

Engagement Report

Central Precinct Land Use Plan

Knox Central Activity Centre

August 2024



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1. Introduction

1.1 Project overview

Knox City Council owns approximately 9 hectares of land between Burwood Highway and Blind Creek, next to Westfield Knox. This site is within the larger Knox Central Activity Centre, which is the largest activity centre in Knox and services a catchment within Knox and across the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The project is the development of this site.

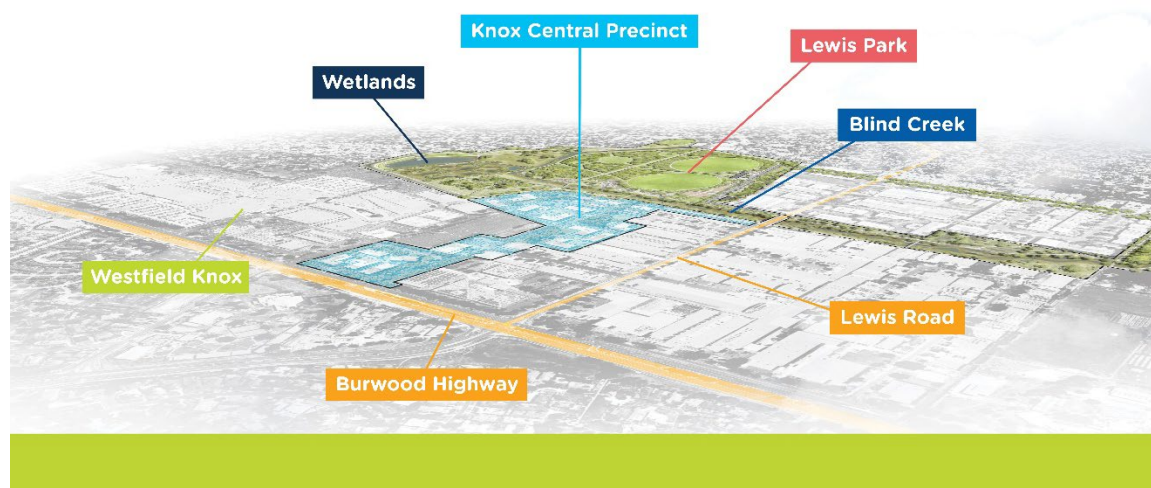


Figure 1: Location of the Central Precinct

There will be several stages to the project, and development of the entire site is expected to occur over 20 years. The development of the civic area will not occur for at least 10 years, but Council will start to plan for it as part of its planning for the overall precinct.

Council intends to see this land developed primarily for higher density housing, to help create a 'new heart of Knox'. The area will feature green spaces for recreation and relaxation and a mix of housing and employment opportunities, integrating with the natural beauty of the surroundings.

The future residential population is expected to be around 5000 people. Council will plan for services to support the future population and is focused on ensuring development is sustainable, high quality and resilient to the effects of climate change. Council will also consider how social and affordable housing might be delivered as part of the development.

The Structure Plan for the Knox Central Activity Centre identified the precinct as an opportunity to enhance its role as the civic and public heart of the municipality. The preferred building heights for this site are already in the Knox Planning Scheme.

In response, Council prepared the draft Land Use Plan to guide the development of the Central Precinct. The purpose of the Plan is to inform and guide the future planning and development of the Council's land next to Westfield.

The Plan proposes:

- four sub-precincts across the site and their characteristics
- high-level precinct and open space design guidelines

- areas considered for parks and public open spaces
- area identified with existing environmental features such as trees will be protected.
- a civic sub-precinct is proposed on the site.

This report provides a summary of community and stakeholder engagement findings based on feedback received on the draft Land Use Plan. The report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1: Project overview, engagement overview and approach
- Chapter 2: Overview of engagement activities and participants
- Chapter 3: What we heard
- Chapter 4: Next Steps

1.2 Engagement overview

The consultation on the draft Land Use Plan has been conducted in accordance with Knox City Council's Community Engagement Policy. This engagement was the first opportunity for the community to learn about the future for the site.

The aim of the engagement was to obtain feedback from key stakeholders and Knox community on the design guidelines and high-level concepts presented in the draft Land Use Plan.

The objectives of the consultation for this project were:

- To raise awareness of the location of the site and the opportunity it presents for the community.
- To inform key stakeholders and community of the project objectives to enable them to provide meaningful input to help shape the Precinct into a heart of Knox.
- To reach a wide and balanced range of groups from a variety of interest areas.
- To obtain stakeholder and community feedback on how the public spaces could be used and understand future housing needs.
- To consider feedback from the engagement in the finalisation of the Central Precinct Land Use Plan.

Council was seeking feedback on:

- the high-level concepts (nature of development, access and movement) of future development presented in the draft Land Use Plan.
- the design guidelines in the draft Land Use Plan.
- what is important to the community through the development of the site (the values the community wishes to see realised in the precinct).
- what community facilities are a priority in the precinct.
- how to achieve high quality design, amenity and environmental outcomes.

1.3 Engagement approach

The overall engagement methodology was informed by a project-specific Engagement Plan, prepared at the start of the project. The Engagement Plan outlines key objectives for engagement, the scope of the engagement, stakeholder analysis and consideration of different communication channels to promote the project.

Consultation collateral prepared were:

- a visually appealing illustration showing the location of the Central Precinct relative to the surrounding Activity Centre.
- a physical base model for Lego® play consultation at Knox Festival and other consultations.
- a physical 3D model to understand topography and relationship to surrounding land to help in technical discussions.
- 3D printed buildings to use with models for consultation activities.
- Pre-built Lego® buildings to support engagement at Knox Festival.
- an animation video highlighting the potential future look and feel of the different elements of the site including expanse of green space, access and movement, and the different typology of buildings.
- project website providing opportunity for the community to provide their feedback through the online engagement platform, 'Knox Have Your Say'.
- letters sent to businesses and owners adjacent to the project site.
- postcard and posters to socialise the project and invite people to have their say on the project.



Figure 2: Physical 3D model of the site for engagement activities

External consultation activities undertaken were:

- 1x community pop-up session at the Knox Festival. The pop-up included a poster showing the location of the site and a physical base model (1.1 m x 1.7m) of the site with Lego® pieces inviting people to build elements they want to see in the public spaces.
- 1x engagement activity with early years children (1-4 years) at the Knox Festival.
- Full day pop-up session at the Knox Library in Westfield using the physical 3D model visualising the site.
- 2 Information sessions with the businesses and landowners along Lewis Road adjacent to the site.
- Engagement with sports clubs and Knoxfield District Scout Centre based in Lewis Park.
- Engagement with the Environment Advisory Committee, Early Years Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Active Ageing Advisory Committee, Disability Advisory Committee and Multicultural Advisory Committee.
- Opportunity for people to present their 'Bright Ideas' and complete 'Feedback form' through the "Knox Have Your Say" web platform.
- Provision of postcards to Knox Library, key stakeholders and landowners to socialize the project.

