

Mount Torrens Community Forum

1 July 2025 - Mount Torrens Soldiers Memorial Hall

Community Forum Overview and Outcomes Report



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

Purpose

1

Community Forums are held throughout the year in community facilities around the Hills. They provide an opportunity for council and local residents to communicate directly with each other about emerging issues, services and Council initiatives.

Our most recent Community Forum was held in Mount Torrens and had a focus on our Residents Guide and living your way in the Adelaide Hills:

- Location: Mount Torrens Soldiers Memorial Hall – 34 Townsend St, Mount Torrens
- Date: Tuesday 1 July 2025
- Time: 6pm to 8pm



Live your way in the Adelaide Hills

The forum included a range of presentations and discussions from council representatives and community leaders. We began the evening with an opportunity to connect with each other, council staff and Elected Members, the chance to have a bite to eat and to explore stands and information available.

Presentations kicked off at 6.30pm and we heard from the following presenters:

- Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell spoke about our AHC Residents Guide and how it can be accessed by residents to find out about services, programs and activities available to our community. Nathan discussed our 2025/26 Annual Business Plan including a list of local Capital Projects and highlighted three exciting projects featured in this year's plan:
 - The completion of stage 4 of the Amy Gillett Bikeway – Mount Torrens to Birdwood

- Construction of Woodside Pool Splash Park
- Expansion of the FOGO Project Trial to all Tuesday collection township properties
- Sarah Pollard, Chair of Discover Mount Torrens, presented information about their recent History Month exhibition, Tracks of Change: From Trains to Treadlies that was hosted at the Old Coach House. Sarah also provided a demonstration of the Discover Mount Torrens Heritage Walking Trail App that is free to download and takes participants on a history tour of the town of Mount Torrens.
- AHC's Manager of Library and Community Services, Jodie Morbey, shared information about the different programs and services offered through our libraries located at Gumeracha, Woodside and Stirling.
- AHC's Team Leader of Community Development, Miranda Hampton, provided an overview of the programs and services offered at our Torrens Valley Community Centre and Woodside Positive Aging Centre as well the broader range of services offered by our Community Development Team staff and volunteers.

Following presentations, there was a 40-minute break out session where participants got involved in a range of engagement activities covering the below topics:

- What does the future of Mount Torrens look like?
- How can we improve community connections?
- All ages events encouraging creativity.
- Any other ideas for your community?

There was also the opportunity for participants to speak to presenters, staff and Elected Members about the presentation topics or any other initiatives of interest. You can view a summary of what we asked, what we heard and what was discussed on the following pages.

