



Permission Statement

A summary report of the Pre-Challenge Task submissions will be prepared and distributed to the sector as a resource after the Management Challenge. Any material which is copied or quoted from the task will be attributed as ideas or opinions of team members, but may not represent those of their councils. Pre-Challenge Task videos may also be used at sector events and as an online resource.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Executive
From: Alexandrina Steam LGMPSA Challenge Team
Date: 28 February 2017
Re: Pre-Challenge Task 2017

Purpose

To obtain community feedback on a service, project or issue.

Method

Initially, Challenge Team members met to discuss potential ideas on services, projects or issues that could be considered for community feedback. The team arranged to attend the Executive Management Meeting on 10 January 2017 to share our ideas and explore ideas the Executive had to offer. The Executive felt the Goolwa Skate Park was a very real, current issue and that the challenge task may reveal some interim solutions until the park possibly relocates in a few years' time.

The team developed a community communication and consultation strategy in accordance with IAP2 which is part of Councils Public Consultation Procedure. Our proposal was to hold a Pop Up Event at the skate park on Sunday 29 January from 2-4pm with a free sausage sizzle. Formal Executive approval was granted for the team to represent Council at this event.

Brainstorming sessions identified stakeholders who may have an interest in the skate park including the local Schools, local Police, Elected Members, Youth Development Advisory Committee, Youth Development Officer and other council staff. Invitations to attend the event were sent via letter/email and phone to all stakeholders. An invitation letter drop was undertaken by a Community Safety Officer to nearby residents. Councils Facebook page was used to promote the event. A survey developed by team members was uploaded onto "MySay" (Councils online consultation hub) for the period between 24 January 2017 and 03 February 2017.

Team members hosted The Pop up event which was attended by approximately thirty community members, the Mayor and a local Police Officer. The data from thirty-four manual surveys collected that day was entered into the MySay platform providing centralised analysis and reporting. Community members were reluctant to speak on camera at his event however, everyone enjoyed the free sausages especially the children. Stakeholders interested in participating in a skate park volunteer group were identified from the survey results and invited to participate in further interviews. Some of these interviews have been videoed and included as part of a presentation of community feedback on the Goolwa Skate Park.

Team members also attended the Nature Play SA Event at Bristow Smith Reserve on Tuesday 24th of January where a pump track had been temporarily installed for the school holidays. This capitalised on the strong skating community presence on the day leading to many contact opportunities. The event was attended by over 1200 people.

Analysis

As a result of the consultation process, 165 people viewed the Goolwa Skate Park MySay page on 534 occasions during the consultation period. A total of 87 surveys were completed and five video interviews were captured. A post on the Council Facebook page created passionate discussion within the community and reached 6740 people.

As a comparison, the Bristow Smith Foreshore Master Plan MySay page received 71 online responses and the Goolwa Beach Car Park and Environs Draft Concept Plan MySay page received 56 online responses. Comparing these different consultations indicated that members of our community were very keen and motivated to engage with Council concerning issues and opportunities at the Goolwa Skate Park.

Analysis of the survey report shows that the majority of responses were made by parents of skate park patrons.

Comments describing the positive aspects of the skate park were predominately about enabling children to have a facility where they could get outdoors and be active. The structure of the park was highlighted as being excellent as it suits all ages and caters for both beginners and advanced skaters. A number of respondents stated they travel to Goolwa specifically to use this park for those reasons.

Graffiti was identified as the main issue of concern followed closely by anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering. The main reasons for these issues were attributed to the location of the skate park, lack of amenities, lighting and security. There were suggestions that the park should be re-located to somewhere more visible such as Bristow-Smith Reserve due to safety concerns with the skate park being out of general public view. Many positive comments were made on the success of the temporary pump track installed at the Bristow Smith Reserve to back up this particular viewpoint. Examples of Strathalbyn, Victor Harbor and other major towns/cities were given as their skate parks are located on main roads.

In discussions with parents at the Pop Up Event it became evident that these parents felt their children would be safer if the park was in a more open, accessible and public location. They indicated that if relocation was not possible then improved supervision or security cameras should be considered in addressing their concerns. This has been done in other parks to resolve similar issues. The general appeal of the park was another issue consistently raised both verbally and through the survey responses. The surrounding grass is deemed ordinary and there is no shaded seating for parents to sit and watch their children or for patrons to rest in between skates. The lack of toilet facilities is a significant issue with the nearest public toilets over 1km away. A lack of rubbish/recycling bins closer to the structure of the park was also a common concern.

It was generally considered that the application of a permanent dry zone over the area would only be successful if policed adequately. However, most respondents were in favour of this regardless.

The community indicated that the value of any skate park was in the opportunity it provided to promote healthy, physical, outdoor activity while providing a sense of place for our youth. This was generally seen as very important in supporting the young people in our communities. A number of comments were made that graffiti is part of the skating culture therefore painting the skate park with street art was considered to be beneficial in deterring the ugly tagging that is currently occurring at the site. The Goolwa Police have offered to liaise with the Council's Information Technology department regarding installation of a camera in the area.

The majority of respondents agreed that forming a "Friends of the Skate Park" volunteer group would be beneficial in addressing the identified issues at the skate park. As a major successful outcome of the consultation process, 18 residents expressed an interest in being part of a Goolwa Skate Park Volunteer Group.

Recommendations

Upon analysis of the information received from the surveys and video interviews the challenge team recommends the following actions as achievable short term solutions to the communities identified issues at the Goolwa Skate Park.

1. The Alexandrina Steam team attend the Executive Meeting to be held on Monday 27 March 2017, to present the My Say community consultation survey report and view the YouTube presentation video located at <https://youtu.be/yWyQEK2kK1A>
2. That Council facilitates a meeting by inviting the eighteen interested volunteers identified in the consultation process to discuss the formation of a "Friends of the Goolwa Skate Park Committee".
3. That Council investigate the viability of commissioning a street artist to beautify the structure of the skate park.
4. That Council consider options for improving the landscaping of the grassed area in front the skate park and the addition of a shaded seating area.
5. That Council investigate the reasons for the removal of the original public toilet at the site and consider reinstallation of an appropriate public toilet suited to the location and patron demographic.
6. That Council liaise with the Goolwa police in regard to the appropriate installation of a security camera at the Goolwa Skate Park.
7. That approval be granted for the Alexandrina Steam Team to develop an operational plan with the guidance of a Council Officer with delegated authority to oversee the Goolwa Skate Park.
8. That Council report back to the community on the outcomes of this community consultation exercise.