Promotional activities included:

- Mail-out of letter to businesses and owners to inform them of the project and invitation to attend an information session.
- Large visual poster used within the pop-up consultations to help guide on where the site is.
- Distribution of flyers at Knox Library, Council offices and community facilities.
- Targeted promotion on Facebook / social media.
- Hero ad in the four local papers distributed to over 50,000 homes in Knox.
- Back cover of the Knox News focusing on engagement and call to action for people to have their say distributed to over 60,000 homes in Knox.
- Website - 2 articles throughout the engagement phase.
- Social media - Organic post promoting the engagement being open.

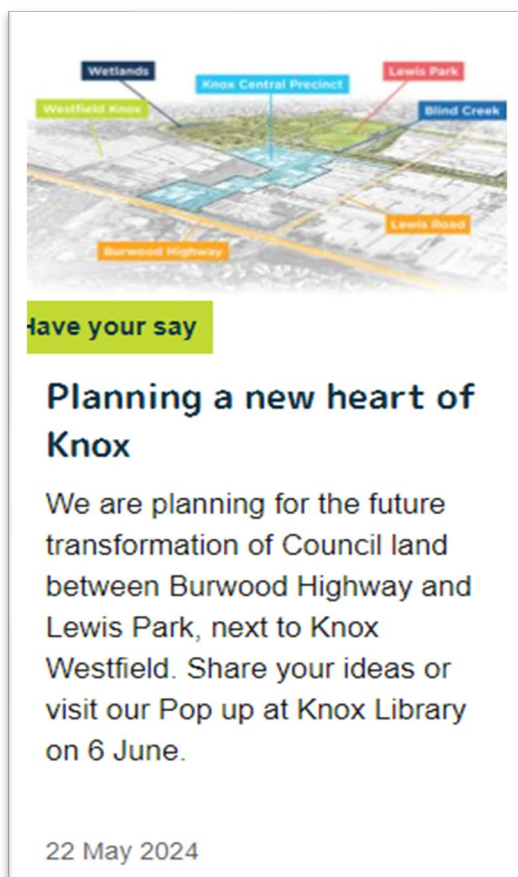


Figure 3: Back cover of Knox News promoting the project and call for action

2. Overview of engagement activities and participants

Previous engagement in relation to the site was undertaken as part of the engagement on the Structure Planning of the Knox Central Activity Centre 2017 and Amendment C149knox to the Knox Planning Scheme.

During February to August 2024, various engagement activities were conducted to hear diverse voices of people who visit, live, work and play in Knox. Specific activities were undertaken to engage with children and young people. This section presents the objectives and engagement activities undertaken.

Summary of the activities and participants profile is presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Engagement activities from March to August 2024

Activity	Date	Number of participants	Estimated number of comments/ideas	Participants (Service age group)
Knox Festival	2 March	120 (estimated)	44 forms	- Primary schoolers - Secondary schoolers - Tertiary students - Parents and homebuilders.
Knox Library	6 June	22	67 ideas and comments	- Parents and homebuilders - Seniors - Young workforce - Primary schoolers - Secondary schoolers.
Knox Have Your Say	22 May to 7 June	1209 views 1025 visits 722 visitors	66 ideas 15 feedback forms	- Broad cross section (typical respondent information).
Information Session	15 May 21 May	3	6 ideas	- Neighbouring landowners - Older workers and pre-retirees
Lewis Park Sports Clubs and Knoxfield District Scout Centre	15 May	4	10 comments	- Parents and homebuilders - Older workers and pre-retirees - Seniors.

Table 2: Engagement with the advisory committees from May to August 2024

Activity	Date	Number of external participants	Estimated number of comments/ideas
Environmental Advisory Committee	15 May 2024	11	14
Early Years Advisory Committee	20 June 2024	9	16
Youth Advisory Committee	24 July 2024	20	44
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	8 August 2024	10	12
Disability Advisory Committee	13 August 2024	11	8
Multicultural Advisory Committee	20 August 2024	4	7

2.1 Pop-up sessions

2.1.1 Knox Festival, 2 March 2024

The pop-up under the Council marquee was set up from 9 am to 6 pm at the Knox Festival on 2 March.

The objectives of the activity at Knox Festival were:

- Build community awareness of the project (socialise)
- Understand high level community aspirations for the future look and feel of the precinct.

About 120 participants were asked to have their say through Lego® play build activity and feedback form. Forty-four (44) feedback forms were completed.

Prompts during the activity included:

- What would you like to see in the public spaces?
- What did you wish this area should have, or missing?



Figure 4: Lego® play activity during Knox Festival showing the Lego® build, which included outdoor café, play equipment, community garden, slides, swing, shaded sitting areas, wheelchair, bicycle and green roof.

2.1.2 Knox Library, 6 June 2024

Drop-in pop-up sessions were promoted for two sessions during the day (10am to 12pm and 4pm to 6 pm). However, due to significant interest in the project, the entire day (10am to 6pm) was open for anyone interested in learning and providing feedback on the project.

At these sessions, visitors to the library had the opportunity to engage with the project in-person and speak with members of the project team. Twenty-two (22) participants engaged at the pop-up session.

They were also able to interact with the physical model and ask questions about the various elements on display.

The objectives of the consultation at Knox Library were:

- Build community awareness of the project.
- Understand high level community aspirations for the future look and feel of the precinct.

Participants were asked to have their say using the Post-it notes on the following 3 questions:

- Tell us your Bright ideas to help in the transformation of the Precinct.
- How would you like to see the Public Space being used?
- How can housing meet your future needs?

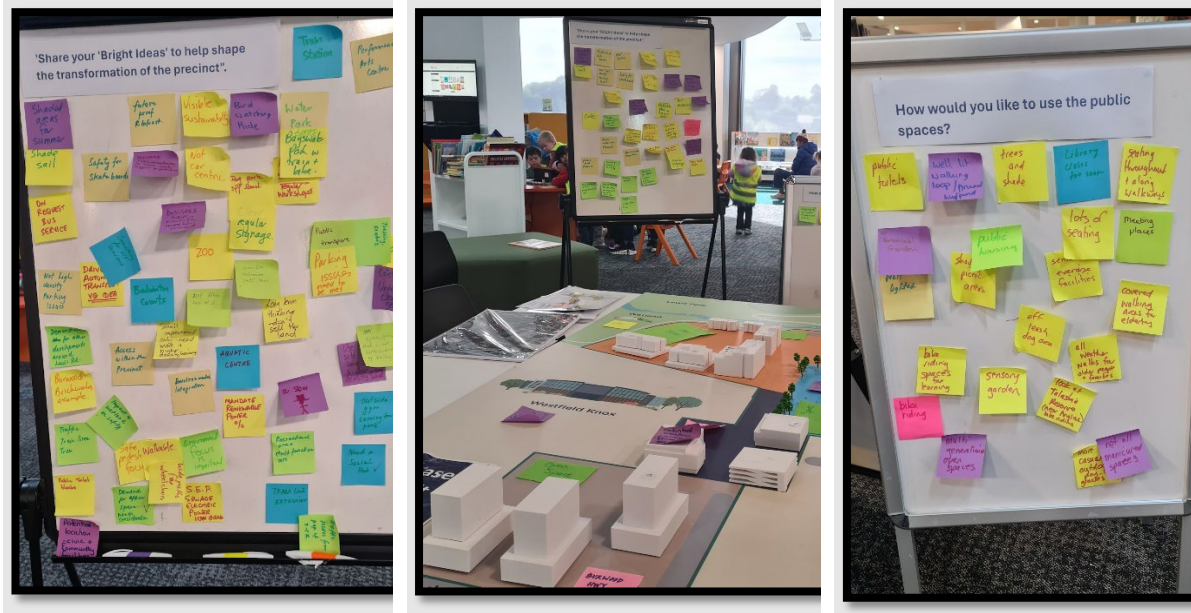


Figure 5: 'Bright Ideas' feedback from the participants at the Knox Library

2.2 'Knox Have Your Say'

Council's online engagement platform 'Knox Have Your Say' provided a central repository for all project-related information. It provided access to a visioning exercise and feedback form and other project materials for the public including:

- Illustration showing the location of Central Precinct
- draft Central Precinct Land Use Plan
- FAQs
- Project timeline.