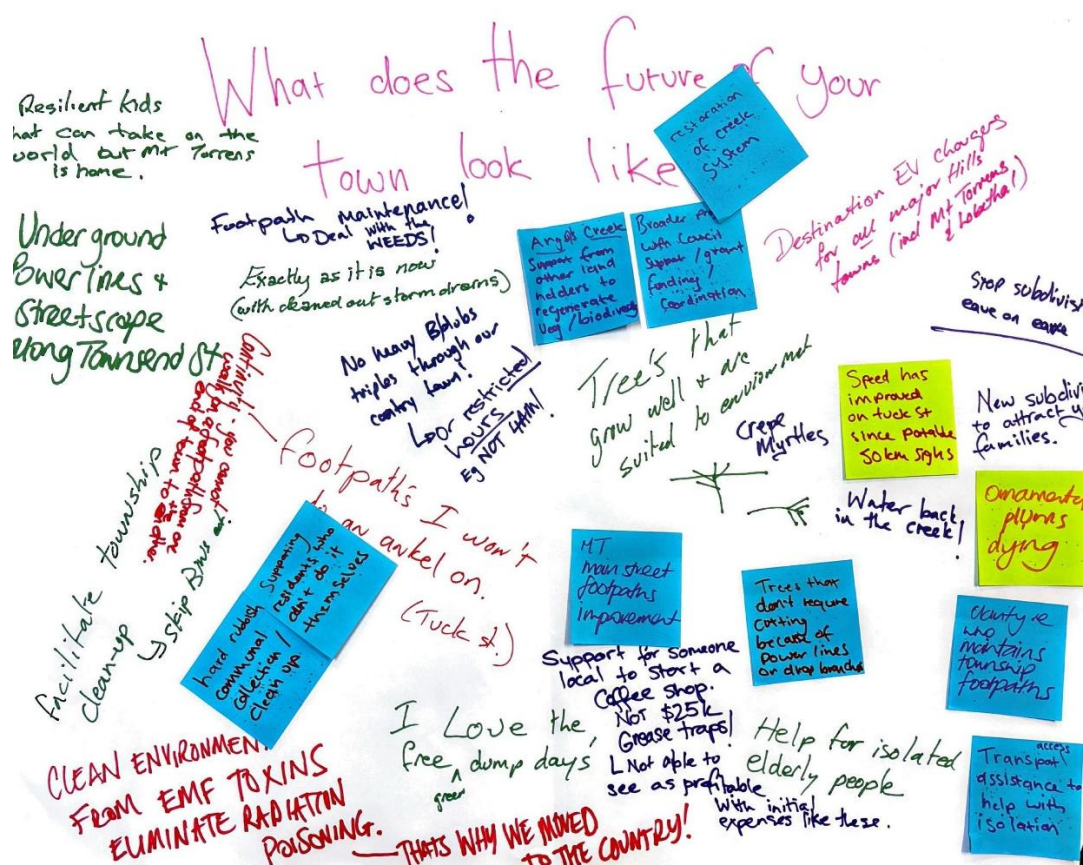
Summary of what we asked and what we heard

Community members had the opportunity to participate in a range of engagement activities with council staff and Elected Members at the forum as well as provide their feedback about the forum. Feedback has been categorised into questions and themes and summarised below.

What we asked: What does the future of Mount Torrens look like?

Over the next 12 months we will start developing a Housing Strategy and Town and Precinct Planning Strategic Framework.

- What considerations and characteristics are most important to you?
- How would you like your town / locality to look in the future?
- What makes your town / locality special or unique?
- Who should be involved in creating these plans?
- How would you like to be involved in the development of these plans?



What we heard:

Facilitate township clean-up:

- Skip bins
- Communal collection / clean up
- Community members supporting residents who can't clean up their properties themselves

Environment and Sustainability:

- Clean environment from EMF toxins eliminate radiation poisoning – that's why we moved to the country!
- I love the free green dump days
- Destination EV charges for all major Hills towns (incl Mt Torrens and Lobethal). Resident discussed potential partnership with local businesses.

Help for isolated elderly people:

- Transport / access improvements / assistance to help reduce isolation

Footpaths:

- Mount Torrens main street footpath improvements
- Clarity re who maintains footpaths
- Footpath maintenance! Deal with the Weeds!
- Footpaths I won't do an ankle on (Tuck St, Mount Torrens)
- Continuity – you cannot walk on a footpath from one end of town to the other

Trees and vegetation:

- Trees that grow well and are suited to environment e.g. crepe myrtles, ornamental plums are dying
- Trees that don't require cutting due to powerlines or drop branches / leaves
- Re-vegetate our fire effected drought effected areas!
- Plant more trees natives only no European!
- Walking trail between Onka Valley Rd and Dunfield Estate – removal / reduction of evasive species such as gorse and protection of rare Candle Bark Gums. Dam leaking across path causing access issues. This could be improved by planting native species that would assist with water consumption e.g. sedges and rushes

Angas Creek Restoration:

- Coordinated approach to restore Angas Creek and bring different landholders together to restore vegetation and creeks system
- Broader project with council coordination / support and potential grant funding
- Similar project model to Cox Creek restoration
- Water back in creek!

Development:

- Stop subdivision eave on eave
- New subdivision to attract young families.

