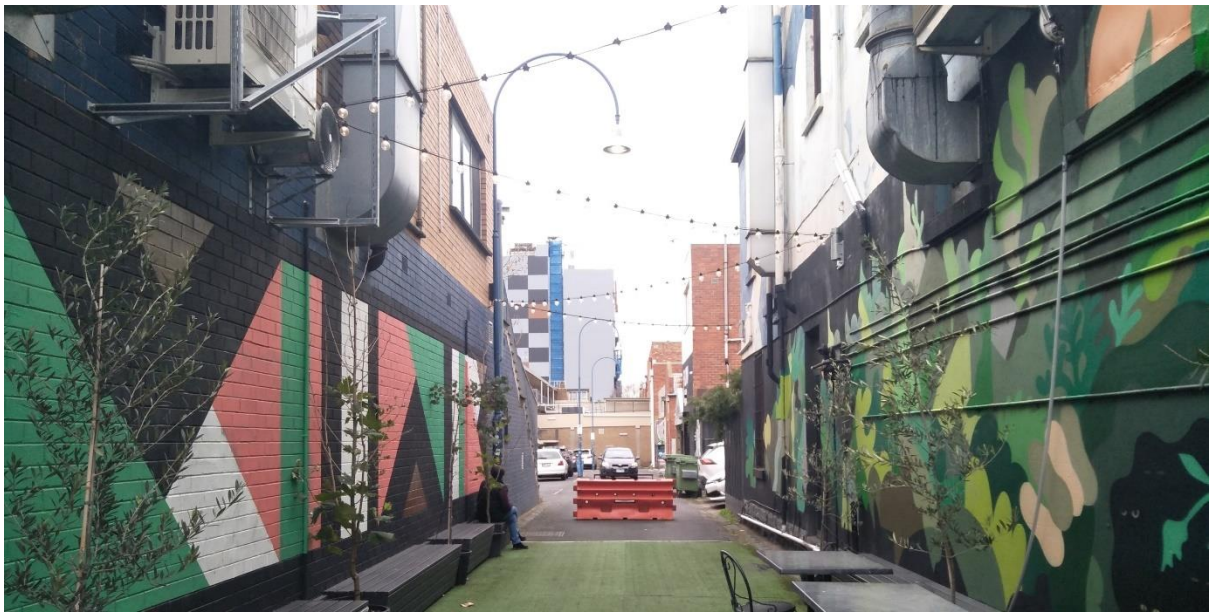


Community Consultation Report

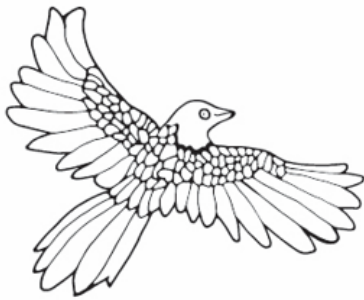
Hallkeeper Lane Improvements

Stage 3: July 2025



Contents

1	Summary	4
1.1	Background	4
1.2	Engagement strategies	4
1.3	Key findings	4
2	Introduction	7
2.1	Key engagement questions	7
3	Methodology	7
3.1	Communication	7
3.2	Participation	7
3.3	Survey respondent demographics	8
4	Findings	10
4.1	Recency of and reason for visiting the lane	10
4.2	Satisfaction with proposed use of the space	11
4.3	Future intention to use Hallkeeper Lane	13
4.4	Feedback on murals	15
4.5	Other feedback about the design	15
4.6	Email and telephone submissions	16
4.7	Social media comments	16
5	Conclusion	17
6	Appendices	18
6.1	Your Say page	18
6.2	Survey	19
6.3	Concept design	22
6.4	Onsite poster	23
6.5	Social media posts	24
6.6	Email and telephone submissions	26
6.7	Free text comments	27



Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their community members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Artwork by Wurundjeri artist, the late Judy Nicholson

1 Summary

1.1 Background

In late 2020 Council installed a temporary laneway closure and pop-up activation in a section of Hallkeeper Lane. This lane is between Margaret Street and Des Nunan Car Park and is opposite Moonee Ponds train station. This temporary road closure and pop-up has created a communal space for locals to enjoy. It offers more green space for everyone, while supporting businesses with increased opportunities for outdoor dining.

On 29th April, Council endorsed to proceed with permanently closing the lane for vehicle access. This has enabled officers to proceed to stage 3 community consultation on the draft concept design of the laneway. Between 31 May and 28 June 2025, Council invited community feedback in response to the design proposal.

The Hallkeeper Lane streetscape upgrade will support the Moonee Ponds Activity Centre as an attractive and vibrant pedestrian friendly precinct in consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community. This is consistent with Council's long-term planning, vision and capital works program.

1.2 Engagement strategies

Community members could contribute to the stage 3 consultation via:

1. A dedicated Your Say webpage (Appendix 6.1), which linked participants to an online survey (Appendix 6.2) and the draft concept design (Appendix 6.3).
2. A QR code included on an onsite poster (Appendix 6.4), which linked participants to the survey (and associated information) via the Your Say page.
3. Email or telephone submissions to Council.

A total of 52 people participated in the consultation.

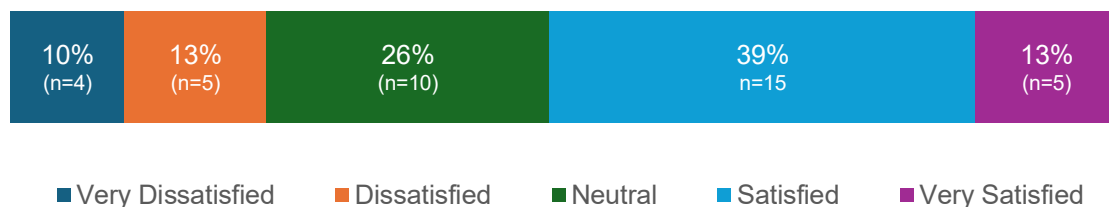
1.3 Key findings

- 52 people participated in the consultation, of which 41 responded to the online survey, 8 commented on social media, 1 emailed and 2 phoned.
- Of the 34 participants who completed the survey, all live in Moonee Valley, and 17 live in Moonee Ponds. Most identified as women (n¹=23) and were 25-49 years old (n=18). All speak only English at home.

¹ When referring to data in this report, 'n' represents the number of people who responded to a particular question or prompt.

- 29 survey respondents indicated they had recently visited Hallkeeper Lane.
- Respondents' reasons for visiting the lane include:
 - Walkway (n=17)
 - Incidental access (n=7)
 - Dining/entertainment (n=4)
 - Meeting space (n=3)
- As illustrated in the graph below, 52%, (n=20) of survey respondents indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the proposed use of the space.

