



Strathfield Council High Street Community Facility Survey

Summary of Results – June 2020

Background

Strathfield Council resolved on 5 May 2020 (minute 79/20) that in relation to the High Street Community Facility, Council conduct:

1. A resident survey which covers a radius of 500m that asks the residents a series of questions as to the usage of services at the library which include:
 - a) A photocopier available to the residents
 - b) A quiet study area
 - c) Internet and computers available for residents

Survey distribution

A survey was designed which included the questions in the Council resolution. A few other questions related to library services and the use of the High Street facility were also included in the survey to provide more information on the community's views.

Council issued a letter to all households within 500 metres of the High Street Facility advising that a survey was being held. The letter requested they complete the survey on the Council website. For persons without computers, they were asked to call Council and the survey was administered over the phone.

The survey was notified via distribution of Council's e-News on 4th, 11th and 18th June 2020. E-News is distributed to persons who have signed up to receive this service and issues weekly.

Survey Results

At the close of the survey, a total of 236 surveys were completed. 4 surveys were conducted via phone.

146 surveys were received from residents in Strathfield, 53 from Strathfield South and 6 from Belfield. Though located slightly further from the facility, another 9 were received from residents of Homebush, 10 from Homebush West and 1 from Greenacre. 11 had addresses outside of the Strathfield Council area.

50% responses were from residents aged 30-39 years (25%) and 40-49 years (25%). Then residents 60 years or older (20%), 50-59 years (14%), 18—29 years (13%) and under 18 years (3%). 1.2% did not state an age group.

The highest amount of residents were employed working full-time (31%), followed by 20% working part-time, 14% retired, 12% full-time student and 11% doing home duties or voluntary work. 8% were not employed and looking for work, 4% were not stated and 1% were not employed and not looking for work.

Responses to questions

1. Do you have access to the internet at home?

95% have internet at home

Other answer

5% did not have internet at home

2. Do you have a computer at home?

97% have a computer at home

Other answer

3% did not have a computer at home

3. If you do not have access to the internet and you do not have a computer at home, how do access these services/facilities?

68% have access at home or own devices

Other answers

18% use a library

6% family member or friend

5% at work

2% at school/uni

1% no requirement

4. If you need to print documents where do you go to print?

56% at home or at shop eg Officeworks

Other answer

21% at library

11% at work

7% via friend or family member

3% school/uni

2% no requirement

5. Where are you able to go for quiet study?

50% at home

Other answer

35% at library

7% no requirement

3% work

2% school/uni

2 responses stated they worked in cafes

6. Are you aware that you can lend and return books through the Library Lockers at High Street?

61% - yes

Other answer

36% - no

3% no requirement

7. Are you aware that the Strathfield Council Connector Bus Service, which runs through all parts of the Strathfield Council area, stops at Strathfield Library at Rochester St Homebush?

69% - yes

Other answer

26% - no

5% - no requirement

Views on uses of High Street Community Facility

The survey asked respondents to suggest possible uses of the High St Community Facility. The majority of respondents provided comments and most responses nominated multiple possible uses of the facility.

The majority of responses supported the facility being used to provide a wide range of community, cultural and recreational programs and activities. Many respondents made reference to Edwards Park where the facility is located and noted that the park provided expanded opportunities for indoors and outdoors programs.

The responses received are grouped based on demographic or activity:

- Infants (pre-school and guardians ie parents, grandparents)
- School age children (& guardians)
- Students (secondary & tertiary)
- Community Programs (all age groups)
- Fitness/exercise (all age groups)

- Older residents

The most frequent responses included:

Infants

- Activities for young children such as activities and programs suitable for infants and their guardians (storytime, nursery rhyme time, games), playgroups and activities etc
- Support for parents eg new Mums/Mothers support groups, parents clubs

