

9.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.4.1 Beaufort Street Enhancement Project Progress Report No.12

Ward:	South Ward	Date:	29 August 2014
Precinct:	Mt Lawley Centre (11)	File Ref:	SC1493
Attachments:	001 – Proposed location of piazza 002 – List of submissions received 003 – Geographic distribution of submissions 004 – Available parking locations within 150m of piazza		
Tabled Items:	Nil		
Reporting Officer:	D Doy, Place Manager A Birch, A/Manager Community Development		
Responsible Officer:	J Anthony, A/Director Community Services		

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council;

1. **CONSIDERS** the three hundred and two (302) submissions received in relation to the Mary Street Piazza proposal recently advertised for public comment;
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer;
 - 2.1 to call an Expression of Interest for qualified design consultants to design the Mary Street Piazza;
 - 2.2 to seek Council's final approval of the design once submitted by the chosen qualified design consultant; and
3. **ADVISES** the local community, 'Beaufort Street Network' and business owners of its decision.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the outcome of the Mary Street Piazza trial and subsequent received public comments and to seek Council's authorisation to proceed to an Expression of Interest callout for a qualified design consultant to prepare a design for a permanent piazza space.

BACKGROUND:

Ordinary Meeting of Council	Outcome
11 September 2012	CONFIDENTIAL REPORT Beaufort Street Enhancement Working Group – Approval of Stage 2 Enhancement Works and progress Report No.5. Council approved the second stage of the Beaufort Street Enhancement Works.
18 December 2012	Beaufort Street Enhancement Working Group – Approval of additional seating and drinking fountains. Council approved the remaining funds to be used to install seating, planters and drinking fountains.
26 March 2013	Beaufort Street Enhancement Working Group – Additional Funding for Major Artwork. Council approved to fund a shortfall for the proposed Major Art Piece.
27 August 2013	LATE REPORT: Beaufort Street Enhancement – Proposed (6) Month Trial of a Filtered Drinking Water Dispenser. Council approved a six (6) month installation of a filtered drinking water dispenser.

Ordinary Meeting of Council	Outcome
19 November 2013	CONFIDENTIAL REPORT: Beaufort Street Enhancement – Major Artwork – Progress Report No.9. Council received a progress report on the Beaufort Street Major Artwork.
22 April 2014	Beaufort Street Enhancement Working Group – Progress Report No.10. Council approved the installation of twelve (12) new seats, the installation of a light structure and light boxes and approved in principle the Mary Street Piazza Public Open Space, subject to undertaking consultation with the community.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 July, it was resolved:

“That Council;

1. *NOTES the information contained in the report regarding the progress on Stage 2 and Stage 3 enhancement projects.*
2. *APPROVES*
 - 2.1 *The installation of a ‘Street Print’ design prepared by artist Roly Skender on the Beaufort Street road pavement in two locations, being; directly adjacent to the corner of Grosvenor Road and Beaufort Street and directly adjacent to the corner of St Albans Road and Beaufort Street (see Attachment 001) subject to any minor refinements required by Main Roads Western Australia;*
3. *ADVISES the Public Transport Authority and Main Roads Western Australia of its decision; and*
4. *DELEGATES authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer for any further required approval.”*

DETAILS:

Mary Street Piazza

In accordance with Council’s resolution, a temporary piazza space was constructed in the confines of the identified future Mary Street Piazza space at the southern corner of Mary Street and Beaufort Street as shown in Attachment 9.4.1 (001). The temporary space was trialled for a two (2) week period beginning Friday 25 July running through to Friday 8 August, 2014. A variety of events and performances were arranged by the City to demonstrate how the space could be utilised in the future as a permanent piazza. A large blackboard was also built to allow the community to provide ‘live’ feedback as they visited the space.

Feedback received

A summary of the submissions received is provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of submissions received

Submissions - Support	263 (87.1%)
Submissions - Object	35 (11.6%)
Submissions - Indifferent	4 (1.3%)
Total	302

Attachment 9.4.1 (002) contains a full account of the submissions received.

