

ABOUT SMEATON

Smeaton is located in a geologically significant region north of Creswick along the Creswick-Newstead Road.

Smeaton is renowned for cropping and mixed farming is also home to many small-scale and hobby farmers. Smeaton has two major industries trading agricultural produce locally, nationally and internationally. Smeaton was one of the earliest towns settled in the region in 1838 by Captain John Hepburn. The town features historic places including Anderson's Mill, a bluestone mill and the Cumberland Hotel built in 1860 which still operates as a pub today.

The community of Smeaton actively organise events and celebrations such as the 175th anniversary of Smeaton held in October 2013 which attracted more than 200 people.

At the time of the 2011 Census Smeaton had 279 residents and 85 families. The median age of residents was 49 with children aged 0 - 14 years making up 16.1% of the population and people aged 65 years and over 19.6% of the population.

Over 33% participated in voluntary work through an organisation or group, significantly higher than the state average, while the unemployment rate was 2.8%, almost 3% lower than Victoria's unemployment rate.

Major industries for employment include Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming, employing 30.7% of the towns population and two grain processing operations that employ over 80 people.

SMEATON



- Community Service
- Community Facility
- Crown Land
- Council Land
- Area of potential change



WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

The Hepburn Shire Council supports communities in the Hepburn Shire who wish to develop their own Community Plans. Community Planning is a process that is 'owned' by the community with Council available to play a facilitation role. Community Plans provide valuable input into Local, State and Federal Government planning.

Please note that all views and opinions expressed in this community plan are those of the community members who participated in developing the plan. They do not represent the views of Hepburn Shire Council staff, or its Councillors.

For more information contact
Hepburn Shire Council on 03 5348 2306

This community plan was developed by the community
of Smeaton in collaboration with:

Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL

The background image shows a large, multi-story brick building with a grey roof and a white porch, situated behind a green lawn. A tall, slender tree stands in the center, and a large, leafy tree is on the left. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is centered over the image, flanked by two horizontal lines.

SMEATON
COMMUNITY
PLAN
2015



INTRODUCTION

The Smeaton community with the support of Hepburn Shire Council staff have worked together to develop a Community Plan to identify community priorities and explore opportunities for action and positive change to enhance the well-being of their community.

The Smeaton Community Plan is a documentation of all the thoughts and ideas recorded during the community planning project.

DEVELOPING THE SMEATON COMMUNITY PLAN

As part of the process to develop an inaugural Community Action Plan for Smeaton in 2014 a community survey was mailed out asking residents what they value about the town and what they felt needed improving. After compiling these results a community conversation day was held at the Smeaton Community Centre on 26 October 2014, 26 residents attended to add their ideas about what priority projects are important to the community and for a BBQ and a spot of bowls! After compiling all priority projects residents met on 19 November 2014 and voted via an online survey on their top three priority projects.

VALUES, VISION AND CONCERNS FOR SMEATON

► Values

The values that are appreciated about Smeaton are:

• Community Spirit

The community has a can-do attitude reflected in positive community events. People are friendly and respect difference

• History and Heritage

Smeaton was the home of Captain Hepburn from which Hepburn Shire takes its name. Smeaton was also an important gold mining area

• Landscape and Environment

Smeaton is surrounded by significant and picturesque natural features

► Vision

The vision for Smeaton is a place where:

- Community cohesion exists and people look after each other
- Aspects that the community values are retained and protected
- People can live peacefully and enjoy quiet country living
- The community works together to achieve common goals
- Everyone feels welcome and included

► Concerns

The main areas that were highlighted for change were:

- The former Smeaton School grounds
- Council services in general
- Trees - maintenance and consistency of type around the town
- Road maintenance
- Community spaces - parks or reserves
- Noise and smells from local industry
- Anderson's Mill - community access and upkeep by Parks Victoria

PRIORITISED PROJECTS – ACTION PLAN

Below is a listing of the top three prioritised projects that were voted on by the Smeaton Community.

All projects that received votes have been listed on the page to the right.

These projects are considered as the main initiatives for the Smeaton Community to work on from 2015 onwards.

