June 2024



**WE'RE OPEN**  
**VIC PARK**

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## 1 Opening

### Acknowledgement of country

*Ngany kaaditj Noongar moort keny kaadak nidja Wadjak Noongar boodja. Ngany kaaditj nidja Noongar birdiya – koora, ye-ye, boorda, baalapiny moorditj Noongar kaaditjin, moort, wer boodja ye-ye.*

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and respect Elders past, present and emerging, their continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continues to be important today.

## 2 Attendance

### **Mindeera Group Representatives**

Kelsi Forrest (Chair)  
Murray Masters (Deputy Chair)  
Roni Forrest  
Jordanna Rebbeck  
Stephanie Ludekens

### **Elected Members**

Deputy Mayor Bronwyn Ife  
Cr Sky Croeser  
Cr Peter Devereux

### **Coordinator Community Development**

Annie Withrow

### **Meeting secretary**

Nichola Tomkins

### **Presenters**

Pierre Quesnel, Strategic Projects Manager  
Andrea Siedl, Place Leader  
Katie Sabatini, Coordinator Community  
Development  
Michal Lowenhoff, Coordinator Parking &  
Rangers

### **Observers**

Kim Benjamin, Projects Officer

### **Apologies**

Paul Gravett, Manager Community  
Gerard Siero

### 3 Presentations

#### 3.1 Edward Millen Redevelopment – pathway

<b>Time</b>	10-minute presentation, 20-minute discussion
<b>Presenter</b>	Pierre Quesnel, Strategic Projects Manager
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

#### Purpose of the item

To provide an update on the Edward Millen Park Project and to receive updated feedback on the cultural components.

#### Outcome

Current, hard copy, detailed design plans of the park Project will be presented along with detailed plans from the Edward Millen House Project. The “eco-cultural path” concept as it is currently captured in documentation will be reviewed and an alternative approach suggested to seek feedback from the group on a preferred way forward.

The opinion of the group will direct whether the approach is maintained as documented or altered. This will shape the documentation that will be developed for construction.

#### Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community Priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S4 - Improving access to arts, history, culture and education.	The inclusion of the “eco-cultural path” provides a dedicated spatial element for the telling cultural stories of relevance, creating awareness of the deep cultural connections to the site and local landscape.

#### Outcomes

- The group reviewed the design plans for the Edward Millen redevelopment
- The design of pathway has been compromised due to limited space to fit in components required by Black Oak for the site.
- The current design raises security concerns with the pathway running behind Edward Millen House to connect it to the Hillview Bushland.
- Options discussed included:
  - Relocate the path to run from Edward Millen Park to join Hillview Terrace. Include ground covers along Hillview Terrace to retain the green/planting elements of the path (utilising Community Planting Days)
  - Remove pathway and replace with a Yarning Circle which includes natural log seating
  - Do both elements i.e. Yarning Circle and relocate the pathway along Hillview Terrace
  - Strategic Projects Manager to incorporate feedback into the design plans for the Edward Millen redevelopment, as feasible.

#### Actions

- Nil.

## 4 Items for discussion

### 4.1 Dual naming

<b>Reporting officer</b>	Reconciliation Officer and Place Leader
<b>Origin of request</b>	Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan: Relationships 4.3
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

### Purpose of the item

Feedback is being sought on whether the Edward Millen Park Precinct has suitable options to trial a dual naming process.

### Outcome

The Group is requested to give approval to progress with a dual naming process which will include further research to be undertaken into the cultural history and names of the site by a Whadjuk Noongar consultant.

### Discussion points

The Group will be provided with an overview of the current history of Edward Millen Home and feedback on dual naming processes used by the Noongar Language Centre and the City of Melville.

### Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community Priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S2 - Collaborating to ensure everyone has a place to call home.	That the process undertaken for dual naming is guided by cultural experts and facilitates connection to Country for all the community.
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	That the local history of the area includes the Whadjuk Noongar people.

### Next steps

A presentation to the Group by a consultant on the cultural history and names of the location.