Roads, traffic and transport:

- No heavy B/dubs triples through our country town! Or restricted hours eg not 4am!
- Speed has improved on Tuck St since portable traffic speed signs have been in use
- Need to improve the intersection of Onka Valley Rd and Townsend St (pub corner)

Other:

- Exactly as it is now (with cleaned out storm drains)
- Support for someone local to start a coffee shop. Not \$25K grease traps! Not able to see as profitable with initial expenses like these.
- Resilient kids that can take on the world but Mt Torrens is home.
- Underground powerlines and streetscape along Townsend St

What we asked: Creating Community Connections

How can we improve community connections in your town, suburb or locality?

- What programs do you currently access?
- What programs and activities would you like to be able to access?
- Is there anything preventing you from accessing programs and services?
- Where would you like to attend programs and activities?
- How would you like to find out about programs and services?

What Community Programs Would you like to attend?



What we heard:

Welcoming new residents:

- Residents welcome pack. Inc. local business and rec info and newsletter and CWMS wastewater
- Buddy system for new residents – to welcome them and connect to local offerings
- Sharing local information so new residents know what is available

Recreation and physical activity:

- Mixed yoga in hall / yoga club
- Gardening club
- Mixed use of tennis courts e.g. remote-control cars / roller skating / blading (need flat surface).
- Move from more competitive sports to community focused activities / combine both
- Gym club

Programs for children and young people:

- Youth library programs e.g. gaming, dungeons and dragons, music
- After school activities based at the school - gardening / IT or the Coach House lawn there

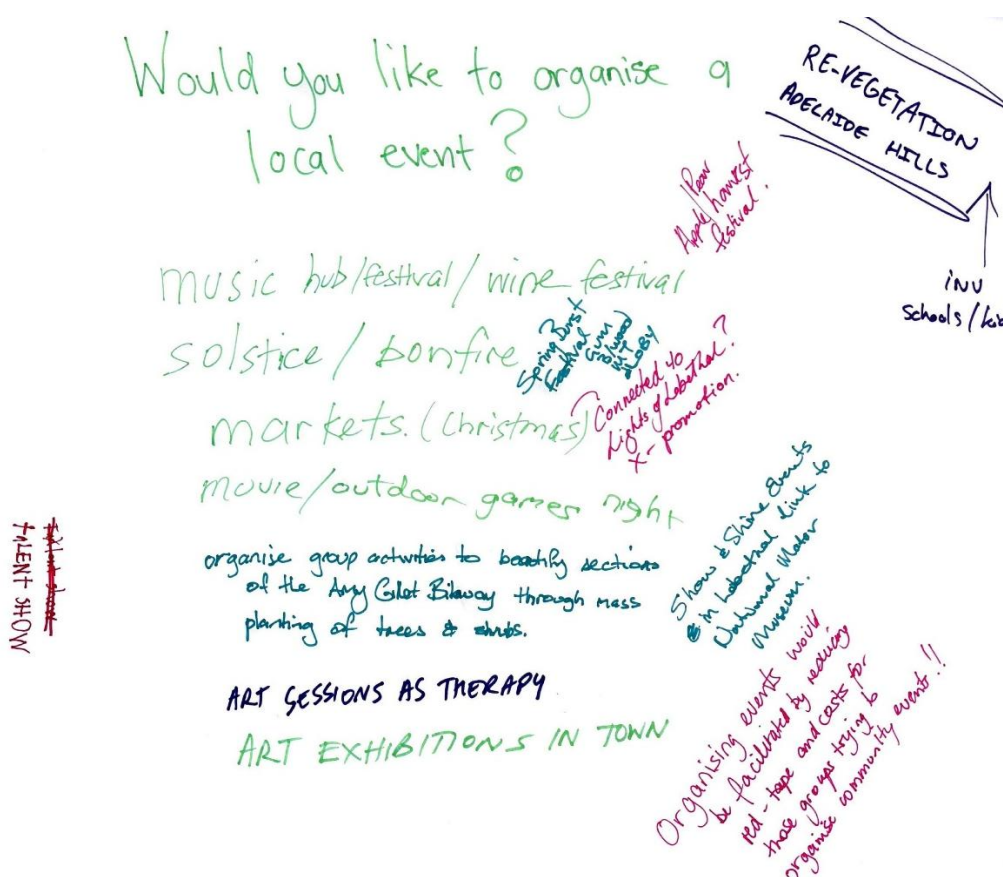
Other:

- More after-hour activities ie. Book clubs (for working people)
- Bushfire preparedness for new residents
- Offering programs through the local hall

What we asked: All Ages Event Encouraging Creativity

A local parent with event experience is reaching out to the community to gauge interest in organising more all ages festivals for Gumeracha, Birdwood and Mount Torrens.

