
MONTVILLE FUTURES WORKSHOP RESULTS SUMMARY

Montville Village Association

31 March 2019



Montville Village Association

COMMUNITY PLANNING | COMMUNITY GATHERING

Montville Futures Workshop - Results Summary

The Montville Futures Workshop held on the 31st March was well attended by 57 residents for the Montville Flaxton, Balmoral Ridge and Hunchy area. The workshop consulted with the community members to establish an understanding of the issues facing the future of Montville and the surrounding area and to provide direction for future community action. The workshop focused on six themes established in consultation with the Montville Futures Reference Group and 20 interviews with residents and community groups.

Workshop Themes

1. Population
2. Planning
3. Infrastructure
4. Economic Development
5. Environment and Sustainability
6. Arts and Culture

The workshop addressed each of these themes by considering the following questions,

1. What are the issues that you experience living in and around Montville? What issues do you think you will face in the future?
2. What would you like to see happen in the Montville Area in the future?
3. What actions can we as a community take to make this happen?

In addition to these questions, children and youth had an opportunity to discuss what they liked about living in Montville and what they wanted for Montville's future. Participants also had the opportunity to contribute comments and suggestions that were not considered in the tabled discussions of each theme. Participants were then asked to identify the most important future actions we can take as a community.

The following document summarises the outcomes of this process and will inform the development of a strategic plan to guide the future direction of the Montville Village Association.

What are the issues that you experience living in and around Montville ?

Population

- Like the **current character** of Montville
- **Not enough appropriate housing** options for older people
- **Need better infrastructure** to serve current and future population – NBN, sewerage
- **Need improve accessibility and public transport** for older and younger community
- **Most housing and land are not affordable** for younger people and families

Planning

- **Provision of services/facilities**
 - Need for dedicated Ambulance and paramedic for the Range
 - Improved medical facility access
 - Accommodation that caters for residents at all stages of their life
 - Lack of small-scale self-contained accommodation suitable for older community members
 - Lack of affordable accommodation suitable for older single women or single parents (people forced to leave community, schools, and support networks when life circumstances change)
 - Lack of youth/ children's facilities and activities e.g. open-air gym in park
 - Lack of diversity of aged care service providers
- **Community Engagement** – planning should reflect community concerns
 - Lack of communication to ensure public is aware of planning changes/decisions
- **Planning Scheme**
 - Planning decisions should comply with the planning scheme
 - Council should not exclude community concerns from planning decision
 - Under pressure from population increase.
- **Tourism**
 - Increase in population and tourism numbers puts pressure on parking and infrastructure
 - Need designated accommodation zone (Party houses and Air BNB negative impact on residents)
- **Land and Subdivision**
 - Current planning scheme prevents subdivision of rural land – some concern that people not allowed to live on 1-2.5 acres or subdivide for family members
 - Concern about loss of farming land for subdivision
- **Specific Development Concerns**
 - Altitude – approval
 - Retirement/ aged care facility – impact on infrastructure /environment
 - The Dome - what will happen to this site?

Infrastructure

- **Loss of the View** that Montville and Blackall Range is renowned for
 - Weeds and trees on Tourist Drive
 - Privatisation of view by buildings that interrupt view lines
- Residential and business development hindered by **lack of sewage and water infrastructure**
 - Pump out expensive and not appropriate to larger scale development
- Shopping and **Businesses do not meet the needs of locals**
- **NBN and telecommunications unreliable** and inadequate to serve current residents and businesses – residents are not happy with what is being offered with fixed wireless
- **Pathways on the range are well used**
 - but do not connect Montville, Flaxton and Mapleton in a continuous path
 - no walkway along Western Avenue
 - Verges need to be maintained regularly to maintain safe pedestrian movement
 - Streetscape needs to incorporate the northern end of Montville

