

Monday, 3 August 2020

## **Recreation reserves a priority for Whipstick residents**

**Whipstick Ward candidate Dave Fagg has called for more development of Bendigo's neighbourhood recreation reserves, especially as Covid-19 restrictions limit exercise options. In particular, he has called for the Ironbark Gully Trail works to be expedited.**

Mr Fagg said that recreation reserves were people's number one priority, and called on council to ensure both small and large reserves in Bendigo's suburbs were looked after.

He has held an online survey over the past 4 weeks as a community listening exercise.

"Over 80% of people said that recreation reserves were a priority for their neighbourhood. This is an opportunity for council to work with local residents on ways to improve their local reserves. Local residents often have excellent ideas that council could adopt."

Mr Fagg also pointed out that as Covid-19 restrictions tighten, recreation reserves will be used more often. As an example of success, he pointed to the recent installation of a footpath and exercise equipment at the Long Gully Recreation Reserve, which has seen a huge increase in use over the Covid-19 period.

However, Mr Fagg said the delay on the Ironbark Gully Trail was disappointing, especially given council had already allocated funding and developed a concept plan.

Chair of the Ironbark Gully Friends, Marie Bonne, agrees:

"A new trail along Ironbark Gully would provide much needed recreational space for families, especially as more people get out into their neighbourhood for exercise due to Covid-19 restrictions. We have the plan, and the council has allocated funding. This important project is long overdue."

Mr Fagg invited residents to take the community survey, and view the main results.

#ends

Whipstick Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/WhipstickSurvey>

Whipstick Survey Results Link: <https://bit.ly/WhipstickSurveyResults>

Mr Fagg is available for media interviews and photo opportunities upon request.

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