The objectives of this engagement activity were to:

- Build community awareness of the project
- Understand high level community aspirations for the future look and feel of the precinct.

Participants were asked to have their say by responding to the following question, which served as a 'proxy' to visioning of the Precinct.

- Tell us your Bright Ideas to help in the transformation of the Precinct.

Have your say by 7 June 2024

How to have your say:

Online

- share your 'Bright Ideas' (below)
- complete the feedback form to help shape the transformation of the precinct (below), or email knox.central@knox.vic.gov.au

By mail

- post your submission to:
Heart of Knox project
Knox City Council
Reply Paid 70243, Wantirna South 3152

In person

- Knox Library Drop-in
Date: Thursday 6 June 10am - 12pm and 4pm - 6pm

Provide feedback for your chance to win

Everyone who provides feedback will go into a draw to win a voucher for an amazing local experience.
Find out more on our [Have your Say and Win page](#).

Share your 'Bright Ideas' to help shape the transformation of the precinct

We are interested to hear your 'Bright Ideas' on what you would like Council to consider as part of the development of the site. (max 140 characters).

Tell us your idea

You have 140 charact

Figure 6: 'Knox Have Your Say' project page seeking feedback on ideas

In addition, there was an opportunity for people to complete the feedback form. The following questions were included in the form:

- What do you think of the Precinct Design Guidelines? Have we missed anything?
- What do you think of the Open Space Design Guidelines? Have we missed anything?
- Future Civic Centre

People could also get in touch with the Council team via phone or email at knox.central@knox.vic.gov.au or send a hard copy submission to Council.

Statistics during from the engagement period from 22 May to 7 June are as follows:

- 1209 page views
- 1025 visits
- 722 visitors
- 66 submissions from 48 contributors
- 22 project new followers
- 15 feedback forms.

2.3 Information sessions

2.3.1 Businesses and landowners

To raise awareness of the project and invite the key stakeholders to learn more about the project and seek any clarifications, letters were delivered to businesses and landowners along Lewis Road adjoining the eastern boundary of the site.

The letters provided information about the project, a QR code to register and attend the information session.

Two information sessions were held with the Lewis Road businesses and owners. One session was face to face held on 15 May from 4 pm to 5pm, while the other session was online on 21 May from 10 to 12 pm. In total 3 participants attended the information session.

The pop-up at the physical information session comprised of the physical 3D model visualising the opportunities the site presents in terms of nature of development, public open spaces, green spaces and connections. Participants were also able to interact with the physical model and ask questions on the various elements on display.

2.3.2 Sports Clubs and Scouts

To present the project, respond to any clarifications and seek feedback, a separate session was held with the sports clubs and the Knoxfield District Scout Centre on the 15 May 2024. The session included a physical 3D model visualising the opportunities the site presents.

2.4 Focus group discussions

Focus group discussions were undertaken with the advisory committees involved in advising on Council programmes and initiatives. Consideration has been given to ensure that a range of cohorts have been consulted and given the space to voice their feedback and ideas.

2.4.1 Environmental Advisory Committee, 15 May 2024

Engagement activity included the following:

- presentation of the project using power point slides and the physical 3D model visualising the high-level concept
- discussion on the potential opportunities the site presents
- group activity seeking feedback from the Committee members on the draft design and open space guidelines section of the draft Land Use Plan.

2.4.2 Early Years Advisory Committee, 20 June 2024

Engagement activity included the following:

- presentation of the project using power point slides and the physical 3D model visualising the high-level concept
- discussion on the potential opportunities the site presents, especially with regard to the service needs of children
- group activity seeking feedback from the Committee members on the design consideration to enable a children centric precinct.

2.4.3 Youth Advisory Committee, 24 July 2024

Engagement activity included the following:

- presentation of the project to the Committee using the physical 3D model
- group activity seeking feedback from the Committee on how they would like to see the public space being used and what they see are their future housing needs.

2.4.4 Active Ageing Advisory Committee, 8 August 2024

Engagement activity included the following:

- presentation of the project to the Committee using the physical 3D model
- group discussion seeking feedback from the Committee on key considerations during the planning and design of the project.

2.4.5 Disability Advisory Committee, 13 August 2024

Engagement activity included the following:

- presentation of the project to the Committee using the physical 3D model
- group discussion seeking feedback from the Committee on key considerations in the planning for accessibility in the precinct.

2.4.6 Multicultural Advisory Committee, 20 August 2024

Engagement activity planned includes:

- Overview of the site and the Project using 3D physical model
- Seeking feedback and ideas from the Committee on the project, including what elements to consider in the design of public spaces that help to promote and celebrate the benefits of cultural diversity in Knox.

2. What we heard

3.1 Summary of the feedback

The engagement activities sought feedback on the following:

- the high-level 'built form' concepts in the draft Land Use Plan, access and movement, and open spaces and the natural environment
- proposed design guidelines for the Precinct and open spaces
- how public spaces could be used
- what community facilities are a priority in the Precinct
- what is important to the community through the development of the site
- community views on a community hub and future civic facilities
- ideas to achieve high quality design, amenity and environmental outcomes.

Feedback has been considered in the finalisation of the design and open space guidelines section of the draft Land Use Plan. It has been structured by themes and is summarised below:

Land use and built form

- a desire for high-quality designs and different types of housing that caters to people of all stages of life
- more affordable housing options including social housing
- development that caters for people at all stages of life
- broad support for higher-density developments in this location, with many aware of examples such as Burwood Bricks, however there were some people concerned with increased density in Knox
- development that is pedestrian friendly, walkable and pleasant
- the need to avoid wind tunnel effects
- suggestions that Council investigate opportunities for different models of housing delivery including co-housing.

Access and movement

- walking and cycling paths and better connections beyond the Precinct
- clear access to all parts of the Precinct including public open spaces
- concern about the impact of higher density on the traffic around the area
- a public transport hub for buses within or close to the precinct
- extension of the no.75 tram line from Vermont South or extension of the train line from Glen Waverley
- support for east-west pedestrian links connecting to Westfield Knox
- people of all abilities can move independently and in a safe way
- better use of existing ground level car parking; parking for residents and visitors should be accommodated within the building sites
- parking on site can accommodate sporting games and events in Lewis Park

- a quality pedestrian connection from the Precinct to Blind Creek and Lewis Park via the new pedestrian bridge.