Economic Development

- **NBN and Telecommunications**
 - need for reliable internet that has the capacity to meet future need
 - attract younger people and businesses
 - Federal issue
 - Phone access subject to blackouts
 - We have no emergency services so therefore not a priority for reliable consistent supply
- **Employment**
 - Need for diverse businesses
 - Increase employment opportunities (Youth)
- **Public Transport/access**
 - Issue for youth and people with disabilities
 - Need for pathways and transport alternatives e.g. ride sharing
- **Housing/Residential Accommodation**
 - Need to Increase the density of residential development in the village
 - More diverse housing required – small self-contained / semi detached retaining garden space
 - Air BNB – reducing the availability and affordability of housing options
- **Parking**
 - We have plenty but needs better signage
- **Climate Change**
 - Unknown impact on tourism and consumer spending
- Need to **reinvent Montville** as a tourism destination
 - Consumerism is dead
 - Montville lacks a point of difference – nothing unique on offer. Visitors ask why did we come here? No heart in Montville – neutralised diversity
 - Commercial rents are too high for retailers
 - Village is looking tired and ordinary – natural setting is beautiful

- Montville is dead after 3pm

Environment and Sustainability

- **Weed Control Inadequate**
 - National Parks – State Government needs to be more proactive
 - Roadsides – Council and State Government responsible for spread of weeds with inadequate roadside slashing and maintenance
 - Camphor Laurels – How do we assess the cost/benefits of plants considered environmental weeds
 - Lantana, Camphor Laurel, morning glory, madeira vine, Japanese sunflower
- **Climate Change** – Concern about the impacts and scientific evidence
 - What are we likely to experience on the Range?
- Impacts of **barbed wire and bird netting** on wildlife

Arts and Culture

- **Lack of diversity of experiences** in Montville
- **Artisan Village is not fully realised**
 - Locally made is important
 - Currently too many generic imports
- Need for more Arts and Cultural **activities for locals** as well as visitors
- Not attracting or appealing to **younger people** and families
- Use of Russell Family Park for Cultural/Arts events hindered by the **lack of all-weather** cover for the **stage**

What would you like to happen in the future?

Population

- **Maintain character of Montville**
- Manage **population increase** to be **moderate** and sustainable
- **Adequate infrastructure** to meet community needs - NBN, sewerage
- **Diverse housing options** for people at different life stages (investigate alternative models for providing appropriate housing for older people)

Planning

- **Improved service and facility provision**
 - Access to medical and ambulance service
 - Access to greater diversity of aged services
 - Small scale/ independent /multiple occupancy / clustered housing options – meet needs of older and single community members
 - Aged Care facility
 - Planning that incorporates Youth and children’s needs for healthy activity and access (outdoor gym, skate park, foot paths)
- **Improved community engagement** and communication about planning decisions
- **Planning Scheme** needs to **allow diversity of housing** types to meet community needs

Infrastructure

- **Reliable high speed NBN**
- **Affordable housing** in the Village
- **Regional art gallery / Artspace /multipurpose building** for Russell Family Park
- **Alternative power** supply – ensure reliable supply
- **Reticulated water** and **sewerage** to serve village of Montville
- Incorporate more **shade trees** into the streetscape
- More **pathways** to enhance access and interconnectivity for locals and visitors
- **Preserve and make the most of the view:** it is what people come to the Range to experience

Economic Development

- **High Speed NBN** to attract younger people and internet-based businesses
- **Re-invent Montville** as a tourism destination
 - **Experiential based tourism** rather than retail based
 - e.g. workshops and classes cater for men and women
 - accommodation to cater for groups
 - **Revival of the Artisan Village** – High quality offerings
 - Involve Art Galleries
 - Attract roving Artisans to work in Montville (Artist in residence)
 - Pop up shops

- Need to market to the demographic that is attracted to Montville
- Business offering needs diversification to provide an experience (e.g. Rick's Place, Palmwoods)
- Walking tours of Montville
- Businesses open after 3pm
- Need to provide a reason for tour operators to stop
- Attract cruise ship market/ large travel agents
- **Events**
 - Bring back the Camellia Festival
 - Open air theatre/ film night in the Russell Family Park
 - Music in the park/hall /street – jazz
 - Hidden events expertise in the community
 - Opportunities for community to come together once a week. Fun evening activities and events but events depend on people to make these happen