School-aged children

- Childrens programs – recreational (eg sports, dance), cultural/educational (eg kids talks, STEM learning, arts/crafts), kids clubs (eg coding, lego, book, languages).
- Before and after school programs, holiday programs (frequently raised, especially in relation to the Strathfield South Public School which is nearby)

Students (secondary, tertiary)

- Access to study space
- Exercise/fitness activities

Older residents

- Activities and programs suitable for older residents including cultural (arts, crafts, cooking, games, sewing), educational (talks, lectures), health information talks
- Exercise and fitness activities suitable for older residents including dancing, tai chi
- Technology/computer clubs and training for older residents

Fitness/exercise (all age groups)

Exercise/fitness programs and activities nominated by all age groups. Most popular activities were dance and yoga, however other recreation such as Badminton, Volleyball were raised. There were also multiple suggestion of using park for outdoor facilities but with access to indoor facilities such as toilets.

Community programs (all age groups)

Very wide range of programs and activities were nominated including cultural (arts, crafts, dance, music, photography, painting, drawing), recreation (sports, fitness, exercise), educational (reading clubs, computer classes, advanced computer classes, workshops on financial literacy, languages, English classes, First Aid training). There were also suggestions about providing spaces for small business (meetings, activities), meetings (general), reading and study spaces.

Use of Building and Park

Most respondents nominated activities and programs as their preferred option for High Street. There were also comments about access and hire of meeting rooms for various uses including parties, access to wifi, printing and quiet spaces for reading or study. There was a range of suggestions for various services that could be run at High St, which includes Edwards Park including JP services, movie nights, food festivals, events like Christmas Carols/Easter Egg hunts, sports competitions, Badminton courts etc.

Summary of comments from High Street Survey

Area/group of interest	Comments/Ideas/Suggestions
School age children (& guardians)	<p>Activities for children with disabilities</p> <p>Author visits for kids</p> <p>Ballet/dance clubs</p> <p>Before and after school programs, before/after school care and vacation care/school holiday programs (multiple)</p> <p>Children library/book clubs</p> <p>Children programs (multiple)</p> <p>Clubs eg lego club, book club, coding club, languages club, maths clubs</p> <p>Kids talks – learning history, story telling</p> <p>Located near Strathfield South Public School (school does not provide onsite out of hours care for students) and children need activities outside of school hours</p> <p>Organise essay and mathematics competition for children including school children</p> <p>Preschool activities during the day</p> <p>Sports camps for kids</p> <p>STEM learning centre for local children from 3pm-6pm Mon-Fri</p>
Children (infants)	<p>Activities for children with disabilities</p> <p>Children's games</p> <p>Children's party hire</p> <p>Computer skills development for kids</p> <p>Group reading for children</p> <p>Internet study for kids without internet at home</p> <p>Kids spaces and books</p> <p>Learn to read for young children</p> <p>Mothers support groups/Parents club/New mums group/space for mums to meet/ Breastfeeding groups (multiple)</p> <p>Mum & Bubs reading, sports</p> <p>Playgroups (non-Church based)/Playtime or playgroups</p> <p>Preschool activities during the day</p> <p>Storytime, kid's storytime, more children's books, nursery rhyme time, booking reading for children (multiple)</p> <p>Toddler playground to encourage early reading</p> <p>Toddler/young children programs or activities/Young children engagement program/0-4 kids programs/activities for children and grandparents (multiple)</p>
Community Programs	<p>Aboriginal painting workshops/bush tucker</p> <p>Art exhibitions</p> <p>Art, dance and music programs (multiple)</p> <p>Art/crafts classes or groups (multiple)</p> <p>Bridge Club</p> <p>Career guidance or career placement programs/ Programs with skills to support people getting jobs</p> <p>Community education</p>