Attachment 9.4.1 (003) contains two (2) maps which show the distribution of submissions from the immediate local area (500m), the balance area in the City and then outside of the City’s boundaries. The distribution of submissions within 500m of the proposed Piazza is also represented in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Distribution of submissions within 500 metres of the proposed piazza

	Support	Object	Indifferent	Total
Mary Street	9	15	1	25
Chatsworth Road	10	5	1	16
Beaufort Street	18	1	-	19
Harold Street	5	2	-	7
Walcott Street	9	-	-	9
Grosvenor Road	5	-	-	5
Lincoln Street	1	-	-	1
Vincent Street	3	1	-	4
Chelmsford Road	2	-	-	2
Wright Street	4	-	-	4
William Street	1	-	-	1
Stirling Street	2	-	-	2
Harley Street	-	2	-	2
Cavendish Street	-	1	-	1
Hutt Street	2	-	-	2
Total	71	27	2	100

The total distribution of submissions is also represented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Geographic distribution of submissions

	Support	Object	Indifferent	Total
Local (500m)	71	27	2	100
Vincent (other)	72	1	-	73
Non Vincent	120	7	2	129
Total	263	35	4	302

The content of the submissions is varied. The content has been summarised below into groups in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Summary of submissions

	Concerns	Support
Movement network implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of access is inconvenient to Mary Street residents especially during the 15 minute bottleneck caused by the School pick up Two way access should be maintained (Piazza could be redesigned within car spaces) Concerns around increased car volumes on Chatsworth Road and Harold Street Loss of parking will cause parking congestion on Mary Street Concerns about increased parking demand on Chatsworth Road and Harold Street Piazza does not belong in a street Concerns about compromising legibility of the street network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Piazza will provide better conditions for the afternoon school pick up Mary Street will experience reduced traffic Mary Street will experience lower speeds Good location – edge of residential/commercial and central along the strip Loss of parking will be of little consequence, especially to those who walk or cycle The Piazza will improve walkability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns that Mary Street is not the right location for a Piazza Concerns around safety for students, parents and residents during pick up Concerns around increased vehicle volumes in laneway network 	
Economic implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns around economic impact the loss of 9 bays has on adjacent business Concerns around the ongoing costs of activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Piazza will encourage people to stay in Beaufort Street for longer Will attract more pedestrian traffic past local businesses Provide a new experience and contributes to the vibe of the area Provides a space to sit for visitors and tourists Provides a place to sit and eat when local eateries are full
Social implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Piazza will have no use or function aside from spill-over from adjacent business Concerns about increase in anti-social behaviour caused by the Piazza Concerns the Piazza is a fait accompli Design lacks flair and does not recognise Highgate environment/history Concerns about child safety in the piazza close to Beaufort Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Piazza will provide extra surveillance on the street The Piazza will be a great meeting place for the community The Piazza will be a great space for families The Piazza will be a space for general public use The Piazza will improve liveability Is consistent with the Better Beaufort Action Plan Will provide a heart for the Beaufort Street Community Could be used regularly for community events and functions Will generally improve the pedestrian experience A place for workers to sit on their lunch breaks
Environmental Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns around increase in litter Concerns around the level difference Concerns around increases in noise for residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves streetscape by adding trees and greenery

Further to the above, the submissions provide a number of considerations for the future detailed design. They include:

- The Piazza should stretch across the entire Mary Street road reserve;
- Turning circle could be installed at the eastern end of Mary Street;
- Tiered seating or benches should extend up the Piazza from Beaufort Street;
- The Piazza should be at grade with the footpath;
- Cobblestone treatment of car lane;
- Design must be prepared by a landscape architect or other relevant professional;
- Controls need to be in place to ensure the Piazza is clean and safe;

- Concerns around ongoing events management;
- Bicycle parking should be considered;
- The Piazza should move closer to the corner of Beaufort Street;
- Fencing should be considered;
- Encourage adjacent buildings to open toward Mary Street to further activate the space (remove barriers between adjacent uses and the Piazza);
- Concerns around too many permanent uses cluttering the space; and
- The Piazza should be universally accessible

This report provides a rationale for the proposed Piazza and addresses the above considerations.