### Further information

N/A

### Outcomes

- The Group was provided background information on the proposed naming for the buildings within Edward Millen redevelopment.
- Additionally, an overview was provided on frameworks used by other local governments and organisations when undertaking renaming/dual naming conventions.
- The Group had queries related to when the House was a Midwifery hospital and if Aboriginal people had been excluded from accessing services.
- A proposal was put forward for renaming (not dual naming) of the overall precinct using an Aboriginal name.

- The Group was supportive of renaming the precinct using an Aboriginal name, however they expressed the wish to complete cultural mapping of the Town before such a name could be decided
- It was acknowledged that Edward Millen (Minister for Repatriation after World War One) had limited connection with this area.
- The Group felt it was important to incorporate historical truth telling into the naming and messaging around the site, particularly referencing the fact that Aboriginal women were excluded from the midwifery hospital.
- The Group advised that there was once an Aboriginal orphanage near the intersection of Welshpool Road and Shepperton Road – Dulhi Gunyah which should be included in any research undertaken. [23 Dec 1911 - DULHI-GUNYAH ORPHANAGE, VICTORIA PARK. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)  
[Dulhi Gunyah - Summary | Find & Connect \(findandconnect.gov.au\)](#)
- Additionally, it was suggested to refer back to cultural research undertaken for the Town by Dorth Cuthbert and by Sandra Harben.
- The group discussed the merits of assessing a holistic map location for renaming/dual naming within the Town before progressing with protocols.
- The Group wanted to get further cultural background knowledge on the Edward Millen site.
- The Group raised concerns that undertaking any review and cultural mapping is a long process.
- It was suggested to invite CAN (Community Arts Network) to speak to the group about renaming/dual naming arts projects they have undertaken e.g. City of Melville (it was noted that this project was funded by Lotterywest for approximately \$900,000).
- The Group discussed opportunities and financial efficiencies in involving the Inner City Network in reviewing renaming/dual names, however it was felt that this would slow progress due to the size and scale of work that would be required.
- The Group agreed that final decisions around Aboriginal renaming/dual naming of the Edward Millen precinct can wait until the work is completed in the next couple of years. In the meantime, further research can be done on renaming/dual naming frameworks.

## Actions

- Reconciliation Officer to share the PowerPoint by email.
- The Place Leader to draw upon previous research done by Sandra Harben.
- Mindeera member to share previous research undertaken by Dorth Cuthbert with the Place Leader.
- Mindeera member to use contacts with CAN and invite them to the next meeting on 14 August 2024.
- Strategic Projects Manager to ensure no formal signage is developed using the name 'Edward Millen'.

## 4.2 John Macmillan Park Update

<b>Reporting officer</b>	Katie Sabatini, Coordinator Community Development
<b>Origin of request</b>	Request to come back to group after last meeting.
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

## Purpose of the item

Provide update on the John Macmillan Precinct situation, actions that have been taken and what is planned.

## Outcome

Receive feedback and engagement with the group around the Town's collective impact approach and future planning.

## Discussion points

Update on situation, current actions, and forward planning.

Feedback and engagement with the group on the following questions:

- In light of the restorative approaches taken so far, do you believe there are further opportunities to explore? If so, what are these opportunities? What does success look like?
- Are there Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) the Town could be engaging with? If so, who?
- Are you aware of any other examples of where local governments have addressed similar situations well? If so, please describe how they approached the issue?

## Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community Priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S1 - Helping people feel safe.	Creating a space that is safe for all park users, residents, business owners, customers and staff.
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	Ensuring that the Town's policies and practices are culturally appropriate.

## Next steps

Review group's feedback and keep them updated.

## Further information

Nil

## Outcomes

- Coordinator Community Development provided an update on issues at John Macmillan Park including more detail on antisocial and illegal behaviour at the Park, the community outcomes being sought and actions undertaken to date to address the issues.
- Points to note include:
  - Events to activate the space take place at different times of the day dependent on the target audience e.g. after school, evening Twilight concert etc.
  - Public drinking tends to take place during the day and finishes when it gets dark
- The Town is looking into restorative funding opportunities.
- The Group raised a query about gambling taking place in the Park. This will be followed up by the Town.
- The Group discussed the need to report all illegal activity in the Park so it flags with Police the need for resources in that area or precinct.
- The Group suggested the Town get in touch with Dumbartung which is an Aboriginal organisation that can facilitate conversations and support for people experiencing trauma. [Social Wellbeing | Dumbartung](#)
- The Group liked the idea of having one person to meet and build relationships
- If the Group have any ideas or contacts then they were encouraged to contact the Coordinator Community Development.