Environment and Sustainability

- **Value and preserve natural flora and fauna**
 - Expand land for wildlife
 - Engage with organisations e.g. Barung and Hinterland Bushlinks
- **Weed management**
 - Better managed
 - Collective – Residents, landholders, organisations (Barung Landcare, Lions club, Hinterland Bushlinks) Government (local and state)
 - Community working bees
 - Landholders paid to control weeds along roads – particularly the Blackall Range Tourist Drive
 - Sensitive removal of weeds, must fill cleared niches left with appropriate local species
 - Community better informed and educated about weeds and local flora and fauna
 - Directory of local resources and organisations
 - Information for new landholders

Arts and Culture

- **Artisan Village**
 - Diverse locally produced art and craft offering
 - People want to see artists at work
 - Create positive experience – reflect Montville's iconic image
 - Provide learning experiences
 - Lost arts/crafts event
 - Women in Art event
 - develop venues/facilities for workshops
- **Festivals and Events**
 - Provide hands on and learning experiences
 - Need a point of difference

- Well publicised
- Sponsorship or funding from business / council /government
- Provide more opportunities to experience live music (buskers/ performances)
- More use made of Montville Village Hall, Russell Family Park and Village Green
- Provide more opportunities for locals to gather and enjoy arts and cultural activities

What do Montville's youth and children like about Montville?

- Montville State School – it is a good school with great trees
- Trees in the village – shady and cool
- Old fashioned village
- Community
- Old and young people together
- Montville feels safe

What do youth and children want to see in Montville's future?

- A Skate Park (10 sticky dots)
- Carbon neutral Montville – solar power and battery storage – no more blackouts (8 sticky dots)
- Bike Tracks (3 sticky dots)
- Plant more trees (3 sticky dots)
- Better park for bigger kids (1sticky dot)
- Keep the village fun
- Recycling bins
- Water bubblers in the street
- Stop cutting down trees
- Local farms produce that produce food
- Possum crossings to stop them from being run over

Other Ideas Contributed by Community Members

Community

- Some older people
 - **Isolated** and do not want to be at home alone
 - Looking for opportunities to **participate in community**
 - **Opportunities to give** and to be **valued**
 - Prefer not to mix just with older people, to be with children and young people

Environment

- **Climate Change Impacts**
 - Economic development, changing vegetation, destabilisation
- **Prioritise big old trees** in all plans for future development

Housing

- Tiny Houses / Eco- village for aged care
- What sort of density of accommodation is appropriate?

Sport /Recreation

- Provide an area in the park for off leash dog walking in RFP
- Petanque/Boule in RFP
- “Mathon” Event (**Run** – Mapleton to Baroon Pocket, **Swim** – Across Baroon Dam, **Ride** – North Maleny side of dam – Maleny end in Montville)

Festival and Events

- Bagpipe festival
- Jazz concert
- Cycling events
- Friday evening activities at the hall
- **Weatherproof Stage RFP**
 - Weekly functions, Live Music
 - Cheap meals for families
 - Liven up sense of community

Russell Family Park

- Arts space/ Pavilion - Seek sponsorship
 - Need artist workshop space if Montville wants to be an artisan village
 - Needs to be affordable
- Water Feature – for Pond – Glass and Steel

Parking

- Business owners and staff should park in rear carpark near RFP
- Visitors drive to Maleny if they can't see a car park in the main street

Facilities

- Montville needs a bottle shop

What are the most important actions we can take as a community?