Figure 1. Satisfaction with proposed use of the space



- Respondent feedback regarding their level of satisfaction focused on:
 - Appreciation of the space as a community/meeting space
 - Calls for the space to be green and use sustainable materials (e.g. natural plants, solar lighting, no synthetic grass or gas heaters)
 - Specific suggestions for other features/amenities (e.g. mood lighting, bike racks, shelter, more functional seating, more aesthetically appealing design).
 - Concern (among three participants) about safety, loss of car access and underutilisation of the space.
- 26 survey respondents indicated they will use Hallkeeper Lane in future with the proposed design.
- 25 survey respondents indicated they will use the updated space in similar ways to their current use, albeit with higher numbers specifying their intended use for outdoor dining and leisure (noting most respondents indicated more than one of these uses):
 - As a walkway (n=17),
 - For outdoor dining/coffee (n=17)
 - As a leisure/meeting space (n=15).

- Respondents' rationale for not intending to use the space focused on dissatisfaction/concern about:
 - Synthetic grass/plants and gas heaters; preference for more green space
 - Perception of restaurant uses only Absence of bike racks
 - Proposed seating design
- When survey respondents were asked about the existing murals at Hallkeeper Lane, 19 said they should be refreshed and 15 said they should stay.
- 28 respondents provided additional feedback about the proposed design:
 - Several reiterated previous feedback about a preference for sustainable/green design.
 - Three were supportive of existing/refreshed artwork.
 - Several raised other specific suggestions/concerns. For example, acknowledgement of local history/community, waste management and safety concerns, provision of shelter, pop-up food/ entertainment, internet access and bicycle powered phone charging, preferred omission of the play mound.
- Two local traders and a local resident provided feedback via telephone/email. This feedback was generally supportive but raised similar suggestions about shelter and opposition to artificial grass, as well as concern about the impact of noise on nearby residents.
- Eight people provided relevant comments in response to Council's social media posts about the consultation. These comments focused on:
 - Sustainability (support paving and natural plants, oppose synthetic grass and gas heaters).
 - Suggestions to include a community herb garden and basketball court.

2 Introduction

2.1 Key engagement questions

Participants were provided with the Draft Concept Design and invited to provide feedback about:

- How they currently use Hallkeeper Lane
- How satisfied they are with the way the space is proposed to be used
- How they intend to use the newly designed space
- Their thoughts on the existing murals in the space and the overall look and feel of the design

Survey respondents were also asked questions about their demographic characteristics. The full survey is provided at Attachment 6.2.

3 Methodology

3.1 Communication

Participants were informed about the engagement project via the onsite posters, Your Say page, newsletters, a direct mailout to affected premises and social media posts which reached over 10,000 people (Appendix 6.5).

3.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Table 1. Consultation participation

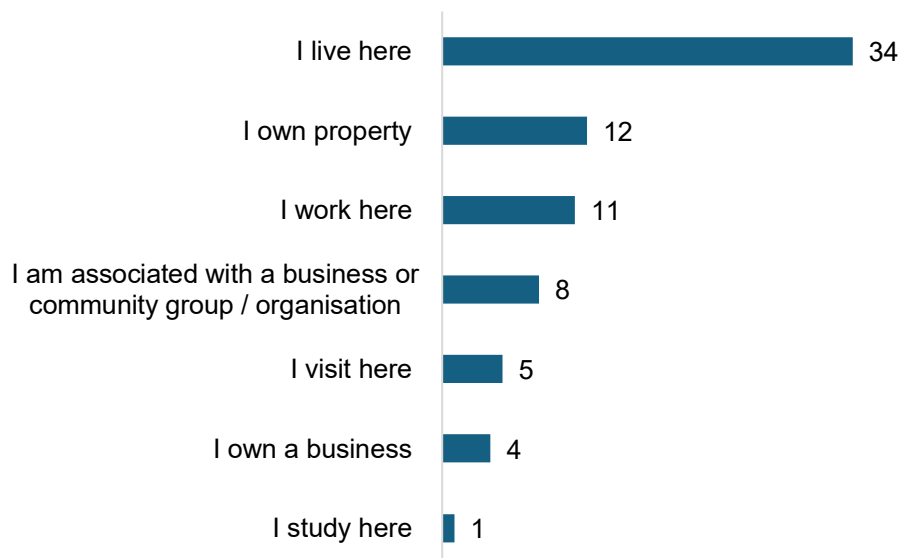
Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say website	Page views	462
	Page visits	442
	Unique visitors	339
Online survey	Survey responses:	
	• Complete	34
	• Partial	7
Telephone submissions	Phone calls to Council	2
Email submissions	Emails to Council	1
Social media*	Facebook comments	8
Total participants:		52

3.3 Survey respondent demographics

Connection to Moonee Valley

Participants were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley, with the ability to select multiple of the options listed in the graph below. As reflected in the graph, of the 34 respondents to this question, all indicated 'I live here', with several indicating 'I own property here', 'I work here' and other local connections.

Figure 2. Connection to Moonee Valley



The 8 respondents who indicated they are associated with a business or community group/organisation specified the associations in the table below.

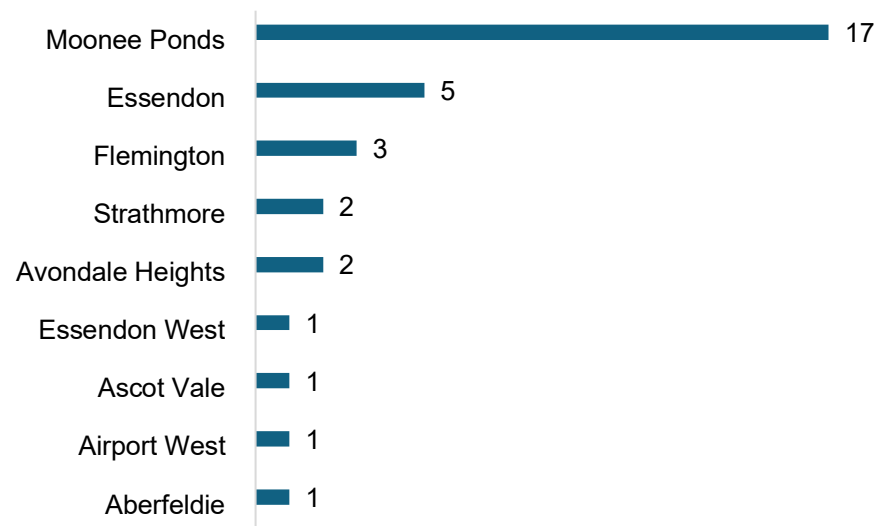
Table 2. Type of business, community group/organisation association

Name of business, community group or organisation	No. of respondents
Moonee Valley Sustainability	4
Mason Green	2
Avondale Heights Community Garden	1
Moonee Valley Foundation	1
Lifeline	1
EDFL Umpires Association	1
Salutegenics	1

Suburb of residence

When asked what suburb they live in, of the 33 respondents to this question all indicated they live in Moonee Valley. As indicated in the graph below, most respondents live in Moonee Ponds.