Open space and natural environment

- spaces that are well shaded during summer
- spaces that are green and connected to the environment
- spaces that cater to the people of all ages and abilities (multigenerational)
- a mix of active and passive spaces
- spaces that are safe and can be used day and night and are multiuse spaces
- a safe environment for children to play but also supports adventurous activity
- open spaces are carefully planned to create garden settings, with an open feel, given the high-density environment in the Precinct.

Community hub and future civic facilities

- comments that the Council Office should be welcoming and accessible with preference towards its current location on Burwood Highway
- a performing arts centre
- outdoor and indoor settings for everyone
- spaces for the public to gather and enjoy activities like the plaza at Bunjil Place
- places for young people to gather
- places where families and all ages can come together and spend time in the area with entertainment and access to cafes/food.

3.2 Pop-up sessions

Responses from engagement activities at the Knox Festival, Knox Library and from ‘Knox Have Your Say’ were documented and grouped based on the six guiding principles, as presented in the design guidelines in the draft Land Use Plans. The guiding principles are:

					
<i>Enhance the community's pride and sense of place</i>	<i>Strengthen Central Precinct as a hub for community</i>	<i>Create inviting streets, open spaces and destinations</i>	<i>Expand Central Precinct's role as a mixed-use centre</i>	<i>Create development opportunities and housing options</i>	<i>Strengthen partnerships to achieve common goals</i>

3.2.1 Knox Festival

Feedback was sought from the participants on ideas to transform the Central Precinct, particularly in relation to the use of public spaces.

Participants were asked to provide any other feedback that Council should consider for the transformation of the Central Precinct.

The most popular suggestions from the participants were:

- Playground for children
- Pedestrian and cycling connectivity
- Shaded areas
- Water park and/or aquatic centre.



Figure 7: Word cloud presenting ‘Bright Ideas’ from participants for the Central Precinct

Most of the feedback that was received was for the following 3 guiding principles:

Principles	Ideas
 Strengthen Central Precinct as a hub for community	Most of the feedback was related to providing more services to serve the needs of children.
 Create inviting streets, open spaces and destinations	Common themes in the feedback included environmental sustainability, biodiversity and active transport.
 Create development opportunities and housing options	Feedback on the need for affordability housing and different types of housing.

In response to question on any other comments for Council to consider, the most common feedback was the impact of high-density development on traffic movement and parking.

3.2.2 Knox Library

Feedback was sought on the following 3 questions:

- Tell us your 'Bright ideas' to help in the transformation of the Precinct.
- How would you like to see the Public Space being used?
- How can housing meet your future needs?

The ideas most frequently provided by participants in relation to the first two questions were the following:

- Shaded areas for summer
- Need for performance arts centre / amphitheatre
- Walkable and accessibility
- Safety for residents and pedestrians
- Multifunctional and multigenerational rooms and spaces.



Figure 8: Word cloud presenting 'Bright Ideas' from participants for the Central Precinct

In relation to the question seeking feedback on future housing needs, ideas most frequently provided by participants were:

- Diversity of housing including multigenerational housing
- Affordable and social housing with infrastructure
- High-quality buildings
- High private dwellings as compared to social housing
- Need housing for downsizers
- Need more higher density housing.

Participants responses were also documented and grouped. Most of the feedback that was received was for the following 3 guiding principles:

Principles	Ideas
 Strengthen Central Precinct as a hub for community	Most of the feedback received was related to need for a performance centre for arts and cultural activities.
 Create inviting streets, open spaces and destinations	Most popular feedback was the need for shaded areas, safety for all and accessibility.
 Create development opportunities and housing options	Feedback on the need for affordability housing and different types of housing.

In response to any other comments for Council to consider, most common feedback included:

- Impact of high-density development on traffic movement and parking
- absence of fast connection to train station.

3.3 'Knox Have Your Say'

Participants were asked to write their 'Bright Ideas' to help in the transformation of the Precinct. Visitors had the option to 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down' the idea.

List of all ideas is included in the Appendix.

Table 3: List of ideas that received most 'thumbs up'

30 May, 2024 PS says: "A underground extension from Glen Waverley rail line that connects Knox City to rest of the Melbourne's rail network." 33 0	22 May, 2024 LFord says: "Plant big trees and gardens around every high density building, like the most enlightened European countries do, to maintain nature" 16 0	24 May, 2024 BoredYouth says: "Youth areas that aren't just skating related - think ninja course, larger climbing frames etc" 15 0
28 May, 2024 Cam says: "Create a slum with high density housing owned by overseas investors. Or perhaps tell us how this will be avoided with 5000 residents." 15 1	31 May, 2024 Vishal says: "Connectivity is a big issue in Knox. The tram line 75 currently finishes till Vermont South. It would be very helpful if it comes till Knox " 15 0	5 June, 2024 GoKnox says: "This is a great place for high density living. Must be paired with advocacy for better public transport to reduce car dependence." 15 3
22 May, 2024 RayStephens says: "Harmonise any plan with biodiversity making the area supportive of the Platypus once found in Blind creek (in the 1990s)." 13 0	23 May, 2024 JD says: "Outdoor spaces designed for young people (who don't just like basketball/skate parks) with large net swings,shelter,seating & good lighting" 12 0	23 May, 2024 Concerned says: "Aesthetically pleasing buildings, not the dog boxes currently popping up all over Knox. " 12 0

Table 4: List of ideas that received most 'thumbs down'

4 June, 2024 No developments says: "No development at all. Plant trees & create a proper green space not the token "backyards" in your plan." 6 15	7 June, 2024 Jocelyn says: "I am not in support of such high density living in small areas in the suburban landscapes such as ours." 2 11	7 June, 2024 BJ says: "High density (3000-5000 residents) will bring complex social issues to already high crime in Wantirna/Knox. Think before planning!" 3 11
7 June, 2024 Knox Original says: "Along creek have a set up like the arboretum but add a boardwalk and cafe. Also another single level retirement village like Selford Park." 1 10	7 June, 2024 Rae says: "Creating a traffic nightmare with over population of a small area. Turning Knox into another high rise nightmare" 4 8	28 May, 2024 JB says: "A caravan park to replace the one in Wantirna that the Council let be sold, Social Housing. " 0 7

Most of the feedback that was received was for the following 3 guiding principles:

Principles	Ideas
 Strengthen Central Precinct as a hub for community	Spaces and activities for children and youth
 Create inviting streets, open spaces and destinations	Public transport, connectivity and accessibility Vegetation and biodiversity Outdoor spaces.
 Create development opportunities and housing options	Housing density High-quality buildings Affordability and diversity of housing.

In response to any other comments for Council to consider, most common comment was the impact of high-density development on traffic movement and parking, and the absence of train station.

Feedback form

The following questions were listed in the feedback form:

- What do you think of the Precinct Design Guidelines? Have we missed anything?
- What do you think of the Open Space Design Guidelines? Have we missed anything?

In response to the first question on Precinct Design guidelines, some of the feedback was:

- design guidelines must be strictly upheld to avoid the precinct becoming soulless and uninviting
- Need for more consideration in providing different types of housing
- Consider effective use of car parking spaces at ground level through apartments where parking is incorporated in the building

- Consider pet friendly areas and parklands with a wetlands
- Prioritize building affordable homes
- Important for the precinct to become a vibrant community hub where people feel safe to be.