## Actions

- Reconciliation Officer to share the PowerPoint by email.
- The Town to circulate information on restorative project examples and funding.
- The Town to investigate gambling activity in the Park.

### 4.3 On the Table

<b>Reporting officer</b>	Reconciliation Officer
<b>Origin of request</b>	Ongoing Agenda Item
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

### Purpose of the item

To provide an opportunity for Advisory group members to share feedback, generate ideas and facilitate discussion on matters of reconciliation and indigenous significance in the Town.

### Outcome

To provide space for deliberation and innovation.

### Discussion points

- Conversation from the Table
- Expression of Interest – Mindeera Advisory Group (community members)
- Update on Mindeera Spring
- National Reconciliation Week
- NAIDOC Week
- Cultural fire burning
- Film screenings

### Strategic outcomes

<b>Civic Leadership</b>	
<b>Community priority</b>	<b>Intended public value outcome or impact</b>
CL2 - Communication and engagement with the community.	To encourage and enable the community to actively take part in and contribute to Town and community led projects.

<b>Social</b>	
<b>Community priority</b>	<b>Intended public value outcome or impact</b>
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	To enable the community to be informed and engaged in the Town's reconciliation process.

### Next steps

Nil.

### Further information

Nil.

## Outcomes

- Expression of Interest (EOI) – Mindeera Advisory Group (community members)
  - The EOI was open between 29 April – 21 May 2024
  - Members were thanked for sharing the information with their networks.
  - There were 20 applications received which included several existing community members.
  - An overview was provided of advice from Governance related to Advisory Group members being on the assessment panel for the EOI. There would be a perceived conflict of interest i.e. a community member selecting other community members for the Group.
  - It was acknowledged that the Policy required review to facilitate a transparent process where external cultural experts could have input on formation of the Mindeera Advisory Group.
- Update on Mindeera Spring
  - Since the last meeting the Town has met with Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Agriculture (DBCA - the old Swan River Trust) and has agreed an approach to update the plans and develop a concept design for the area in which Mindeera Spring may be “daylighted”.
  - This has been put into the budget for next financial year 2024/25 and a full amount of \$130,000 requested to do:
    - A masterplan update of the McCallum and Taylor area, and:
    - A concept design for the McCallum area to look at the spring and revegetation
  - This has also been the basis for a grant application in April 2024, once again to DBCA, for Riverbank funding which will contribute half of the costs. The idea is that the Town has provision for the full amount and any grant is a bonus.
  - The other McCallum Active Area is to have the permits submitted with the idea to go to tender in June 2024, with construction to start in late August 2024. That is just the skate and bike tracks and some landscaping.
- National Reconciliation Week
  - Showcase of Aboriginal artworks by Roni Gray Forrest and Darryl Bellotti
  - Training for staff on delivering an authentic Acknowledgement of Country – great feedback from staff who have already been trialing their personalised Acknowledgements
- NAIDOC Week
  - Wednesday 3 July – Special edition Cultural Dinner with Roni Forrest – Vic Park Community Centre
  - Sunday 7 July - Urban Forest Planting Day
  - Sunday 7 July – Cultural Dance performance and Sand Art at the Farmers Market
  - Thursday 11 July – Adult Storytime with Rickeeta Walley at the Library
  - Friday 12 July - Monday 23 July – Bush Blossom Gallery Artists exhibition, Victoria Park Centre for the Arts
  - Saturday 20 July 2pm – Launch of Djerup bird booklet with the Friends of Jirdarup Bushland
- Cultural fire burning
  - The Town met with the Cultural Fire Coordinator from DFES to discuss the process for undertaking a cool burn at either Jirdarup Bushland or Hillview Bushland.
  - The intent would be to do a cool burn that facilitates the removal of debris and ‘fuel’ from the bushland and revitalises the landscape to bring about new growth.
  - The engagement with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders (e.g. Local Fire Station, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Agriculture, Friends Groups and local community) is a core part of the process.