Figure 3. Suburb of residence



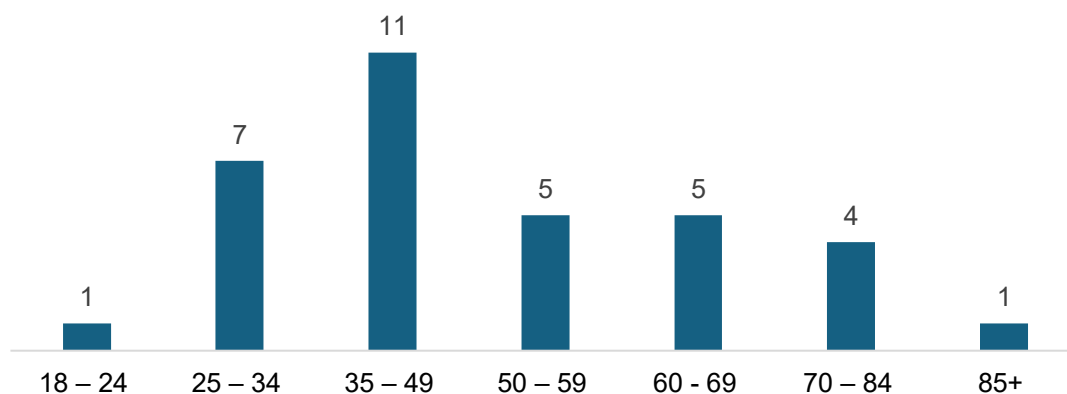
Gender identity

When asked their gender identity, of the 34 respondents to this question, 23 identified as a woman, 10 identified as a man, and 1 preferred not to say.

Age

When asked to identify which age group they belong to, of the 34 respondents to this question, most were in the 35–49-year-old age group, as noted in the table below.

Figure 4. Age



Language

When asked if they usually speak a language other than English at home, all 34 respondents indicated they speak English only at home.

Additional identifiers

A small number of respondents indicate they identify as follows:

- A person with a disability (n=4)
- LGBTQIA+ (n=3)
- A carer (n=2)
- A disability ally (n=2)

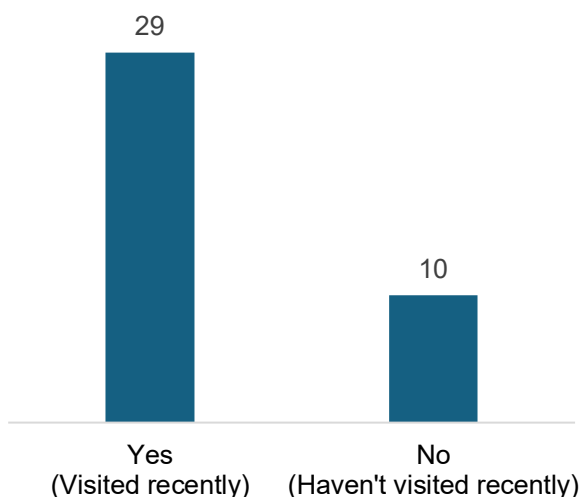
4 Findings

This section summarises responses from the main survey questions. A full list of free text responses is provided at Attachment 6.7.

4.1 Recency of and reason for visiting the lane

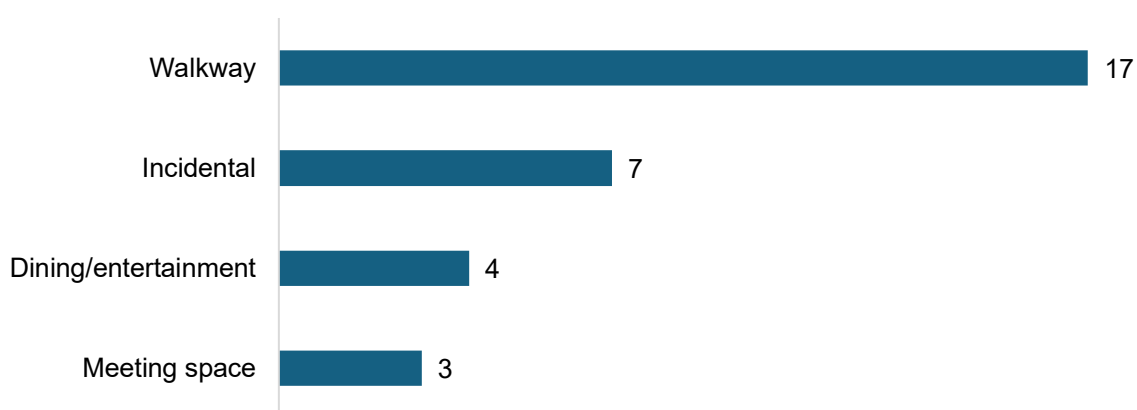
Participants were asked if they'd been to Hallkeeper Lane recently. As illustrated in the graph below, of the 39 respondents to this question, 29 said yes, and 10 said no.

Figure 5. Recency of visiting Hallkeeper Lane



Respondents who replied yes were asked what the reason for their visit was. All 29 respondents provided free text comments. As illustrated in the graph below, analysis of these comments identified 4 themes, with a total of 31 mentions.

Figure 6. Reason for visiting Hallkeeper Lane



Further information is provided about these themes below.

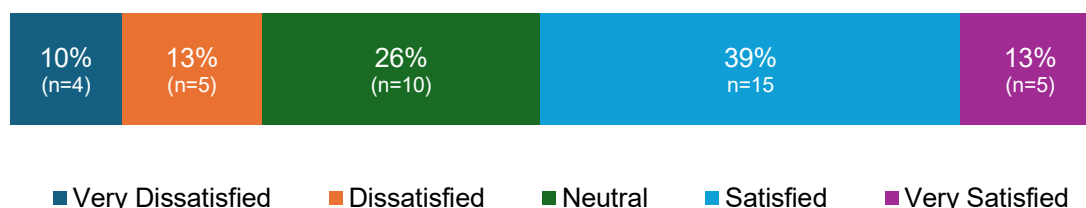
Reason for visiting Hallkeeper lane - Key themes

1. **Walkway** – Most (n =17) respondents said they use the lane as a thoroughfare to access nearby shops, restaurants, businesses, streets, or to walk to or from the station, go for a stroll or meet up with friends.
2. **Incidental** – 7 respondents indicated incidental/other use of the lane, e.g., walking past and briefly sitting there, frequently walking by as a local, or visiting as a local (or other) resident out of curiosity.
3. **Dining/entertainment** – 4 respondents indicated they access the lane for dining or entertainment. E.g., to dine at a there or attend restaurant there, use the outdoor space to sit and eat food a music festival there.
4. **Meeting space** – 3 respondents indicated they use the space to meet others.

4.2 Satisfaction with proposed use of the space

Participants were asked how satisfied they are with the way the Hallkeeper Lane space is proposed to be used, with the ability to choose one of the five response options in the graph below. There were 39 respondents to this question. As illustrated in the graph, 52%, (n=20) indicated they are either satisfied (39%, n=15) or very satisfied (13%, n=5), with 26% (n=10) neutral and 23% (n=9) dissatisfied (13%, n=5) or very dissatisfied (10%, n=4).