In response to the question on open space design guidelines, some of the feedback received was:

- Open space guidelines are a key to the success of the precinct
- Public open space linking the full extent of the development is critical to creating an inviting and usable space for all
- Linking all communities across Knox through open space (corridors) - e.g., able to safely transit through all parts of Knox via bike or walking
- Planting of mature trees as we don't want to have to wait 30 years for trees to grow large enough to provide canopy and housing for wildlife
- More needs to be provided for relaxation, exercise and stimulation
- Parkland with play facilities for babies through to seniors, disabled and fit folk are needed. Quiet mediation areas outside are needed too, plus car parking areas
- Large native treed area to establish green corridors for wildlife
- Lots of open space lost in the project. How are you going to make up for that?

Future Civic Centre

In response to the question of a future civic centre, comments included:

- Council Office that is welcoming and accessible, visible to the public from Burwood Highway
- Provide range of community facilities within walking distance to the precinct
- Serves as a 'destination' with markets, Council office, arts centres with easy access to restaurants
- Open and inviting promoting a sense of calm
- New public hospital
- Performing Arts Centre
- Street art
- Mental health drop-in place.

3.4 Information sessions

3.4.1 Lewis Road business and owners

The following feedback was received:

- Given the future significant increase in the population in the area, the project should consider measures to address safety and crime in the area (e.g. lighting, cameras and opportunities for informal surveillance).
- Consider use of multilevel car park with other building uses above the parking.

3.4.2 Sports Club and Scouts

The following feedback was received:

- The project to consider complementing the services provided by the sports clubs and the Knoxfield District Scout Centre at Lewis Park through better physical and visual connection.
- The project should consider better physical connection from the site to Lewis Park.
- To address the challenge of significant traffic volume during major games on the road that connects Lewis Road to the sports grounds, the following is needed to manage the volume of traffic and parking:
 - Widening of the road
 - More space for parking around the Knoxfield District Scout Centre
 - Allocate space for overflow parking during major games.
- Participants discussed potential impact from the future development of the site, which is expected to increase population. They were:
 - Concerned that with the increases in the number of people living on the site, there will be increase in memberships and much higher number of visitations, resulting in more vehicular traffic.
 - There is a need to cater for future increase in both vehicular and active transport connections to the Lewis Park area.
 - Need road infrastructure to be able to accommodate more motor vehicles and parking.

3.5 Focus group discussions

3.4.1 Environmental Advisory Committee

At the meeting with the Environmental Advisory Committee, feedback was sought on the draft design and open space guidelines for the project. Summary of the feedback received from the Environmental Advisory Committee on the guidelines was:

- Consider quality pedestrian connections and access to the Blind Creek
- Provide linear links between important remnant vegetation with the Blind Creek
- Provide good building setback for taller development sites
- Consider canopy cover, sense of safety and being a welcoming place as one of the key design principles
- Consider the impacts of wind tunnel effects during planning of the precinct
- Minimise overshadowing on adjacent properties and public open space
- Be clear about what solar access means (is it about electricity generation or natural lighting)
- Consider maximising energy generation through solar access to buildings and public spaces
- Consider accessibility for old people who are no longer able to drive to facilities
- Explain what WSUD (water sensitive urban design) is and how it will be applied
- Habitat connections are also very important to get right
- New plantings to contain local provenance.

3.4.2 Early Years Advisory Committee

At the meeting with the Early Years Advisory Committee, feedback was sought through an activity seeking members input on the design requirements that the project should consider for children.

Feedback on design requirements for the project was:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Pedestrian priority places | • Bee houses |
| • Outdoor and safe environment for children | • Playstreets |
| • Accessibility for all children | • Safe places to play |
| • Wild spaces | • Fenced playground |
| • Supported playable spaces | • Public toilets with changing facility |
| • Community gardens | • Catering for disability |
| • Family spaces for meetings | • High density living with no backyard where people can meet and congregate |
| • Intergeneration spaces | • Rock play |
| • Playful encounters | • Green walls |
| | • Play cafes. |

3.4.3 Youth Advisory Committee

At the meeting with the Youth Advisory Committee, feedback was sought on how they would use the public space and what they see their future housing needs are.

Summary of the feedback on the future uses of public spaces was:

- Leisure and active recreation facilities - youth gyms, indoor and outdoor facilities
- Youth sexual and general health information & education
- Art spaces – art galleries, local and established artists
- Study cafes, places to study collaboratively
- Nature spaces, parks, dog parks, increased environment and wildlife awareness and education
- Water plays and fountain spaces
- Art infrastructure and classes – local kiln for pottery, tag walls, borrowing tools/equipment, 3D printers
- Community market space
- Busking spaces for activation
- Sheltered spaces for recreation and dining
- Recreational sports facilities – basketball courts
- Lively spaces through lighting on trees, main cycling and walking paths
- Spaces for use by students
- Open spaces to sit, relax, have coffee, sketch, work and get inspired
- Benches and seating areas with views of Lewis Park and Blind Creek
- Activities for activation of public spaces – food trucks, market, small businesses, thrift shops
- Organise schools to visit public spaces to help in activation (e.g. WA/NSW – every 3 weeks they invite schools to the public spaces).

Summary of the feedback on the housing needs of the community was:

- affordable housing
- housing with a common room and link to plants
- proximity (10 min walk maximum) to amenities
- quality and liveable house space
- apartments built for older people and people with disabilities
- properly insulated
- apartments to have swimming pools that are well maintained
- different types of housing and apartments
- housing to include playgrounds for small and older kids
- feeling of the residential precinct like a retirement village for all demographics
- community green houses
- housing to have green spaces and community gardens
- Intergenerational housing – detached granny flat to take care for parents
- varying house sizes, studios, family size apartment and detached granny flats
- pet infrastructure – cat enclosed spaces, dog parks, waste bins
- solar panels and water tanks
- roof top garden
- car parking outside rather than cramped
- environmentally friendly (e.g. plants, vines etc.)
- accessible with safe pathways that are wide enough for strollers and wheelchair
- outdoor movies
- space for community activities – elderly people, organize cooking night,
- shuttle buses through the precinct and to other major amenities.

3.4.4 Active Ageing Advisory Committee

At the meeting with the Active Ageing Advisory Committee, feedback was sought on key considerations for the Central Precinct.

Summary of the feedback was.

- Need for the tram line to be extended to meet the needs of the growing population.
- Improving bus services would also be beneficial
- Minimise the loss of open spaces in the building design process
- Consider the usability of open space throughout the year, that is weatherproof and provides opportunity for indoor play like chess and mahjong.
- Need for a shared structure around open space that is built to a waterproof sail standard
- Apartments are attractive for people interested to downsize but stay in the area
- Consider spaces that allow for intergenerational interaction
- Car parking on streets is a challenge and with more families moving in this would be further exacerbated
- Understand the market for different housing types
- Consider universal design principles and lifecycle of building materials to be environmentally sustainable.
- Important to consider housing needs of the community as opposed to the most financially viable housing types for development industry.

3.4.5 Disability Advisory Committee

At the meeting with the Disability Advisory Committee, the following feedback was provided on the project:

- Important to consider housing that enables people on wheelchair to live and move through their residence without restrictions
- Access throughout the Precinct for people with all abilities is important for their inclusion
- Important to consider sensory garden/parks and accessible green spaces
- Good and safe access to public transport is important.