- The Town needs to ensure the cultural safety of Traditional Owners involved in the process and supporting them to undertake this process.
- DFES can provide advice and guidance on bushfire risk management.
- The Parks team have engaged with an Aboriginal Landcare group who are interested in working with the Town on this project.
- Film screenings
  - The Town is working with the Vic Park Collective, Vic Park Community Centre and Connect Vic Park to organise the screening of two short films by Aboriginal filmmakers (Mammung (whale) and The Grey Line (about the Stolen Generation)).

## Actions

- Reconciliation Officer to follow up with Governance about a review of Policy 101 Governance of Council Advisory and Working Groups to facilitate Aboriginal people:
  - to be on the assessment panel for the EOI for the Mindeera Advisory Group and/or
  - to have an advisory role and have input into short listing people from the EOI and/or
  - to review the list of names from the EOI and provide advice and feedback.

## 5 General business

## 6 Actions from previous meetings

Action	Responsible Officer	Link to RAP Action(s)	Status	Comment	Close Date
More detailed information to be provided by email on the work done by the Town and other stakeholders to address the issues to demonstrate the holistic approach being used.	Coordinator Parking and Rangers	Relationships 1.2	In progress		5/6/2024
Further information to be collected and shared with the group on benchmarks related to banning notices used by other local governments.	Advisory Group Members	Relationships 1.2	In progress	Information on restorative justice shared.	5/6/2024
Research cultural fire burning with internal and external stakeholders as a program option for NAIDOC Week.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 3.1	In progress	Meeting held with internal stakeholders (Parks and Environment staff). Permits required from DfES for burns.	July 2024
Invite the Place Leader for Urban Forrest Strategy to come to a meeting and incorporate Care for Country into next Strategy.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 4.2	In progress	Invited to present at August 2024 meeting	December 2024

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Include consultation with the Mindeera Advisory Group into the development of the Commemorative Naming Policy.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 4.3	In progress	Policy to be merged to create one naming policy.	December 2024
Invite representatives from the Cities of Melville or Fremantle to an Advisory Group Meeting to discuss their dual naming projects.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 4.3	In progress		December 2024
Advisory Group to provide feedback on the workflow example on dual naming via email and collate the feedback for further consideration by the Group.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 4.3	In progress		April 2024
Contact the Noongar Language Centre as it is the registered Language Centre and may have frameworks or best practice examples related to dual naming.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 4.3	In progress		December 2024
The Town's People and Culture Team to provide clarity about how they will achieve the actions and targets relating to the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan (linking to the RAP).	Reconciliation Officer	Opportunities 1.1	In progress	Invite the People and Culture Team to a future Advisory Group meeting.	December 2024

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A copy of the John MacMillan Park banning notices presentation to be circulated via email.	Reconciliation Officer	Relationships 1.2	Completed		5/6/2024
The Advisory Group members were asked to send through any positive examples/practice to support the Town in addressing the issue.	Advisory Group Members		Completed		5/6/2024
This topic to be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.	Reconciliation Officer		Completed		5/6/2024
Circulate the budget overview presentation by email.	Reconciliation Officer	Governance 2.1	Completed		5/6/2024
Strategic Projects Manager to send a copy of the Mindeera Spring presentation to Advisory Group members (6 March 2024 meeting) and keep the group updated on progress.	Strategic Projects Manager	Relationships 5.1	Completed		April 2024

## Mindeera Advisory Group - 6 June 2024

Arts Officer to send a copy of their presentation to Advisory Group members for feedback on purchase of Aboriginal artwork(s) for the Town's Art Collection (6 March 2024 meeting).	Arts Officer	Respect 2.6	Completed		April 2024
Provide an overview on the budget priorities for 2024/2025, inviting comment from the group.	Reconciliation Officer	Governance 2.1	Completed		April 2024

### 7 Close

The meeting closed at 7.31pm.