Population

Action	Priority
Establish small scale independent living accommodation in Montville	9
Improve public transport required to serve population	3
Preserve the current character of Montville	3
Build small scale retirement /aged care facilities	2
Ensure that the population increase in moderate and sustainably managed	2
Encourage younger families to move to Montville	1
Better sporting facilities	
Encourage land-sharing (happening in Northern NSW)	

Planning

Action	Priority
Changing Council regulation regarding dwelling types on land	8
Improve planning for youth activities and services	3
Light industrial zone	3
Improve medical facilities and access	1
Engage community in discussion of any planning changes	
Create designated accommodation zones	
Examine aged care options	

Infrastructure

Action	Priority
Connect the walkways to connect Montville - Flaxton - Mapleton	11
Art Gallery / Multipurpose building in Russell Family Park	9
Give tourists more reason to come to Montville (events / views)	6
Bikeways to improve cyclist road safety	4
Improve access to views of the coast	3
Restrict use of barbed wire	3
Better NBN - not happy with what is on offer	2
Improved pathways (Western avenue)	2
More shade trees in the streetscape	1
Alternative Power Supply ensure continuity of supply	1
Reticulated water supply	1
Stand-alone sewage treatment system for the area	1

Economic Development

Action	Priority
Reactivate Russell Family Park - Festival / event - weather proof the stage with cooperation of Council	13
Activate Montville after 3pm	10
Pursue the Artisan Village concept with high quality offering	9
Reinvent Montville to provide experiences, not just retail	5
Refresh the Main Street - it looks tired	3
Increase the diversity of retail offering types of businesses and people	2
Need to Campaign for high speed NBN	2
People Mover - drop people at the top of town - collect at the bottom after tourists make their way through the shops	1

Environment and Sustainability

Action	Priority
Welcome new residents - connect to the community - New Residents Information Pack	8
Better Education, particularly new residents re Weed identification	1
Improve visual amenity with strategic planting along the Range	1
Protect and maintain remnant vegetation and natural flora and fauna	
Bring in Lions club to organise or sponsor events	
Better enforcement of council regulations - weed control	
Improve communication - Directory of community organisations	
Council support for community Landcare projects	
Weekly /regular get togethers at the hall	

Arts and Culture

Action	Priority
Need to utilise the Hall and the Green for more community gatherings e.g. seasonal long table	10
Council masterplan - Russell Family Park to locate an arts space/ educational facility	7
Mobile relocatable artists workshops/ displays	5
Lost Trades Fair - Showcase skills and products - clock making, candle making, knife making etc)	5
Learn a Craft Workshops Event (container/ arts workshop space /Woodies)	4
Pavilion in Russell Family Park (weather proof)	3
Need buskers and singers in Main Street / Village Green	3
Education - contact Universities - stage open air theatre on RFP stage 1	
Carve stumps in Russell Family Park (spectator event)	
Locate empty sheds that could be used for workshops e.g. blacksmith	

Top 10 Actions

	ACTION	PRIORITY
1	Reactivate Russell Family Park - Festival / event - weather proof the stage with co-operation of Council	13
2	Connect the walkways connecting Montville - Flaxton - Mapleton	11
3	Activate Montville after 3pm	10
4	Need to utilise the Hall and the Green for more community gatherings e.g. seasonal long table	10
5	Small scale independent living accommodation in Montville	9
6	Art Gallery / Multipurpose building in Russell Family Park	9
7	Pursue the Artisan Village concept with high quality offering	9
8	Changing Council regulation regarding dwelling types on land	8
9	Welcome new residents - connect to the community - New Residents Information Pack	8
10	Council Masterplan - space in the Russell Family Park to locate an arts space/ educational facility	7

Montville Futures Project Next Steps

1. Prepare the Montville Futures Strategic Plan
2. Establish Working Groups to drive actions identified in the workshop
 - Events and Culture
 - Infrastructure
 - Planning – Housing
 - Environment and Sustainability
3. Meet with and discuss outcomes of the workshop with other community groups to explore potential projects and opportunities to cooperate
 - Montville Chamber of Commerce
 - Arts Connect
 - Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild
 - Blackall Range Care
 - Barung Landcare
 - Lions Club
4. Meet and discuss the outcomes with representatives Council and State Government

Thank you to all those people who have participated in this process your energy and enthusiasm for Montville have made this project an informative and engaging experience.

*Deb Davis
President, Montville Village Association*