Figure 7. Satisfaction with proposed use of the space



Comments about satisfaction with the proposed use of the space

When asked if they would like to comment on their chosen level of satisfaction with the proposed use of the space, 31 people responded, as summarised below.

Satisfied/very satisfied (n=17)

- **Community space** – Appreciation of the space as a place to rest, eat and gather. Described as safe, quiet, relaxing, attractive, tidy, intentional, people friendly space, with no cars. For example: *“Good to have a resting space during the day, midweek i.e. outside restaurant dining hours. Somewhere to sit and enjoy a takeaway coffee or similar.”*
- **Sustainable materials** - Preference for use of sustainable materials (not artificial grass or plants). For example: *“Great idea to improve the space. But PLEASE no fake grass. It is awful stuff. It sheds PFAS and at the end of its life just ends up in landfill where it sheds microplastics into the environment. A painted surface is a much better idea. It can be an artistic design or incorporate things like hopscotch or board games.”*
- **Green space** – Suggestions to incorporate shady, low-allergy plants/canopy, raised garden beds.
- **Amenities/other features** – Suggestions to include low level, ambient/festoon/LED lighting, a drinking fountain. Supportive of the proposed braille art.

Neutral (n=6)

- **Sustainable materials** – Opposition to synthetic grass; suggest natural grass or coloured paving instead. Use of electric heaters instead of gas heaters.
- **Green space** – Requests for more plants, trees, flowers. Preference for electric heaters instead of gas.
- **Amenities/other features** – Supportive of mural. Suggestions for different types of seating, inclusion of bike racks. Interaction touch wall and play mounds considered unnecessary.
- **General** - Improvement on existing space.

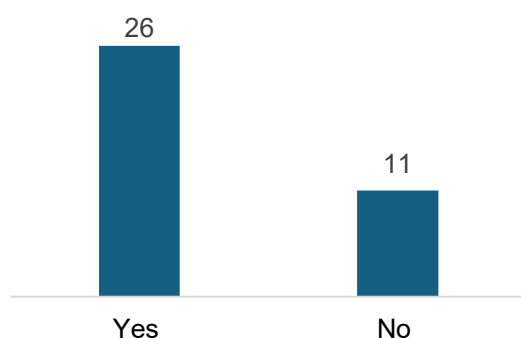
Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied (n=8)

- **Sustainable materials** – Opposition to synthetic grass; suggest bluestone, coloured/contrasting pavers/pathway, porous concrete or natural grass.
- **Green space** – Requests for more plants (e.g. native, tall plants at each entrance), supportive of planter boxes (with maintenance plan). Request for environmentally certified design, solar lighting, no gas heaters.
- **Amenities/other features** – Suggestions regarding locally themed murals, archway banners, more seating and bicycle racks, improved planting design, consideration to improve access to sunlight, provide better amenities for all-access and all ability use.
- **Loss of car access** – Previously used the lane to avoid nearby traffic congestion and traffic light delays, would prefer to be able to drive through the lane.
- **Safety concerns** – Would prefer a more interactive, appealing, child friendly space for families in light of rising local crime.
- **Unnecessary** – Rarely used; considered a waste of money.
- **Supportive of closure** – For safety reasons and more public space (but dissatisfied with the design).

4.3 Future intention to use Hallkeeper Lane

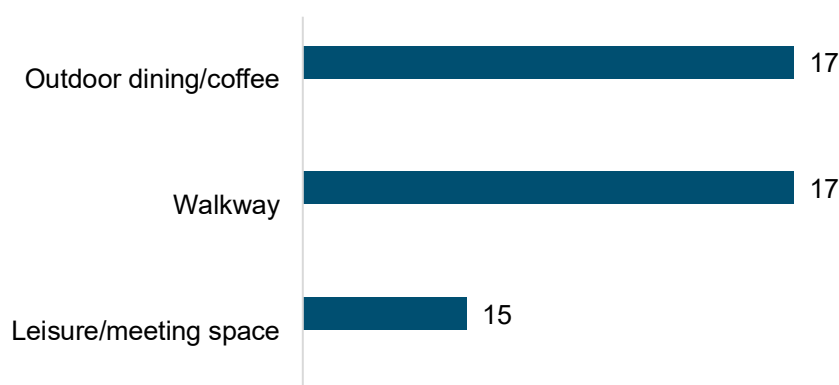
Participants were asked if they will use Hallkeeper Lane in future with the proposed design. As illustrated in the graph below, of the 37 people who responded to this question, 26 (70%) said yes and 11 (30%) said no.

Figure 8. Future intention to use Hallkeeper Lane



When asked how they will use the space, 25 participants responded. As illustrated in the graph below, responses indicate participants use the space as a walkway (n=17), for outdoor dining/coffee (n=17), and as a leisure/meeting space (n=15). Note, most respondents indicated more than one of these uses.

Figure 9. Intended use of Hallkeeper Lane



Four participants provided other feedback. This included noting the importance of internet access, use of the space to shelter from wind and sun and suggesting the space should be *“...open to the public to use as they want”*. One participant highlighted the value of the space for leisure, in the absence of other suitable spaces nearby:

“...there is literally no space in that area of Moonee Ponds to just sit unless I sit right up on the busy Puckle street, Moonee Ponds train station or walk over to the other end to Queens Park for a bench to sit on.”

When asked why they won't use the space, 10 participants provided the below comments. Feedback mainly focused on specific aspects of the proposal that respondents oppose (e.g. artificial grass), or general opposition.

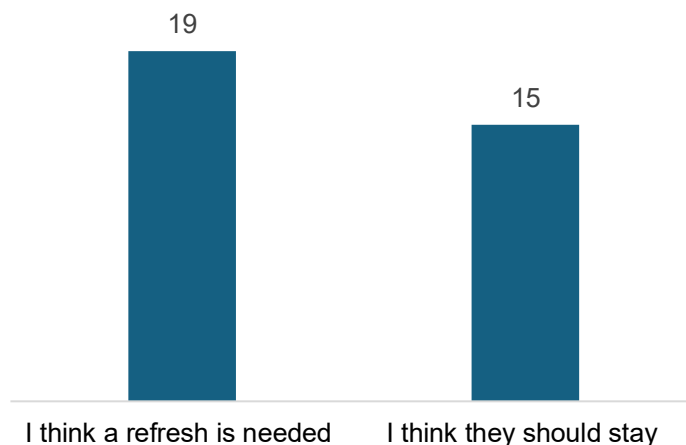
Table 3. Rationale for not using the space

Verbatim comments
• <i>“Only as a throughfare - think better seating, no astroturf and bike racks will make space more useable.”</i>
• <i>“I don't spend time in any are that has fake grass as I cannot sit on the ground. I would not take children into an area with fake grass for the same reason.”</i>
• <i>“I won't bother going if it has gas heaters or fake plants.”</i>
• <i>“I would prefer to sit in a park with more greenspace.”</i>
• <i>“Don't like it don't eat there.”</i>
• <i>“It doesn't sound appealing to me or inclusive.”</i>
• <i>“As a protest because it should be there for car use only.”</i>
• <i>“Caters to the private businesses more so than the public. Not enough places to eat lunch in MVCC. Would be surprised if the proposed planting actually survived...”</i>
• <i>“Again, just a complete waste of money and effort by this council. You will waste funds on this to be used by a handful of people. More important project out there that these funds could have been used for. Also, what are the traders paying for this?? As they are really the only beneficiaries of this project.”</i>
• <i>“I don't go this area much.”</i>

4.4 Feedback on murals

When asked if they think the existing murals on both walls within the Hallkeeper Lane space should stay or whether a refresh is needed, 34 participants responded. Of these, 19 said they think a refresh is needed and 15 said they think the existing murals should stay.