3.4.6 Multicultural Advisory Committee

At the meeting with the Multicultural Advisory Committee, feedback was sought on the project, including what elements to consider in the design of public spaces that help to promote and celebrate the benefits of cultural diversity in Knox. The following feedback was received:

- Roads should be wide enough for public parking and emergency services access (CFA, Ambulance).
- Long-term rental options should be considered to support multicultural community members facing housing challenges.
- Multiple indoor and outdoor community hubs would benefit both future Central Precinct residents and the broader community.
- The committee emphasized the importance of protecting green spaces and nature reserves.

3. Next Steps

Thank you to all community members and stakeholders who have provided feedback on the draft Land Use Plan.

Feedback that was relevant to the draft Land Use Plan has served as a valuable input during the review of the design guidelines and open space guidelines section of the Plan.

Feedback that was indirectly relevant to the project but not specifically to the draft Land Use Plan has been documented as an input for the next stage of the project.

To stay up to date with project updates and to view the final Land Use Plan once it has been completed, please visit “Knox Have Your Say”.

Appendix

1. 'Knox Have Your Say'

Table 5: List of all Bright Ideas on the future transformation of the Precinct

7 June, 2024 Rae says: "Creating a traffic nightmare with over population of a small area. Turning Knox into another high rise nightmare" 👍 4 👎 8	7 June, 2024 Jocelyn says: "I am not in support of such high density living in small areas in the suburban landscapes such as ours." 👍 2 👎 11	7 June, 2024 BJ says: "High density (3000-5000 residents) will bring complex social issues to already high crime in Wantirna/Knox. Think before planning!" 👍 3 👎 11
7 June, 2024 Andrea says: "More affordable homes for single women and single parents. More lights in dark areas. New Scout halls or upgrade to existing ones" 👍 4 👎 0	7 June, 2024 Knox Original says: "Along creek have a set up like the arboretum but add a boardwalk and cafe. Also another single level retirement village like Selford Park." 👍 1 👎 10	6 June, 2024 Sgerk says: "Go big! Go tall and go bold, high density living next to a major shopping strip would be amazing, reinvigorate the area. Dog park a must! " 👍 4 👎 2
6 June, 2024 AQ says: "A full sized theatre. Knox has no full scale theatre for local community groups and dance school to use. " 👍 9 👎 0	5 June, 2024 Marilyn H says: "2 parking spaces per home. Good size balconies for BBQs. Community gardens. Sound proof homes. Extra street parking. No OS investors." 👍 6 👎 1	5 June, 2024 Sam says: "A theatre and community space similar to Whitehorse's 'The Round'. The only theatre in the area is tiny - much too small for our Knox school" 👍 6 👎 0
5 June, 2024 GoKnox says: "This is a great place for high density living. Must be paired with advocacy for better public transport to reduce car dependence." 👍 15 👎 4	4 June, 2024 Raymond says: "Don't cut down any trees!! Consider the environment, especially the proximity to the creek. Greater green boundary for creek." 👍 7 👎 0	4 June, 2024 No developments says: "No development at all. Plant trees & create a proper green space not the token "backyards" in your plan." 👍 6 👎 15

4 June, 2024 DA says: "Consider traffic volume at peak times. Outdoor paths well lit for safety of runners. Too high density. " 👍 0 👎 2	4 June, 2024 Sara says: "So much new housing, lots of cars, consider traffic flow in and out to ensure local roads are not clogged, public transport improved" 👍 7 👎 0	3 June, 2024 WH says: "High level of eco friendliness. Good public transport links to Knox- might be close but mobility, aging population, reduce reliability cars" 👍 9 👎 0
3 June, 2024 WH says: "Public housing to some degree. Not just a token." 👍 2 👎 0	3 June, 2024 Wendy says: "As much green space as possible. Especially surrounding any housing - so many concrete front yards now!" 👍 8 👎 0	3 June, 2024 Cam says: "Entertainment precinct. Performance theatre - Art gallery - Live music venue. " 👍 5 👎 1
3 June, 2024 Concerned says: "No increase in council charges to accommodate extra pressure on council facilities eg waste. " 👍 3 👎 1	3 June, 2024 Concerned says: "Proper access for emergency vehicles and rubbish trucks." 👍 3 👎 0	2 June, 2024 Rob says: "Car-free precinct like Paris urban design. Neo-trad buildings & tree-lined boulevards. Bike tracks. High frequency shuttle bus to Westfield" 👍 5 👎 1
2 June, 2024 Joanne Bartlett says: "Nice to have parks for all to use. But what about the road side grass stripes of overgrown bushes and long grass. Focus on this first!!!!" 👍 1 👎 1	31 May, 2024 PGupta says: "Build educational experience hub for young people. Eg: Like scienceworks or art/ culture space for students of so many schools in the area." 👍 3 👎 0	31 May, 2024 Pranee says: "An affordable housing for people who must live here, must not for an investor. Solar and water tank for all. Extend tram line to Knox city" 👍 7 👎 2
31 May, 2024 Dianne says: "Knox has plans for 4 more "not-so-mini suburbs". Do we need more? Have open space and bushland instead. Better for all on the planet." 👍 4 👎 0	31 May, 2024 Vishal says: "Connectivity is a big issue in Knox. The tram line 75 currently finishes till Vermont South. It would be very helpful if it comes till Knox " 👍 15 👎 0	31 May, 2024 MCostello says: "Don't waste space on open carpark (excl. handicapped or elderly). Incorporate any public parking into all buildings. Preference walk/cycle" 👍 3 👎 0

30 May, 2024 PS says: "A underground extension from Glen Waverley rail line that connects Knox City to rest of the Melbourne's rail network." 👍 33 👎 0	30 May, 2024 Emmy says: "A wetlands and planting of native trees. We are losing too much greenery in Knox and, consequently, our wildlife will sadly disappear. " 👍 9 👎 0	30 May, 2024 Emily says: "A wetlands and planting of native trees. We are losing too much greenery in Knox and, consequently, our wildlife will sadly disappear. " 👍 7 👎 0
29 May, 2024 Steve says: "We need a aquatic centre that rivals Aquanation. Green space with water play facilities like those in the Yarra Valley would be great also. " 👍 5 👎 0	29 May, 2024 AK says: "Expand planning works to include redevelopment of Lewis Park reserve. This will add connectivity and open space access to the development" 👍 1 👎 1	29 May, 2024 TEO says: "who will pay for this Lewis redevelopment? RATE PAYERS ONCE AGAIN AS THE OFFENSIVE VICTORIAN BASKETBALL COMPLEX AT GEORGE ST? NO WAY " 👍 4 👎 1
29 May, 2024 Shirl says: "Limit number of people well below 5k or did we not learn anything from covid lockdowns. Outside gym for adults and accessibility. Water." 👍 1 👎 2	28 May, 2024 JB says: "A caravan park to replace the one in Wantirna that the Council let be sold, Social Housing. " 👍 0 👎 7	28 May, 2024 Cam says: "copy CERES in East Brunswick - community garden and farm - just add a live music entertainment area" 👍 4 👎 0
28 May, 2024 Cam says: "Create a slum with high density housing owned by overseas investors. Or perhaps tell us how this will be avoided with 5000 residents." 👍 15 👎 1	28 May, 2024 Dianne says: "No digging for basement parking. No retail. Solar and water tanks for all. Trees on nature strips. Parking spaces available for all. " 👍 2 👎 0	28 May, 2024 Dianne says: "Native bush area with high tree canopies so wildlife can move between green spaces. Involve Environment groups. No high rise along BlindCrk " 👍 8 👎 0
28 May, 2024 Doug says: "A multi facility shopping centre. I am 83 y.o. and no longer drive a car, so no visits to Aldi, Bunnings, Spotlight, or Officeworks" 👍 5 👎 0	28 May, 2024 Mark says: "Aqautic Centre for the Community including Cafe and Gym and Water Slide - Indoor and Outdoor Pools " 👍 5 👎 1	28 May, 2024 Pramod Paul says: "Allocate space for greenhouse gardens, so residents can come and cultivate vegetables. Allocate space for organic chicken farms " 👍 1 👎 4