Rationale for the Mary Street Piazza

Beaufort Street has evolved into one of Perth's premier destinations. Beaufort Street has a typical 'ribbon retail' urban form, which evolved as the tram line incrementally extended toward Inglewood. No provision was made for public open space during this period of growth. Traditional European town centres are formed around a public open space area, typically a plaza or piazza. This space serves as a central community meeting space and is often where events and markets are held with buildings typically enclosing this community space. Uses such as churches and town halls often front onto a piazza as well as active uses such as cafes and restaurants.

The Beaufort Street town centre lacks a heart or central community meeting space due to the historical pattern of development. The Mary Street Piazza proposal serves to address this gap.

Mary Street Piazza was identified as an ideal location for a community space by both the City and also the Beaufort Street Network in their 'Better Beaufort Action Plan'. It is centrally located in the Highgate portion of Beaufort Street and will potentially be surrounded by active uses. Mary Street is also home to Sacred Heart Primary School and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, two (2) prominent uses in the Highgate community.

Movement network implications

The surrounding street and lot layout utilises a standard grid pattern providing a permeable and legible system for pedestrians and vehicles.

The City does not own land adjacent to the Mary Street/Beaufort Street intersection, which is considered the best location for a piazza in Highgate and has therefore proposed to use a portion of the existing Mary Street road reserve for the Piazza. This results in a loss of six (6) existing car bays and the resumption of about half of the existing Mary Street road reserve for a distance of 15 metres from the Beaufort Street road reserve (the proposed Piazza space is as shown in Attachment 9.4.1 (003). As a result, Mary Street would no longer be accessed from Beaufort Street. Left out and right out access to Beaufort Street from Mary Street would remain.

During the two (2) week trial and for a period preceding the trial, traffic counters were installed in two (2) locations on Mary Street, Harold Street and Chatsworth Road to measure traffic volumes. Table 5 below outlines the volumes recorded.

Table 5 – Traffic volume comparison (Piazza/No Piazza)

Location	Average Daily Volume - Existing street conditions (pre trial 28/05/14 to 4/06/14)	Average Speed - Existing street conditions (pre trial 28/05/14 to 4/06/14)	Average Daily Volume - No access to Mary Street from Beaufort Street (during the trial 30/07/14 – 06/08/14)	Average Speed - No access to Mary Street from Beaufort Street (during the trial 30/07/14 – 06/08/14)
Mary Street – Near Beaufort Corner	1182	18.1 km/hr	571	16.8 km/hr
Mary Street – Near William Street	1290	35.1km/hr	1126	33.9 km/hr
Harold Street	704	37.9 km/hr	914	36.3 km/hr
Chatsworth Road	779	32.3 km/hr	918	31.6 km/hr

During the trial Mary Street recorded decreased traffic at the Mary/Beaufort Street corner (51.6% reduction) and near William Street (12.7%). Harold Street recorded an increase in traffic (22.9%) as did Chatsworth Street (15%) although the total traffic volumes on both of these streets is considered to be low.

The majority of concerns from the local community relate to car parking, vehicle access and traffic volumes. Many of the supporting comments speak to improved walkability and destination qualities for pedestrians. It is the opinion of the City that the proposed Piazza will impact upon the movement network in the following ways:

- Vehicle access: The loss of vehicle access to Mary Street from Beaufort Street restricts access to Mary Street to be from William Street. Drivers on Mary Street can generally be placed into three (3) categories:
 - Residents: Short term confusion is expected for residents until driver behaviour changes and new routes are established. These routes are expected to include Bulwer Street to William Street in the south and Vincent Street to William Street in the north. There will also be, as demonstrated in the traffic results, small increases on Chatsworth Road, Harold Street and Lincoln Street.
 - Visitors/Staff to Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Primary School: Short term confusion is expected for visitors/staff community by vehicle to both the church and the school until driver behaviour changes and new routes are established. The primary school has expressed support for the Piazza stating that the new configuration will assist with the afternoon pick up.
 - Business patrons: Short term confusion is expected for patrons until driver behaviour changes and new routes are established via William Street or using existing parking on or adjacent to Beaufort Street.
- Traffic volumes: As illustrated in the traffic counts, Chatsworth Road and Harold Street recorded higher traffic volumes due to the change to the movement network. These volumes however are considered to be low for a local street in an inner city area.
- Car parking: The proposed Piazza encompasses what are six (6) existing car parking bays. Concerns have been expressed by two (2) adjacent businesses fronting Beaufort Street about the economic impact the loss of these bays will have on their business, especially during weekday mornings. It is the view of the City that the loss of these six (6) bays will not impact upon the accessibility to these businesses by vehicle during weekday mornings (non peak time). As shown in Attachment 9.4.1 (004), there is ample parking available within a 150 metre walk of these businesses.
- Pedestrian accessibility/walkability: The proposed Piazza will not alter the existing pedestrian footpath network. Providing a public space on Beaufort Street, framed by active uses will enhance the walkability of the locality.

Economic implications

It is the view of the City that the proposed Piazza will have a positive impact on the local economy. Concerns have been raised by two (2) adjacent businesses on Beaufort Street about the impact the loss of six (6) car bays will have on each business.

Attachment 9.4.1 (004) illustrates the existing parking provision within 150 metres of these businesses. There is ample parking available during non-peak times in these locations. Parking reaches capacity on Thursday and Friday evenings and on weekends.

Continual improvement of walkability and destination quality of the immediate vicinity with initiatives such as the Piazza, will increase the amount of people who walk to the area rather than drive. This is likely to result in more patronage than what the six (6) removed car bays could have provided.

Social implications

Piazzas are public spaces at the intersection of important streets set aside for civic purposes and commercial activities. They should be surrounded by buildings and are usually the centre of public life. The proposed Piazza is intended to be the heart of the Highgate community and will:

- Be framed by active uses;
- Be able to hold small community events and performances; and
- Be a meeting place for local people as well as visitors.

The Piazza will provide a free public space for social interaction for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Future design considerations

Should the proposed Piazza be approved by Council, a detailed design process will be required in order to ensure the space can endure over a long period time and be flexible enough to cater for a variety of uses. Some key design considerations include:

- Sense of enclosure: the Piazza must feel like a human scaled outdoor room. The Piazza must utilise the surrounding buildings and other structures to provide a sense of enclosure;
- Continuous accessible ground floor: the Piazza should deemphasize landscaping features, other than the pavement or floor. Features other than trees and seating should be kept to a minimum;
- Plan for temporariness: the Piazza should be designed as a blank slate, leaving the curation of the space to the imagination of whomever is planning an event in the Piazza; and
- Day and night: A Piazza should be able to be used both day and night by locals. It could be a playground in the morning, welcome a concert in the afternoon, and allow for an outdoor film in the evening.

Concluding recommendation

Given the overwhelming public support for the Mary Street Piazza and the identified need for an urban open space in the Beaufort Street Town Centre it is recommended that Council authorise an Expression of Interest callout for a qualified design consultant to prepare a design for a permanent Piazza.