Figure 10. Feedback on murals



4.5 Other feedback about the design

When asked if there is anything else about the proposed design they would like Council to know, 28 participants responded. As summarised below, feedback predominantly focused on previous suggestions about vegetation and sustainable materials/green space, along with other specific and general feedback.

- 1. Specific suggestions/concerns (n=12)** – A variety of suggestions, including acknowledgement of local history/community, waste management and safety concerns, longevity and maintenance needs, local volunteers to help maintain the space, shelter from weather, pop-up food and entertainment, and a preference to omit the play mound.
- 2. Vegetation (n=8)** – Preference to maximise natural plants/nature-based design. Consider edible trees or community herb garden.
- 3. Sustainable/green (n=6)** – Preference to use sustainable, green materials and design. For example, no synthetic grass or gas heaters, low maintenance, natural shade, solar lighting, bicycle parking, bicycle powered phone charging.
- 4. Other (n=13)** - Three participants provided comments supportive of artwork in the space. For example, retaining existing artwork, retaining local relevance of the murals, and creatively incorporating images of historical photos. Three participants each provided generally positive or negative comments about the design and four indicated they had nothing further to add.

4.6 Email and telephone submissions

Two local traders provided feedback to Council about this project via telephone and one local resident provided feedback via email (see Appendix 6.6). This feedback focused on the issues summarised below.

- Concern about one of the planter boxes obstructing traders' views of outdoor dining patrons.
- Suggestion to include shade/wind protection.
- Satisfied with long benches for restaurant use, and retention of restaurant access.
- Concern about sustainability of artificial grass.
- Supportive of refreshing the murals and incorporating the ground surface.
- Local resident concern about noise/music during restaurant hours. Preference to enable open community access to the area (not just for restaurants), but to manage the impact of noise on nearby residents. Otherwise, supportive of the proposed design.

4.7 Social media comments

Eight people provided relevant comments in response to Council's social media posts about the consultation (see Appendix 6.5). These comments focused on:

- Opposition to the use of synthetic grass and gas heaters; preference for paving or natural plants.
- A call for community feedback to Council regarding more imaginative design.
- Suggestions to include a community herb garden, bench seating and a basketball court.

5 Conclusion

Although only a small number of local community members and traders provided formal feedback about the proposed concept design for Hallkeeper Lane, this likely reflects the level of interest among those most directly affected. The number of Your Say page visits, and social media reach indicates awareness of the proposal among the broader community who chose not to provide feedback.

Most respondents were generally supportive of the proposed use of the space and indicated their intention to continue using it as a walkway, for outdoor dining and leisure. Respondents also provided considerable specific feedback on ways to enhance the appeal and utility of the space, with a particular preference for the design to be creative, inviting, sustainable, and green.

This feedback is important to inform Council's approach to the proposed design, which will be communicated to residents.

6.1 Your Say page

[illegible]

6.2 Survey

Hallkeeper Lane - Improvements

Introduction

A [Draft concept plan](#) has now been developed for Hallkeeper Lane. We're seeking your feedback on the proposed design and community use of this space. Key features as shown on the plan include:

- Long benches, offer flexible seating arrangement for outdoor dining during restaurant hours
- Planter boxes with integrated seating
- Seating/play mounds
- An interactive ground mural

Further information is available about this project on the [project Your Say page](#). In particular, Council is keen to find out:

- How you currently use Hallkeeper Lane
- How satisfied you are with the way the space is proposed to be used
- How you intend to use the newly designed space
- Your thoughts on the existing murals in the space and the overall look and feel of the design

The following features of the concept plan are out of scope for the current consultation:

- Alteration to private assets/authority requirements around their assets.
- The extent of the site.
- The general function of the space (being an outdoor resting, gathering place, green relief, supporting active transport by providing an alternative pedestrian/cyclist friendly route in the Moonee Ponds Activity Centre).

The consultation is open until 28 June 2025. Have your say by completing this survey today! It should take around 8 minutes to complete.

Privacy Statement:

A report that includes your feedback from this survey will be provided to Council. This report will not contain opinions or information that could lead to the identification of any individuals. Council is committed to ensuring survey information remains confidential, in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). If you have an enquiry regarding this survey, please contact Council's Advocacy, Grants and Engagement Team on [9243 8888](tel:92438888).

1) Have you been to Hallkeeper Lane recently?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2) What was the reason for your visit?

3) How satisfied are you with the way the space is proposed to be used?

☐ Very Dissatisfied ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Neutra ☐ Satisfied ☐ Very Satisfied

4) Would you like to provide further comments to expand on your response?

5) Will you use the space in the future with the proposed design?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6) How will you use the space? (e.g. As a walkway, for outdoor dining, for leisure use)

7) Why won't you use the space?

8) Do you think the existing murals on both walls should stay or do you think a refresh is needed?

☐ I think they should stay ☐ I think a refresh is needed

9) Is there anything else about the proposed design you would like us to know?

We are committed to collecting demographic data so that we can understand the reach of our consultations. Please note that these questions are all optional.

What is your connection to Moonee Valley?

☐ I live here ☐ I work here ☐ I study here

☐ I visit here ☐ I own property ☐ I own a business

☐ I am associated with a business or community group / organisation. Please name::

☐ I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

Suburb you live in

☐ Select from drop down list of suburbs in Moonee Valley

☐ Suburb outside of Moonee Valley: Specify

To which of the following age groups do you belong?

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18 – 24 ☐ 25 – 34 ☐ 35 – 49 ☐ 50 – 59

☐ 60 – 69 ☐ 70 – 84 ☐ 85+

Do you identify as:

☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer to self-describe: ____

☐ Prefer not to say

Do you usually speak a language other than English at home?

☐ No. I speak English only at home.

☐ Yes. I usually speak another language at home.

