

Dandenong Community Hub

Community Consultation
May-June 2021

Dandenong Community Hub - Community Consultation

The Dandenong Community Hub Business Case and Concept Design project commenced with a series of consultation sessions and interviews throughout May and early June this year (2021).

The feedback to date

The initial consultation was about defining local peoples' vision for the central Dandenong Community Hub - this information was needed so that concept designs could be developed:

- What sort of facility community want it to be?
- What sort of facilities need to be included in the Hub?
- The preferred location.

Now we're reporting back what we heard from the consultation and getting your feedback on the concept designs that have been developed.

It would be great if you could take a few minutes to read through the findings and provide your feedback as this will assist us continuing to move this important project forward.

The vision

Consultations made clear that people really wanted the Dandenong Community Hub to be for and about local central Dandenong people – a place for local residents and neighbours of all ages, cultures and abilities.

People said it was important that the Hub is a place:

- Where you come together and do things – relax, have a coffee, be active, meet people/friends - not just meetings. It must be safe, open, accessible, warm and welcoming place where you want to gather.
- Where you can access some local services and activities and you can connect to and find out about other services, BUT it's not accommodation for welfare services or organisation administration or offices.
- That provides high quality spaces for local activities and services that are flexible, accessible, affordable and cater for a diverse range of needs now and into the future.
- That feels warm and attractive and encourages people to be proud of and stay in central Dandenong (gets rid of the stigma). It cannot be formal, stark, cold or corporate.

- From all the words and ideas that people fed back to us - this vision informed the concept design and will drive the business planning to follow.

The activities people want accommodated in the Hub

People said they really want the Hub to attract, welcome and provide facilities for children, younger adults and older people of all abilities and all cultures (intergenerational and multicultural).

People said they want the Hub to provide spaces for a range of activities including:

- Adult education/learning
- Arts, craft, woodwork
- Singing, dancing, exercise
- Group meetings and social gathering
- Small performance/presentation (indoor and outdoor)
- Cooking and eating together
- IT/technology access, homework, relaxing, chatting
- Coffee/tea, eating and socialising
- Outdoor space for gathering, sitting, picnics, play and gardening
- Carparking
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Early Years: Kindergarten, Childcare and Playgroups.

The facilities proposed for the Hub

Here's the list of the types of spaces that the community nominated are needed to accommodate the activities listed previously. It is a priority that the Hub and all its spaces (indoor and out) are universally accessible.

Space	Description
Foyer - central open access and free gathering area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be warm, inviting and able to be seen from outside. It could include couches, comfy seats, nooks, tables and tech – a place for quiet conversation, reading and study, co-working space/ tech hub, quiet room and youth lounge. • There should be strong connection to outdoor garden and play space. • It must not be formal, stark, cold or corporate.
Cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should be linked to or part of the foyer/gathering space. • It could have an indoor/outdoor element. • It is a key part of the come in relax vibe.
Community activity and meeting spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of spaces are needed for a range of activities including physical activity, exercise, rehearsals, creativity, arts and craft, classes and learning, meeting, playgroups, dining and sharing food, socialising.

Space	Description
Community activity and meeting spaces (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally these will be easily accessible and possible visible from the main foyer, gathering space. • These must not be formal, stark, cold or corporate.
Community kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is for preparation of food and events, classes and possible shared meals.
Outdoor spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor space and its connection to the main entry and community gathering areas is incredibly important. • The outdoor space is a crucial community space as part of this Hub. • If possible, the outdoor space should include spaces for garden/green space for gathering, sitting, All Abilities Play, community garden.
Early Years Services facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes facilities for Maternal and Child Health, Kindergarten and Childcare.
Centre management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be some space allocated for offices, storage, loading/unloading dock - spaces that make the venue work.
Carparking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carparking within easy proximity is a priority.

The location of the Hub

During the initial consultation we asked people to give us feedback on what would be most important about where the Hub is located. Feedback said the location needed to:

- Be a central location - easily accessible by foot, bike and car; wide pathways to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility aides.
- Be where residents congregate – where they do their day-to-day activities.
- Ensure capacity for the market to expand – shouldn't impede other important development.
- Be visible, accessible and safe - with good lighting for night, safe for elderly and children, flat ground and minimal stairs/steps. It must be easily seen and found - a highly visible area.
- Be within reasonable walking distance for residents living in central Dandenong.
- Be close to parking, shopping, buses, the market, the plaza, school and central Dandenong.
- Space for parking - possibly have underground parking to avoid taking up valuable open space and parking should be free.
- Be a large site - big enough to build a long term landmark, quality building and allow for future expansion. It needs to be able to cater for current and future needs. Many people had a preference for a single level facility if possible.
- Have pleasant external gardens with places to gather and for children to play.

Community feedback told us that the site bounded by Stuart Street, Clow Street and Sleeth Avenue was a preferred site. (diagram below). Council has supported this site as the preferred location.