Smeaton Parkland

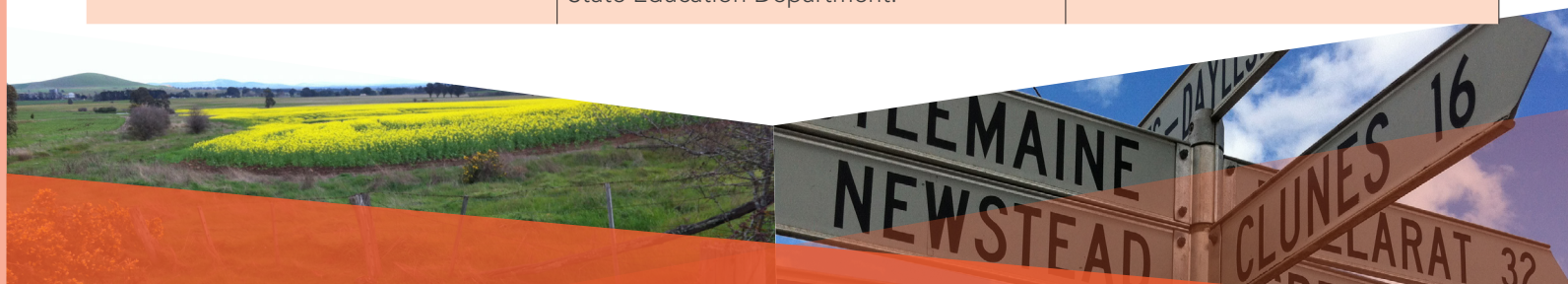
Project Description	Next steps	Partners
<p>Develop a community park including carving of Captain Hepburn and recognising the Traditional Owners</p> <p>12 votes</p>	<p>A plan has been developed by Friends of Smeaton. Next steps are to revise the plan and create a map with prioritised items the park will include. This can be presented to Councillors and other potential project partners. Council are enquiring about use of road reserve land. Funding will be needed to develop this project as well as an understanding of management responsibilities for the reserve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Smeaton • Hepburn Shire Council • Vic Roads • Local business support

Recreation Reserve Project

Project Description	Next steps	Partners
<p>Fix up and improve the recreation reserve including tennis courts</p> <p>8 votes</p>	<p>The current recreation reserve is owned and managed by Hepburn Shire Council. Council and the community have recognised that the facility could be improved, of particular note for improvement are toilets, tennis courts, cricket nets and regular maintenance of the oval area. Next steps include community members gathering more information about improvements needed and Council investigating cost of works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepburn Shire Council • Friends of Smeaton and/or a new working group for the Rec Reserve • Local business support

Old Smeaton School Community Centre

Project Description	Next steps	Partners
<p>Create a community centre at the old school - could include indoor and outdoor recreation areas, library, community gardens, men's shed, playground, wifi</p> <p>8 votes</p>	<p>The Department of Education has indicated that the old Smeaton School is surplus to their needs. The State Government will offer the school for sale first to State/Local Government, then for private sale, if unsold it may be offered for community use. Next steps for the community is to increase advocacy to the State Education Department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Education Department • Hepburn Shire Council • Friends of Smeaton and/or a new working group • Local business support





OTHER PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

Below is a list of other projects and initiatives that were raised throughout the community planning process and the number of votes received. If a project was raised but no votes received it is not included here.

- ▶ Restrict the noise and smell from local industry 6
- ▶ Reshape street trees 6
- ▶ Mow and clean up fire hazards in Back Hepburn Road, around school and at the Mill 5
- ▶ Relocate the community recycling shed 4
- ▶ Plant more trees in line with the English setting 4
- ▶ Improve the bridge at Anderson's Mill 4
- ▶ Increase gatherings that are inclusive and and social events 3 *
- ▶ Build a big sound barrier around UniGrain 3
- ▶ Find funding for youth activities 2
- ▶ Improve Daylesford-Clunes Road 2
- ▶ Install bins in the township area 2
- ▶ Instigate more community activities (eg summer outdoor movies) and create access to at the Mill 2 *
- ▶ Implement a rubbish collection 2
- ▶ Fix the roads (Elizabeth Stree, Mullers Lane, and Creswick-Allendale Road get a special mention) 2
- ▶ Make a men's shed at the old school 1
- ▶ Create a community website and noticeboard 1
- ▶ Implement a monthly market 1
- ▶ Encourage businesses to open on weekends 1

*The Smeaton Community is fortunate in having Anderson's Mill within the township, a building of historic significance. The Smeaton community fully support any event, festival or function conducted at the Mill whereby it delivers historical, cultural, economic or social benefit to the Smeaton Community and Hepburn Shire.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Friends of Smeaton

An inclusive group welcoming all residents of Smeaton and surrounds to join in progressing projects for the benefit of the local community.

Contact: Ron Cosgrave

cosgravefamily@bigpond.com

facebook.com/FriendsOfSmeaton

Smeaton CFA and Junior CFA

Local branch of the Country Fire Authority.

Contact: Ron Cosgrave

cosgravefamily@bigpond.com

Blampied Korroocheang Landcare Group

Contact: Brian Rowe

rowebw1@bigpond.com

northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/

blampied_korroocheang

Smeaton Bowls Club and Community Centre

Local Bowls Club and community venue for hire featuring meeting spaces and indoor court.

Contact: Winston Pickering

christa@fallingleaves.com.au