The main language I speak at home is:

☐ Select from drop down list of over 400 languages

Please indicate if you identify as any of the following (select all that apply):

☐ Aboriginal ☐ Torres Strait Islander ☐ LGBTQIA+ ☐ A carer

☐ A person with a disability ☐ Need help with self-care activities

☐ Need help with body movement ☐ Need help with communication

☐ A disability ally (someone who supports and amplifies the cause of people with disability)

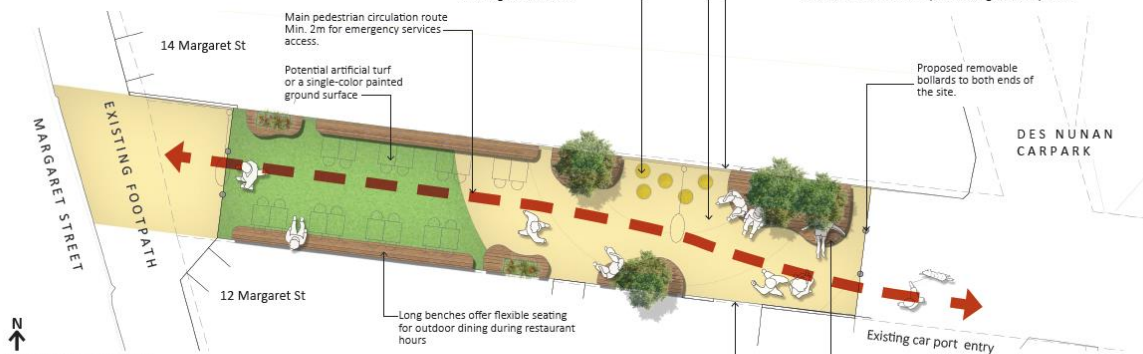
Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.

6.3 Concept design

Hallkeeper Lane Activation, Moonee Ponds

Draft Concept Design Plan | March 2025

Image credits:
 1. https://au.pinterest.com/Healey_heritage/playground/
 2. <https://goric.com/all-products/balls-and-half-balls/>
 3. <https://www.world-architects.com/en/architecture-news/works/superkilen>
 4. <https://haspycity.com.au/wollongong-street-art/>
 5. <https://www.journal-du-design.fr/architecture/dance-floor-pan-jean-verville-architecte-au-musee-des-beaux-arts-de-montreal-79302/>
 6 & 7. <https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/perth-council-makes-braille-part-of-the-fun-at-sensory-playground-20170808-gru68.html>
 8. Hampshire Road, Sunshine. Photo taken by Moonee Valley City Design Team
 9. <https://www.furnitubes.com/street-furniture/product/railroad-planter/>



CONCEPT PLAN 1:100 @ A3

Note: All elements shown on this plan are indicatively only and subject to detailed design and final site investigations.



INDICATIVE CROSS SECTION

Showing raised planter boxes and seating mound, not to scale.



1 Incorporate seating/play mound into the ground mural



2 Retain the existing wall murals and integrate an interactive ground-to-wall addition with simple lines or geometric pattern



7 Potential Braille sign artwork on the wall for sensory play and tactile engagement



9 Planter box with integrated seating

6.4 Onsite poster



6.5 Social media posts

Date	Channel	Photo	Reach	Clicks
1 June 2025	Facebook		3,168	71
Commentor 1a Please send the council feedback by filling in the survey. They really need to use more imagination in their projects Commentor 1b Looking good but no Astro turf — environmentally bad and gets really dirty - Nice paving would be better. Plants on both sides please Commentor 2 That fake grass is terrible. Such an eyesore not to mention the negative impact it has on the environment and that micro climate between the buildings. Lcky. I also imagine the amount of grit it can hold onto like dog poo residue in an eating area. Commentor 3 Agree no fake grass. Its a complete disaster with micro plastics, pfas chemicals, urban heat and a legacy of waste for generations to come. As this is one of the first projects you are reclaiming a road for pedestrians and community - you really need to set a precedent of good design. And No external gas heaters!!!! Commentor 4 [Commentor 1] what sort of heating would be acceptable? Commentor 1c Personally Id say put on more clothes, I dont agree with outdoor heating. But if youre going to heat a space, then use electric to do it.				

Date	Channel	Photo	Reach	Clicks
12 June 2025	Instagram (reel)		3,216	n/a
Commentor 5 We would love to see natural solutions, such as plantings, in favour of fake plastic grass in this space! Commentor 6 👍👍👍 Commentor 7 Community Herb Garden with bench seating Commentor 8 Basketball Court				
18 June 2025	Facebook (reel)		3,672	n/a

6.6 Email and telephone submissions

(Deidentified)

Participant 1 (local trader, via telephone)

- The proposed planter box outside Gourmet Kitchen's window may potentially obstruct traders' views of outdoor dining patrons. Consider using a smaller planter box.
- Suggestion to include shade structures or wind protection.

Participant 2 (local trader, via telephone)

- Happy with long benches for restaurant use and pleased the design has maintained open access to the restaurant side door.
- Concern about damage to existing trees from homeless people. (broken tree branches).
- Artificial turf has been replaced a few times, not very durable.
- Would be great to see a refresh for the murals for both walls and include the ground surface.

Participant 3 (local resident, via email)

Thank you for providing the opportunity to have a say in this development . As an owner living in the nearby apartments my main concern is the noise during " restaurant hours " This area should not be just for the restaurants to use but for anyone and there needs to be a control over any music and noise that affects those living close by.

I think it needs to be a quiet space. Unfortunately in the past music has carried from this area , as well as Puckle Street which is disruptive to those living nearby .

Otherwise I think the suggestions outlined on the flyer are all great . Thank you

6.7 Free text comments

(Verbatim, deidentified)

What was the reason for your visit?
Walking by
Some shopping in and around Puckle Street
Just passing through
Thoroughfare
Lunch at Japanese Restaurant. Meeting in the space with volunteers Music festival in 2023
Walkway to access shops/restaurants
shortcut walk through
Meeting with friends
To walk to the station
Trying to find a place to sit and eat my food while enjoying the outdoors
Walk through, both targeted destination and recreation walking.
Walk through from station to shops
Walking to bento restaurant from my home
On transit to a business
I go past and through it every day.
Was in the area so dropped by to see what it's like
To get to pickle st
Walk past it
It's an access route as I live nearby. Recreation walking and destination reasons.
Charity shop adjacent
Live nearby - sit with friends here
Visited a neighbouring restaurant
Passing through to see friends
Passing through on way to shops
Eating at my little bento
Walked through to get to a restaurant.
I'm a local resident and was curious
Was just walking by sat down for a few minutes
stuff
Would you like to provide further comments to expand on your response? [Regarding level of satisfaction with the proposed use of the space]
Satisfied/very satisfied
Good to have a resting space during the day, midweek ie outside restaurant dining hours. Somewhere to sit and enjoy a takeaway coffee or similar.
Great to see the continuation of a more people friendly space. I would be against the continued use of artificial grass. My main concerns with artificial grass are micro (and nano) plastics, the chemicals used in manufacturing and the need to replace the surface every 10 to 15 years. Aesthetically, for me it feels unnatural and a symbol of the rapid replacement of nature. Read more: https://theconversation.com/why-artificial-turf-may-truly-be-bad-for-kids-72044 I would recommend more permanent materials which could be bluestone or brick