28 May, 2024 Jyo says: "Walking spaces for all, kids activity (discounted) areas like the parks equipped with agility,swimming facilities for women " 👍 2 🗨️ 0	28 May, 2024 Emily says: "Social and community housing that's also accessible to key workers like nurses, childcare,aged and disability workers. A community hub too." 👍 3 🗨️ 1	28 May, 2024 Jacqueline says: "Walking and cycling paths that all lead to and from the Blind Creek Trail. Areas for people who don't live there to enjoy." 👍 4 🗨️ 0
24 May, 2024 BoredYouth says: "Youth areas that aren't just skating related - think ninja course, larger climbing frames etc" 👍 16 🗨️ 0	24 May, 2024 BoredKids says: "A children's water play playground. The ones in Maroondah/ Yarra Valley are fantastic and Knox is sorely lacking." 👍 9 🗨️ 0	24 May, 2024 Tuna01 says: "green space multiple parking areas interconnecting walking paths dog off lead area nature play space viewing areas seating/tables" 👍 8 🗨️ 0
24 May, 2024 Hannah says: "Affordable housing and an all abilities park that supports the environment would be great." 👍 9 🗨️ 0	23 May, 2024 Concerned says: "Should be affordable homes otherwise playing straight into the hands of investors. Remember, it is about housing not profit." 👍 11 🗨️ 0	23 May, 2024 Concerned says: "Preference should be given to buyers who are going to live in the home, not investors. " 👍 9 🗨️ 0
23 May, 2024 Concerned says: "Want Good design both inside and outside, not cramped. Check builder credentials. Want well built not shoddy poor quality." 👍 12 🗨️ 0	23 May, 2024 Concerned says: "Aesthetically pleasing buildings, not the dog boxes currently popping up all over Knox. " 👍 12 🗨️ 0	23 May, 2024 Concerned says: "No digging for basement carparking etc. Plenty of apartments should have 2 parking spaces to avoid clogging streets.No stacker carparks." 👍 5 🗨️ 0
23 May, 2024 JD says: "Green roofs and walls on each building please" 👍 2 🗨️ 0	23 May, 2024 Lewis says: "Free parking please as Westfield has ruined the option to spend a long time at the library/community hub by charging for parking" 👍 1 🗨️ 0	23 May, 2024 JD says: "Outdoor spaces designed for young people (who don't just like basketball/skate parks) with large net swings,shelter,seating & good lighting" 👍 12 🗨️ 0

23 May, 2024 JD says: "Please consider limiting to housing and recreation. More retail/commercial isn't needed when there are so many empty buildings locally." 7 0	22 May, 2024 CH says: "A place which is a combination of: - indoor pool - outdoor pool - canopy climbing facility - pizzerias/caffees/etc." 4 0	22 May, 2024 Linda says: "Incorporate a co-housing project component with build to rent, affordable housing and market price homes. 3D printed buildings too." 4 2
22 May, 2024 Josh says: "An outdoor rock climbing / bouldering space similar to the Burnley Bouldering Wall (https://maps.app.goo.gl/SJDABzGY5iAnnESm7)" 7 0	22 May, 2024 LFord says: "Plant big trees and gardens around every high density building, like the most enlightened European countries do, to maintain nature" 17 0	22 May, 2024 Ash_N says: "Limit it to eco-friendly high density apartments. Area is already well serviced by Westfield and no immediate housing to be overshadowed." 2 0
22 May, 2024 RayStephens says: "Harmonise any plan with biodiversity making the area supportive of the Platypus once found in Blind creek (in the 1990s)." 14 0	19 May, 2024 Brett says: "An entry/exit to Knox for local residents via Bridgewood Ct. Will reduce main Rd traffic & travel time by avoiding multiple sets of lights." 3 0	

2. Knox Library

Figure 9: Bright Ideas expressed by participants during the pop-up engagement at the Knox Library

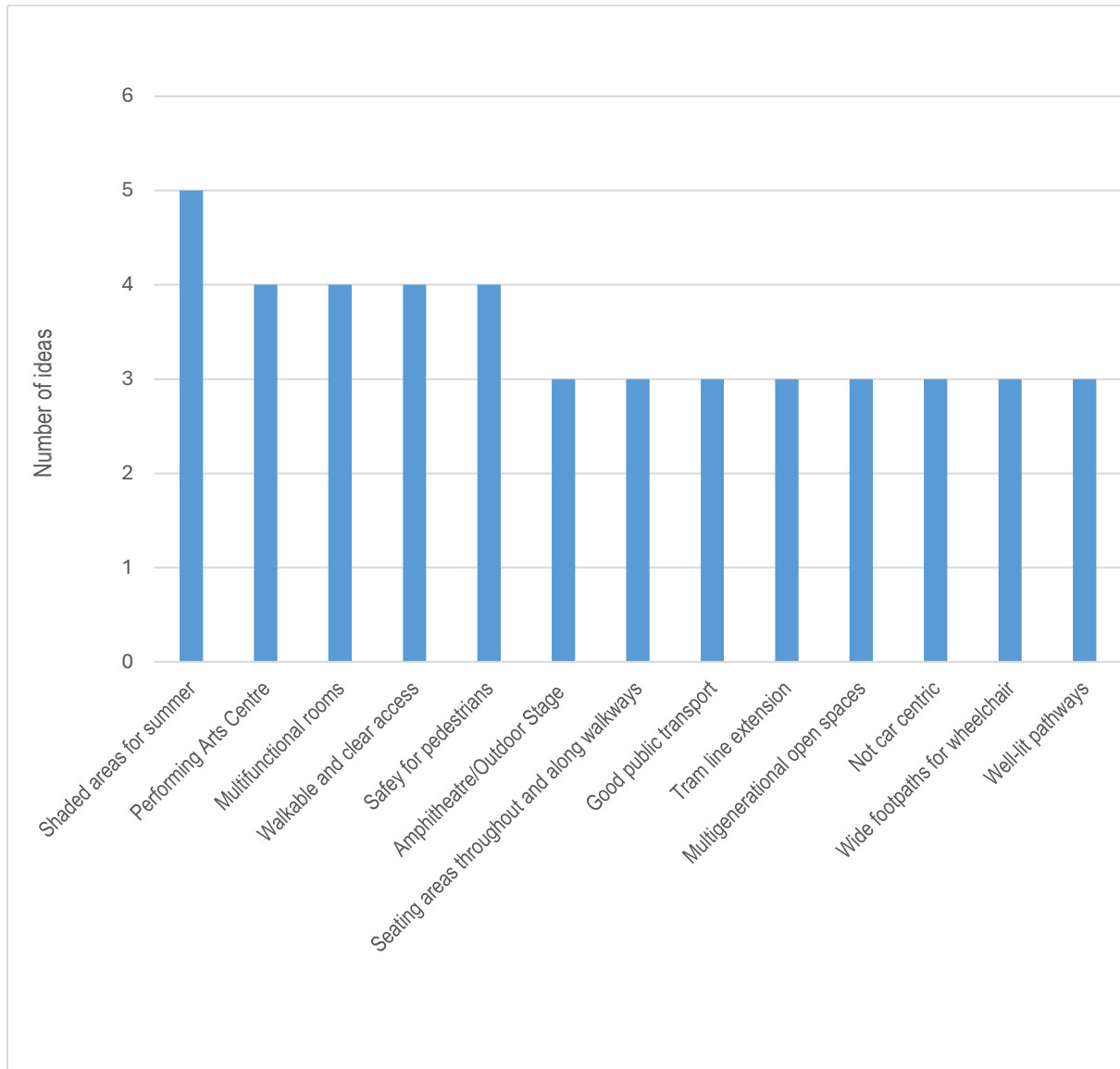
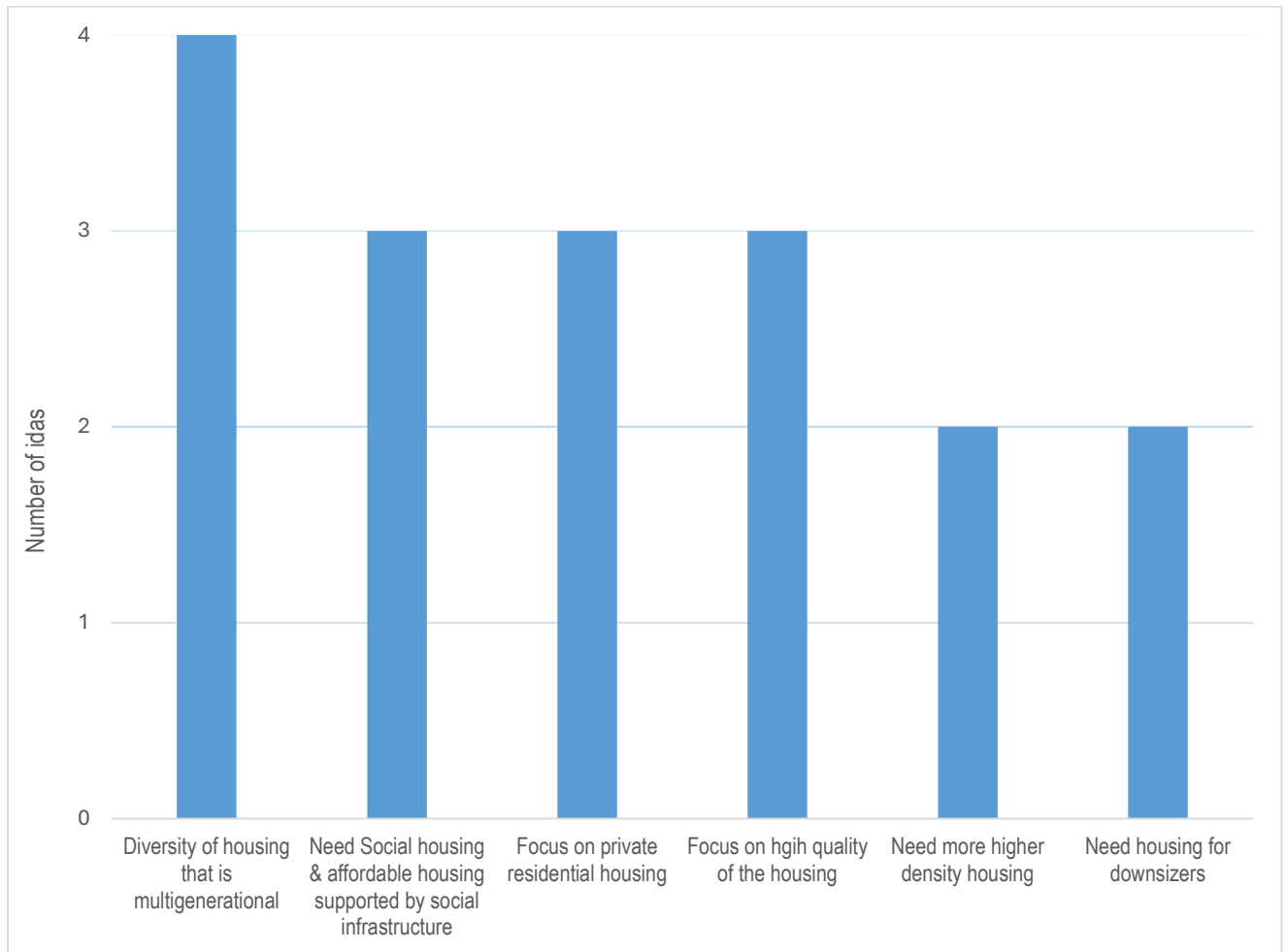


Figure 10: Ideas expressed by participants on the future housing needs during the pop-up engagement at the Knox Library



3. Knox Festival

Participants were asked to have their say through Lego® play build activity. Prompts during the activity included:

- What would you like to see in the public spaces (area between the buildings)?
- What did you wish this area should have, or missing?

Table 6 presents what the participants built through Lego® play, why they built and what was the fun part.

Table 6: Lego® Builds

Lego® build	What was the fun part and why it was build
Basketball court	Found the build very interactive
Beach chairs	We need spaces for people to do art.
Gym in the park	
Hangout places	
Slide and adventure park	Slides
Arts facilities, artist studios	There is a gap in this type of activities
Picnic areas, playground and BBQ facilities	Helpful for activation
Spaces to hire for parties.	Shortage of places for parties
Places to play sports and do physical activity	
Pathways	Important for connections to open spaces Sustainability and passive housing is good for next generation
Park with sitting area and play spaces.	Opportunity for everyone can sit down or rest or play
Wetlands, creating cycling/walking and running paths	Making walking/cycling and running paths to enhance the quality of the area

Table 7 presents the participants feedback on how to make the public space inviting.

Table 7: Elements to make the public space inviting

Key elements for consideration in public spaces/realm	Frequency (no. of times this element was discussed, and/or raised)
Play spaces and equipment	2
Tram extension	1
Free access to community facilities	1
Outdoor/Indoor Pool/Water Park	3
Playground for children	4
Rock climbing/Obstacle course/Adventure Park	2
Easy access from Westfield SC to playgrounds	2
Accessible space	1
Boardwalk	1
Biodiversity to attract wildlife	2
Cafes in the area	2
Nature based play	2
Access to basketball court	1
Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity	4
Community hub	2
Theatre	1
Shaded areas	3
Enhance views of Mt. Dandenong	1

Source: Feedback forms (N=44).