It is the view of the City's Officers that the Piazza will provide a space for the both local residents and visitors to meet, socialise, relax and recreate. The proposed Piazza is one of a number of projects which:

- Compliment the street life generated by local businesses and initiatives undertaken by the Beaufort Street Network which result in an increase in creative and social capital. Increasing cultural and social capital improves the desirability of a place, thus attracting further business which supports the local economy during both the day and night; and
 - Improve the liveability for local residents through a focus on people first outcomes.
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CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

In accordance with Council's resolution, a temporary Piazza space was constructed in the confines of the identified future Mary Street Piazza space at the southern corner of Mary Street and Beaufort Street. The temporary space was trialled for a two (2) week period beginning 25 July running through to 8 August 2014. A community 'drop in' session was also conducted on August 2 for a one (1) hour period where City Officers were able to answer questions from the community in a non-threatening environment.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Low/Medium – The proposed Piazza represents a low/medium risk to pedestrian and driver safety during the first month following development, as drivers become accustomed to the change in the movement network.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

The City's *Strategic Plan 2013-2017* states:

"Natural and Built Environment

- 1.1 *Improve and maintain the natural and built environment*
 - 1.1.2 *Enhance and maintain the character and heritage of the City*
 - 1.1.5 *Take action to improve transport and parking in the City and mitigate the effects of traffic*

Community Development and Wellbeing

- 3.1 *Enhance and promote community development and wellbeing*
 - 3.1.2 *Promote and foster community safety and security*
 - 3.1.3 *Promote health and wellbeing in the community*
 - 3.1.6 *Build capacity within the community to meet its needs"*

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditure for this matter will be incurred under the following budgeted item 1.40027.6008:

Budget Amount:	\$217,160
Mary Street Piazza	<u>\$174,510</u>
Balance:	\$ 42,650

COMMENTS:

In accordance with Council's resolution, a temporary piazza space was constructed in the confines of the identified future Mary Street Piazza space at the southern corner of Mary Street and Beaufort Street as shown in Attachment 9.4.1 (001). The temporary space was trialled for a two (2) week period beginning 25 July running through to 8 August 2014. Three hundred and two (302) submissions were received during the advertising period, two hundred and sixty three (263) of which were supportive, thirty five (35) whom objected and four (4) indifferent.

It is the view of the City's Officers that the proposed piazza will improve the liveability of the Highgate area by:

- Improving walkability;
- Providing a space for creative and social endeavours, therefore contributing to the places creative and social capital; and
- Providing a heart for the Highgate community, that will function as a community space.

It is recommended that Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to call an Expression of Interest for a qualified designer to prepare a design for the Mary Street Piazza.

9.4.2 RTRFM Music Festival - Location Change

Ward:	North	Date:	29 August 2014
Precinct:	North Perth Centre; P9	File Ref:	SC1525
Attachments:	001 - Letter from RTRFM		
Tabled Items:	Nil		
Reporting Officers:	Y Coyne, Coordinator Arts and Creativity A Birch, Acting Manager Community Development		
Responsible Officer:	J Anthony, Acting Director Community Services		

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council;

- APPROVES the venue change for the RTRFM Beaufort Street Music Festival from Beaufort Street venues to the Rosemount Hotel in North Perth, subject to the City receiving fifty (50) complimentary tickets for distribution to residents; and**
- NOTES that the event is now proposed to be a fully ticketed event.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to approve the change of location of the 2014 RTRFM Music Festival from Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, to the Rosemount Hotel in North Perth on 17 January 2015.

BACKGROUND:

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 April 2014, the Council resolved as follows:

That Council;

- "1. *APPROVES the following festival events funding as part of the Festivals Programme for 2014/2015:*

	ORGANISATION	EVENT	DATE	AMOUNT SOUGHT	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
1	Revelation Film Festival	Revelation International Film Festival	3 Jul 2013 - Jul 2014	\$20,000	\$15,000
2	WA Italian Club	Community Open Day and Fair	12 Oct 2014	\$12,850	\$7,500
3	City of Vincent	Multicultural Festival	Oct 2014	\$20,000	\$20,000
4	The North Perth Business and Community Association Inc	Angove Street Festival	26 Oct 2014	\$50,000	Carry forward from 2013/2104 Budget-\$45,000
5	Open House Perth	Open House Perth	1-2 Nov 2014	\$10,000	\$10,000
6	Beaufort Street Network	Beaufort Street Festival 2014	15 Nov 2014	\$82,500	\$75,000