pavers. For further nature-based design, I think this specific site with limited sunlight and a need for more green space in the immediate area would benefit from a focus on 'coolth' - pleasantly low temperature, as opposed to warmth. Still a bit of a concept that is maturing in urban greening and design, it focuses on plants typically in the understory and in shady temperate rainforest or waterfall-like environments. Probably the best example of coolth in Melbourne is Guildford Lane in the CBD, designed in part by a landscape architecture firm of the same name: <https://www.coolthinc.com.au/portfolio-1/project-three-6m7ps> I'm also a supporter of low-level warm ambient lighting as a calming effect to humans and nocturnal animals, while much better for our circadian rhythm than the overhead lights. Festoon lights could be good during major events or public holidays though. Big supporter of utilising the multi-coloured potential of LEDs to change public space dynamically for different cultural occasions. If this space was larger, more open with a very active or even party nightlife, then festoons would probably be the best choice all year round, but I think this area would benefit from calmer night lighting for a majority of the year. The balance of public lighting competing interests of visibility, surveillance and welcoming environment too often prioritises absolute visibility for supposed safety reasons which are not necessarily justified by research but surface level perceptions. I think anyone concerned with this balance should visit the Lincoln Square South Playground in Carlton at night to see a very good example of a recent low-level warm and bio-sensitive lighting design which invites passive community surveillance, calm and quiet nightlife and a connection to nocturnal urban wildlife and parkland. The brand-new park on the corner on Wellington Street and Mt Alexander Road in Flemington is fantastic too for lighting. The park has not been activated yet and remains on a fast and often loud road which doesn't necessarily invite a lot of lingering beyond waiting for the tram or school pickup. Hallkeeper Lane as a quieter and more people-friendly environment with similar lighting would certainly attract a lot of people at night as it sometimes does currently. A portion of low-level ambient lights at Hallkeeper Lane could come on with sensors as people walk past adding a sense of activation.

Great idea to improve the space. But PLEASE no fake grass. It is awful stuff. It sheds PFAS and at the end of its life just ends up in landfill where it sheds microplastics into the environment. A painted surface is a much better idea. It can be an artistic design or incorporate things like hopscotch or board games.

Please don't use or allow anyone to use fake grass. It just disintegrates into microplastics and sends a bad message to the community that this is a good product. Raised garden beds where people can sit around the edge would be great.

I would like to suggest a veto on any ground mounted artificial grass material for many reasons including difficulty or disposal at end of life, unpleasant surface and potentially very toxic.

I like the idea of the art in braille, I would like to see more nature, not fake grass or fake plants but real nature that can provide smells and textures that contribute to the community's wellbeing.

What will lighting be like? Will there be nice decorative lighting such a fairy lights etc so it is nice at night

Modern drinking fountain, to also accommodate pets. A well-designed canopy where crawling plants can flourish up and around to create a sunlight shade within a natural habitat.

It's safe, quiet, relaxing space with no cars

Will look nicer than it currently does. Currently is unsafe to walk down at night and can be a hangout for drug users and undesirables being in close proximity to the train station and government flats on hall st

It makes it safer for restaurants patrons also safer for pedestrians as crossing Margaret Street can be dangerously

I am so glad this is not being returned to being a carpark entry/exit point. The Lane is such a good community space and I am excited for the permanent fixtures. The plan does not indicate the types of plants to be added. I hope they are low-pollen/allergen

Looks like a fantastic use of the space and will make sure it looks tidy and intentional

Not enough detail

It seems fine, just a little bare and lifeless

It's a nice space just needs more in the lane

no

Neutral

An improvement on what exists. No astro turf please. Look at some of the amazing work Merri Bek council have been doing.

Not supportive of astro turf - coloured paving similar to puckle land I think would be good to show creativity - supporting local artists. Like the idea of seating but think this currently looks very plain - different seat heights and positioning to encourage groups to be able to face each other/angle towards each other would make the space more appealing and useable rather than long benches. More plants/trees would improve the space further. Some festoon lighting or similar. Bike racks to encourage cyclists.

Please don't use any synthetic turf - it's toxic, it's plastic, it's heat absorbing and it sheds microplastics into our waterways.

Please don't use any plastic/fake grass in this space. It looks horrible & cheap and it's terrible for the environment when it's trampled on and falls apart. Also use electric heaters instead of stinky gas heaters if you must. Please practice what you preach - make this a lovely green space with beautiful real plants and clean air.

Please ensure you plant real grass and lots of flowers or plants. No to plastic grass

Seating, green space and mural will encourage people to visit and use. But any extra cost incurred for the interactive touch wall and play mounds will be a waist. As a parent of two it's not required to have built kids activities here.

Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied

No astro turf as it is environmentally poisonous and although painted concrete is marginally better why not big red pavers. This needs more imagination with planting on both sides . Seating benches.

I used this lane for getting around the traffic when it was banked up by cars turning right on Holmes Road There is no room to go straight. Also, the traffic lights sequence when there is a train is a joke. I heard that if we were to get the train to the airport on this line the traffic light sequence would be made more efficient. This should be done regardless

It looks full of plastic with the fake 'grass', not enough native plants and uninviting due to bad design. Please do not redesign with the exact same aesthetics, and get a environmentally certified designer

I like that it is being developed to be more user friendly. I am opposed to there being fake grass used in the space. Council are aware that fake grass has a detrimental impact to the local area as well as flow on with microplastics in our waterways. Fake grass heats to much higher temperatures than real grass. I propose that real green space is included here - not just in colour but in that it positively impacts all users of the area

Absolute waste of money. I never see it being used. The only person who seems to use the area is a homeless guy now and again.

Would like to be able to drive cars through it

My balcony overlooks the Des Nunan car park and Hallkeeper Lane. I support the closure for safety reasons and for more public space. While I understand the designers have a brief, I am