Area/group of interest	Comments/Ideas/Suggestions
	<p>Computer classes/Computers – advanced programs/computer skills training (multiple) Craft classes eg card making, drawing, electronics, photography, repairing (multiple) Dedicate one room for educational/wellbeing seminars Discussion groups on local issues DYI Sessions for the community ESL classes/English classes/Language classes (multiple) Financial literacy/superannuation and life insurance First Aid training Friday night activities for people who don't go to bars and pubs and talks to explore topical discussions Healthy eating programs How to research using the library classes, using literature databases eg Google Scholar, PubMed, Medline, using different methods of referencing Information talks Music/singing/orchestra Office for small business for meetings, administrative work Pottery and Painting Sustainability, gardening and environment classes – gardening, worm farming, weed identification, recycling, skin care, heating house (refer Canada Bay site) Public speaking workshops Reading groups/book clubs (multiple) Service for depression, bullying, suicide, mental health Short courses eg calligraphy, computer, public speaking Writing classes</p>
Seniors	<p>Community courses for seniors (multiple) Cooking classes/Cooking demonstrations and facilities to hold small functions Drawing, painting., language, knitting, crocheting activities for seniors Educational classes Games/card groups for seniors Hearing loss management classes Laughing classes for seniors Learn to sew Lectures – suggestions for Art Gallery, NSW Botanical Gardens Line Dancing for seniors Seniors activities and groups/Seniors engagement programs (multiple) Seniors Exercise Classes (multiple) Tai Chi for seniors Technology/computer training for seniors/ Computer lessons with Apple computers (multiple)</p>

Area/group of interest	Comments/Ideas/Suggestions
Students (secondary & tertiary)	High School study support Initiatives for Youth Open study space, quiet study space, study spaces for HSC/Uni/TAFE students, study space as overflow for students from Rochester St(multiple) School holiday activities for teenagers Sports for students
Meeting Rooms/Hire rooms	Convert into a function centre for up to 100 or 200 people and hire it at a discount rate to ratepayers to generate funds for other developments. Meeting rooms generally Meeting rooms for small business Rooms available for free or nominal for non-profits Short term hire for video production or meetings, small functions Venue hire for birthday parties/functions
Fitness/exercise	Bootcamp Dance classes for all ages (multiple) Develop a mini gym room for fitness and strengthening exercises in one room. Exercise classes (multiple) Kids gym Meditation classes at nominal costs Pilates Sports - volleyball Wellbeing activities Yoga Classes (multiple) Zumba classes
Library/Library type services	Café and convenience store in addition to library Free wifi/access to desktop computers/computer access Home delivery of library books for housebound people Keep Library open More Hindi language books to library Printing and scanning services/provide bulk printing and scanning Provide books Quiet reading space/quiet study
General	Access Centrelink or RTA from computers in library Christmas carols/Easter egg hunt Community choir Food festivals Garage sale day in the park GP service Grocery shops Interpreter service JP service/legal help desk Marketplace in the park or inside during wet weather Meet your councillors on Saturday mornings

Area/group of interest	Comments/Ideas/Suggestions
	<p>Men's Shed</p> <p>Movie nights</p> <p>Newsletter about activities</p> <p>One-stop shop service – pharmacy, alternative health Practitioner, organic produce</p> <p>Park users need access to toilets</p> <p>Partner with a community college</p> <p>Postal locker to store packages</p> <p>Visits to community gardens in the area</p> <p>Volunteer programs</p> <p>Women's support centre</p>
Building/parks	<p>Activities in the park eg community free-soccer (like Burwood does)</p> <p>Badminton Courts</p> <p>Bus stop for Connector Bus at High Street/more services</p> <p>Café/internet café/community café</p> <p>Convert to a recording/rehearsing studio</p> <p>Don't lease building for weekly or permanent bookings for religious activities</p> <p>Increase size of building – too small to find space to sit and study.</p> <p>Indoor sports eg table tennis, badminton, basketball</p> <p>Leisure centre</p> <p>Love new ping pong tables</p> <p>Outdoor exercise equipment in park/run exercises in the park (multiple)</p> <p>Upgrade facility with function room and make park more friendly for community events</p>