

Community Engagement Update

January 2023

Ballan Library and Community Hub

Phase 2 Community Engagement



Current Status

Detailed community feedback received during phase 2 of community engagement, has been evaluated and incorporated into the design process for the Ballan Library and Community Hub.

Our project team has been working closely with the architect to ensure that the design of the Ballan Library and Community Hub reflects the aspirations of the local community and is responsive to feedback gained during the community engagement process.

We Previously Asked

During phase 2 consultation we asked questions related to the following topics:

- Facility spaces
- Facility design
- Outdoor space
- Services, programs and operations

Engagement Opportunities

Phase 2 community engagement for the Ballan Library and Community Centre included the following opportunities for the community:

- Online survey
- Ballan Community Café (in person)
- Gordon Community Café (in person)
- School visit and feedback session

Next Steps

The project team will progress with the development of the Ballan Library and Community Hub design.

We will soon be in touch again to let you know when the project plans are available to view.

Visit Council's 'Have Your Say' digital portal for future updates on this and other important community projects.
<https://haveyoursay.moorabool.vic.gov.au>

What we heard (Key themes from phase 2 engagement)	How we are responding
Facility Spaces	
Creating safe spaces	The building has been designed to feel welcoming, open, light and spacious. Each user group has its own dedicated space that is all-inclusive and caters for all demographics.
A range of flexible meeting spaces Multipurpose spaces Performance/event space	A flexible meeting space is to be located on the ground floor, designed for a large meeting but with capacity to expand the space for larger events. The intent is for this space to be available outside of normal operating hours.
Teenage and children's spaces Separation between children/study spaces	The children's library space is located on the ground floor, and study spaces located on the first floor. A teenage space is also located on the first floor.
Study and reading areas around the library	A variety of study and reading areas to be provided on the ground and first floor, suitable for individual or group activities.
Tables for groups, comfortable chairs Spaces for socialising and connecting	There are multiple locations, on both floors, throughout the building with tables and comfortable chairs for socialising and connecting.
Kitchenette accompanying meeting spaces	The design will incorporate kitchenettes located nearby the meeting spaces and available for general community use.
Creative spaces for exhibitions/workshops Gallery space with exhibitions Maker spaces	An exhibition space is to be featured on the ground floor, suitable for art and community exhibitions. Meeting spaces will be flexible to use in a variety of ways.
Work from home/business spaces Semi quiet spaces (soundproof rooms)	In addition to general study/meeting spaces, the design includes small rooms suitable for individual study or an online video meeting.
Breastfeeding and baby change facilities	A parent's room will be provided.
Play areas for children	The children's library area will have space for a range of children's activities.
Design Features	
Strong architectural design Use of natural materials, timber	Croxon Ramsay have been appointed to develop an architectural response for the building. A range of materials are to be considered for the finishes.
Acknowledge local historical buildings	Careful consideration is taking place in the design to acknowledge materials used in historical buildings, and how the building interacts with its setting, particularly the post office.
Connection to street front Welcoming and able to see inside	The main entrance will be accessible from street front, and there will be windows to the community lounge area of the library.
Suitable seating spaces near windows Take advantage of northern natural light	Seating areas will be located in the northern facing areas to take advantage of the light.
Light and airy Large open windows	Windows and light filled spaces will be an important feature of the design.
Honouring First Nations culture	Council is engaging with First Nations to identify ways to incorporate First Nations culture.
Accessibility – suitable for all abilities and sensory experiences	Accessibility and DDA compliance are an important aspect of the building design.
Acoustics and noise reduction	Acoustic treatments are being considered for the building, together with quiet study areas.
Returns chute prominent/close to parking	Returns chute located at front of building in proximity to parking.

Signage with English, Indigenous and braille	Way finding signage throughout the building will include English, Indigenous and braille.
Access to car parking	Car parking will be available at the front of the building. There is a proposed footpath which will provide access for the community to access Council's existing car park.
Outdoor Space	
Outdoor space to socialise/study/events Suitable seating Small intimate space and event space Flexible courtyard	A courtyard is a key element of the building design. The courtyard will be designed to include a range of seating options and be suitable for events and socialising.
Large trees	Landscaping around the building will include garden beds and trees. The species of tree and size will depend on the space available.
Native plants or community garden	Native plants will be included as part of the landscaping
Options for public art display Potential for outdoor public art and temporary art/projections	An art gallery will be included on the ground floor with direct access to the courtyard for outdoor art events.
Wi-Fi access outside	Wi-fi will be available outside
Services, Programs and Operations	
Touch screen/interactive map for tourism	How visitor information is displayed/provided is still under consideration.
Information Technology/future proof	The library will feature modern technology and has been designed to with an eye to accommodate future advances.
Video conferencing, Computers, printing, wi-fi	The new facility will provide these features.
Open daily	The opening hours of the facility are still to be determined.
Arts and culture, exhibitions, craft groups	An exhibition space is to be featured on the ground floor, suitable for art and community exhibitions. Meeting spaces will be flexible to use in a variety of ways.
Children's and early years programs	Programming of the facility is still under consideration and will incorporate children's and early years programs.
Feedback from local children – What should your new library look like?	
Big	The facility is being designed to create as large and functional a space as suits the site.
Kids section with bean bags	We will use this feedback through the furnishing design phase.
Different topics and themes	The facility will provide unique sections throughout, to accommodate all user types.
Feedback from local children – What should be in the building?	
Computers/computer hub	Computers will be provided and available for use by all.
More books	The library will have a fantastic collection of books available for all to access.
Free/unlimited Wi-Fi	Free and unlimited Wi-Fi will be provided throughout the facility.
Feedback from local children – How would you and your family use it?	
Respectfully	We're very pleased to receive this feedback. 😊
To read	There will be a separate children's section where reading will be accommodated and encouraged.
Quiet time	There will be areas throughout the library where children can experience quiet time.

Local children's vision of the facility