not happy with the design as we could do a lot better. Importantly, artificial grass is well documented as being very poor environmentally, and there should be no mention of this product on Moonee Valley designs. Painted surfaces as the alternative are poor as they will quickly look shabby. This design element is a lazy solution. Porous concrete or permeable pavers are one sensible solution. Given the restaurant usage and the tables and chairs, a different coloured treatment as a pathway down the centre would make pedestrians more understanding that this was a walkable access route. Pathway contrast and clarity would really make this route past the tables easier for people with low vision or cognitive challenges. It would also be an indication for the restaurants not to place seating over this area for a clear route. There are some pretty ugly kitchen oven vents that are imposing and visually intrusive. My suggestion is that archway banners are erected at either end which will hide this ugly element of the existing usage and present a more welcoming entrance. The design of the archways could be paired with the murals. Long benches are poor for elderly and disabled seating and need some armrests, I support the planter boxes, and while this is just a concept level design, there must be a maintenance and watering plan. Plantings at both entrances (ends) would be appealing, especially taller plantings that disguise the ugly upper areas of the laneway. Banners could incorporate canopy and vertical plantings. I strongly support the idea of a play mound, as central Moonee Ponds has almost zero facilities for young children, but it needs room for prams and seats for parents beside it to be user friendly and to increase usage. The murals in the laneway are awful. Murals need to be locally themed and perhaps rotated surfaces for local artists, with some explanation of their work. Local Indigenous artists may appreciate the opportunity. The Braille/tactile surfaces seem tokenistic. I would support it with audio cues and the TGSi system to really make this feature useful. Finally, I note there is absolutely no cycle parking in this area. The Des Nunan park and the area marked off for no parking 20 metres beyond Hallkeeper laneway presents an ideal place to install some cycle parking, and there is adequate room here not to impede traffic. To include this in the design makes great sense for later budget reasons. Removable bollards are much better than the current plastic barriers. There needs to be a design solution so the restaurants are not tempted to install those awful, environmentally damaging gas bottle heaters (They should be prohibited in the outdoor seating permit). The enclosure elements of entrance banners and plantings at either end would help protect against wind. Installing power points for low energy devices should be part of the design perhaps on a part funding basis for the wiring from each restaurant. Put it in the design anyway and talk about it later. The laneway is unfortunately east west and with two storey buildings either side, always dull and drab in daytime. Some reflective surfaces in the south side building at the top would make the area brighter and more welcoming during the daytime. A solar energy capture system would save energy for nighttime lighting.

Would prefer for the space to be used for something more interactive. Crime around the area is increasing. We need to make the place safe and appealing for people with families. More kid friendly spaces needed in that area.

How will you use the space?

Walkway and leisure use.

All of the above. Sometimes I like to use street furniture to do various exercises. Friends sometimes say it looks weird, but I believe in the gym of life.

It could be a nice sitting space with shelter from the winds we get in Hall Street. I would also use it for dining or just sitting with a coffee

Outdoor dining. Alfresco meeting space if suitable space provided Space should be given to restaurants as extended table space - needs to be open to the public to use as they want.

A great meeting place to catch up with friends. Will also be nice and cool in summer as it will mostly be shaded from the hot sun. It would be great if it is lit up with soft lighting in the evenings.

As a walkway, a place to stop for a coffee with friends, when I walk my dog, when we can casually meet outside for meetings. Access to internet is important.
leisure, walkway, outdoor dinning
Outdoor dining
Outdoor dining, as a meet up spot and there is literally no space in that area of Moonee Ponds to just sit unless I sit right up on the busy Puckle street, Moonee Ponds train station or walk over to the other end to Queens Park for a bench to sit on.
Dining, cycling
Sit with a coffee, walk through, bike parking if included. Place to meet others.
Walkway (if safe) and outdoor dining
Walkway
It is access for destination and recreation walking, as I live very close.
Walkway, maybe dining
Outdoor dining & a place to sit & read a book.
I walk through the space, and will continue to meet here with friends their children
Walkway and outdoor dining
Walkway and for leisure use
Walkway, dining if nearby restaurants are using it, potentially as a little spot so sit with a coffee
A walkway for local dining
as a walkway
All of the above
Eat drink sit and ponder
walk
Is there anything else about the proposed design you would like Council to know?
Perhaps edible trees in the planter boxes.
Nature-based, longevity, and low maintenance I think are good priorities to have.
I ntscarere better than murals. Murals with lots of green is no substitute for living plants. Lane watt in the city have shown how this could be done. Might be possible to enrol local volunteers to help with the upkeep of the greenery
This project is likely to set a precedent on future greening endeavours of Council. So needs to set the bar. The issues I have with the design. NO - fake grass and plastic texture mounds due to micro plastics, pfas chemicals, urban heat and a legacy of waste. This stuff is not safe for play. NO - external gas heaters!!!! LOTS OF - Plants, vertical and even canopy INCLUSION - secure bicycle parking This space is right next to one of the most densely populated areas in our municipality. I addition is it in a space with very low access to green space. So make this a real green space. Lots of plants. You could also extend the planting into the carpark, plant more trees and grasses to increase the cooling abilities of this space. The residents in the west side of the mason square towers cook in summer.
Bring in some images of historic photos in a creative way.
the play mound may not be necessary. I believe the majority of people who use that space are not going to use that.
Question 7 is very limited in scope and puts a focus on the wrong question. A refresh is instead needed in: 1. More than human design and thinking, not just family-friendly, but also other

living-things-friendly 2. No plastic thinking and no non-recyclable materials in the lane 3. Lighting through environmentally friendly methods e.g. there are roof spaces all around that the council could work with perhaps to put on some solar panels. 4. Heat-proofing so it can be used in as an open space through natural shades e.g. medium sized trees or some other canopy etc. 5. Prioritising greening over pain - The walls are linked to the restaurants and it would be great to see them grow and harvest herbs from a vertical gardens, I would rather see green walls than murals 6. Commuting experience - There are huge car parks around the Moonee Ponds station, nothing for bike riders, it would be great to have secure bike parking for commuters who want to leave their bikes there, take a break in the lane before catching their train. 7. Solar panel Charging - Kids play areas are great, how about something for grownups? Like a stationary bike that one can pedal to charge one's phone for adults who are hanging out with their kids in the lane? 8. Connecting to History - Who is Des Nunan? And why is there a 'Des Nunan Memorial Car Park' that the lane opens up to?

Please don't include fake turf - it sheds microplastics in waterways and can't be recycled at end of life. Seating and okay areas sound great. Please don't add outdoor heaters though - such a waste of fuel. Blankets if need be! Planter boxes would be lovely if council has the funds to maintain them and they don't end up being rubbish bins.

Be careful with seating that it doesn't attract homeless sleepers from the train station. Don't want it to become an unsafe drug haven which it currently has the potential for

Plant real grass. Natural flora and fauna

Wondering if there is any shade or undercover for sun or rain.

Indigenous incorporation should be bare minimum. And then something to acknowledge our multicultural community.

Please add appropriate waste disposal/bins

Will future popup food and entertainment be allowed here?

To make sure it's being kept clean and tidying keep the murals something that coincide with Moonee Ponds

refresh is good but need to keep artworks

A fresh new look

Look forward to seeing the final product

Looks great and can't wait to take the kids

I like the rest of the plan

Waste, waste, waste. Just a joke what is being proposed.

Scrap the whole thing and leave it free for cars to use

No one uses the space to eat it is a wind tunnel

No

No

See my comprehensive comments.

See earlier comment about fake grass.

Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9932 1471	Ελληνικά	Greek	9932 1474	Español	Spanish	9932 1477
廣東話	Cantonese	9932 1472	Italiano	Italian	9932 1475	Türkçe	Turkish	9932 1478
Hrvatski	Croatian	9932 1473	Somali	Somali	9932 1476	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9932 1479

All other languages 9932 1480

National Relay Service 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au