What community led "mini" festivals would like to see in 2026 that brings our incredible and diverse community together, drawing in the wider community (examples of Uraidla's Winter Solstice, which has tripled in size and success in the last three years!)



What we heard:

Organising events would be facilitated by reducing red-tape and costs for those groups trying to organise community events!!

Biodiversity focused events:

- Organised group activities to beautify sections of the Amy Gillett Bikeway through mass planting of trees and shrubs
- Re-vegetate Adelaide Hills with individual schools / kids

Other ideas for events:

- Art sessions as therapy / art exhibitions in town
- Music hub / festival
- Wine festival
- Solstice / bonfire markets
- Outdoor games night
- Apple / pear harvest festival
- Spring burst festival - Gumeracha, Birdwood, Mount Torrens, Lobethal
- Show and Shine events in Lobethal link to National Motor Museum
- Talent Show
- \$5 dollar market

What we asked: Any other suggestions for your community?



Youth:

- Actual activities for youth that target their positive engagement in community and good social skills (ages 11-17 years). Promote them to stay in and value our communities by making them feel valued. At the moment there's heaps for little kids or sports clubs, or religious families, but little else – youth page (on council website) is very disappointing. Positive adults supervision and connection.
- More at Lobethal, Birdwood (for youth using bus services)
- Interview the school kids BHS (Birdwood High School)

Heritage:

- List of heritage colours for heritage overlay properties that have the code so you can get the right colour made up by a paint company easily
- Heritage street lights
- Change to the development application process so that homeowners aren't discouraged from maintenance tasks which require a development application such as repainting facades the existing colours. At the moment it is as much as \$1000 to apply to do basic maintenance and the town looks as it is prohibitively expensive. There should be a process to make these types of application free to residents in the heritage overlay – perhaps a box to select to encourage the upkeep of heritage properties.

Trees and vegetation:

- Tree planting for climate change
- Native flower nature strips for bees and insects
- Plant native trees NOT European

Community programs and activities:

- Social sport and theatre programs
- Farm days to get kids milking cows to learn where the milk comes from

Community infrastructure:

- Bicycle Repair Stations at Mount Torrens, Birdwood, Woodside, Charleston (Lobethal)
- Shed at playground and BBQ at Leckie Playground
- Bin at gravel pit
- Bin and seating and new car park on bike track up Oval Road
- Walking Trail between CFS and Gravel Pit wet patch bridge or stepping stones
- New footpath and smooth no bumps
- “Beautify” our famous main street “jewel in the crown” of Adelaide Hills Council
 - Footpaths
 - Signage consistent
 - Lighting

Other:

- Coffee shop!
- Is Mount Torrens part of the bypass heavy transportation
- Strictly no small cell 5G towers on our streetlights!
- Once a year free hard rubbish collections like the old days!

- Celebrate Aust Day on the 26th and fund it!
- Raw milk for locals!
- No wind farm!!
- Weekly FOGO for Mt Torrens Please!

Next Steps

Feedback and ideas discussed during the forum will be shared with Elected Members and staff across council to be consider for integration into upcoming works and future planning, including:

- A review of our current community programs and activities
- Development of a Housing Strategy and Town and Precinct Planning Strategic Framework
- Supporting development of our 2026/27 Annual Business Plan
- Ongoing works and maintenance around our council area

Thank you

Thank you very much for getting involved in this community forum. We had a great time meeting with community members and hearing about your ideas and interests. We appreciate your feedback, and we look forward to seeing you at the next one.

If you would like to view our event article and photo gallery from the event, please visit our [AHC website](#).



08 8408 0400
mail@ahc.sa.gov.au
ahc.sa.gov.au



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL