

N2021 AGM NEWSTEAD COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

The engagement and data collection phase of the 'Our Town, Our Say' ends on Sunday March 3, the community planning day (NCC, 11am-3pm). Results and feedback to date will be presented, further ideas and an affirmation of responses and content for the plan sought.

Since the project began in November, over 150 people have been involved. Several engagement methods have attempted to draw input from right across the community. The Planning Day will provide another opportunity to connect our diverse community and invite their involvement. (We still need a few facilitators/scribes and help to set up on/before the day. As well, help to directly invite locals along.)

Engagement Activities:

- Newstead Echo Inserts x 2
- Christmas Postcard and Tree at RTC
- Community Events - Rotunda Market, CFA Open Day, Produce Exchange, Newstead Live! School Fair, etc
- Talking Points kit - focus groups - carers, Green Gully fireguard, farmers, businesses, newcomers, artists
- Website and social media - website/blog (1158 hits), social media (Ros and Dave) Facebook (78 'likes') and number of comments, twitter used to direct to Facebook and website
- Survey - on line using "poll daddy"
- RTC pocket gallery display and tree
- Primary School (Karly, Dave, Geoff) - postcards and involvement in planning day
- Presence at RTC 4 hours/week - unsolicited visits and appts
- Individual interviews
- Roving Blackboards (Produce Exchange, Pool, Fair)
- Newstead General Knowledge Quiz
- Direct Personal Invite to the Planning Day

Effort has been made to engage the community using a variety of approaches. Personal contact has been the most effective. A huge number of responses - across all the activities - fall into general areas or themes: open spaces, community infrastructure, local economy, community access and services, community life. The recent Arts/Station funding submission and "movement at the station" has also been a direct result of the planning process.

Whilst there has been some ambivalence to community planning (Why are we doing this again? What's the point? What difference will it make? What real influence will we have with MAS?), everyone has/had positive things to say about Newstead! Newstead people have a love for their town and its people - great common point to start working on any plan!

Thanks to RTC, Michael Redden, John and Jenny at the PO and N2021 members who have supported the project.

Janet Barker 26/2/13