



MINUTES

UNSCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 31 May 2022

Held at the Swan Hill Town Hall
McCallum Street Swan Hill
Commenced at 1pm

COUNCIL:

Cr J Benham – Mayor

Cr B Moar
Cr A Young
Cr LT McPhee
Cr C Jeffery
Cr S King
Cr N McKay

Confirmed 14 June 2022

Chairperson.....

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SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Welcome**

Mayor, Councillor Jade Benham assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 1.01pm.

- **Acknowledgement of Country**

Mayor, Councillor Jade Benham read the Acknowledgement of Country.

“Swan Hill Rural City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays its respects to their elders, past and present.”

- **Prayer**

Cr Nicole McKay read the prayer.

We beseech you Lord, that we may be granted wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose, in the decisions we are called on to make for the welfare of the people of the Rural City of Swan Hill.

- **Apologies/Leaves of Absence**

Cr Bill Moar

Cr Stuart King

59/22 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That the apologies be accepted.

SECONDED Cr Jeffery

The Motion was put and CARRIED

- **Directors/Officers Present**

Rosanne Kava, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Heather Green, Director Development and Planning
Bruce Myers, Director of Community and Cultural Services
Svetla Petkova, Director Infrastructure
Helen Morris, Acting Director of Corporate Services
Ash Free, Finance Manager
Terri McCormick, Executive Support Officer
Sharon Lindsay, Executive Assistant

- **Disclosures of Conflict of Interest**

Nil.

SECTION B – REPORTS

B.22.45 RECEIVE AND HEAR SUBMISSIONS TO THE PROPOSED 2022/23 BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: S15-06-15
Attachments: 1 [↓](#) Budget Submissions
2 [↓](#) Lets talk data

Declarations of Interest:

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to receive and hear submissions for the Proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget.

At the close of the submission period 11 submissions were received, 10 of which were public and 1 internal. One submitter requested to speak to their submission.

Discussion

Council advertised for submissions to its Proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget in the Swan Hill Guardian on 22 April 2022, the Robinvale Sentinel on 28 April 2022 and online through let's talk, Council's community engagement platform.

The Statutory period for making submissions has now passed. As required under the Local Government Act 1989. Council must now formally receive, hear and then consider all submissions. Consideration of submissions will occur at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 June 2022.

At the close of the submission period, 11 submissions were received, 3 of which were anonymous. One submission (submission number 9) requested to speak to their submission.

Summary of Submission 1

The submitter questions the possibility of having public toilets installed at areas around the North shops.

Summary of Submission 2

The submitter highlights the need of caravan cassette dump points and the consideration of implementing them at alternative sites for visitors to the area.

Summary of Submission 3

This submission questioned three separate areas, the first questioning where the funding is for Butterworth Street, highlighting areas between Berrybank and Derham Drive as the most significant area of concern.

The second part of the submission requested the installation of bike paths and waking tracks in areas between Gray Street and McCallum Street.

The final part of the submission highlighted their opinion that more needs to be done at the Pioneer Settlement to attract children and families.

Summary of Submission 4

The submitter questions the cost of local rates in comparison to other areas.

Summary of Submission 5

The submitter questions Council's spending on climate related action, highlighting areas of purchasing electronic vehicles for Council fleet, electronic vehicle charging infrastructure and more renewable energy related projects.

Summary of Submission 6

The submitter is concerned that outlying areas, specifically Nyah have not been mentioned and they would like to see development on the corner of River Street and Church Road.

Summary of Submission 7

This submission includes seven separate comments and questions for Council regarding Robinvale.

Summary of Submission 8

The submitter requested an explanation on rate increases/decreases between categories listed in the budget.

Summary of Submission 9

The submitter highlighted concerns surrounding the proposed budget in relation to the running, management and fees of the Swan Hill Regional Livestock exchange and have provided various points on areas that require response.

Summary of Submission 10

The submitter requested inclusion of Woorinen South and Woorinen district in the 'Small Town Strategy'.

Summary of Submission 11

The submitter highlights that the Fee's and Charges for the Planning and Building Department need to be changed.

Consultation

The submission process is part of the consultation process for the budget.

Financial Implications

The hearing of submissions has no financial implications.

Social Implications

The hearing of submissions allows for community participation in Councillor decision making leading to improved social outcomes.

Economic Implications

The hearing of submissions has no economic implications.

Environmental Implications

The hearing of submissions has no environmental implications.

Risk Management Implications

The hearing of submissions has no risk management implications.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Leadership - Transparent communication and engagement.

Options

After considering the submissions Council can choose to adopt or amend the 2022/23 Annual Budget.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Receive and hear submissions to the Proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget.**
- 2. Prepare responses to the submissions and table at an Unscheduled Meeting of Council for consideration on 7 June 2022.**

The Mayor, Cr Jade Benham noted at the meeting that submissions who had requested to speak to their submission would be given three minutes.

Only one submitter wished to speak to their submission, Mr Matt Rowlands who spoke on behalf of the Swan Hill Livestock Exchange.

Mr Rowlands spoke to his submission at 1.04pm.

60/22 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council granted Mr Matt Rowlands an extension of time for him to speak to his submission at 1.08pm.

SECONDED Cr Jeffery

The Motion was put and CARRIED

The Acting Director of Corporate Services, Ms Morris summarised the other submissions to Council.

61/22 Motion





MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council:

- 1. Receive and hear submissions to the Proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget.**
- 2. Prepare responses to the submissions and table at an Unscheduled Meeting of Council for consideration on 7 June 2022.**

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED

<p>Date: 21.04.2022 Time: 7.58pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 1</p> <p>Would it be possible to have a public toilet in the vacant area at Swan Hill North shops? One is really needed there.</p>	
<p>Date: 22.04.2022 Time: 12.19pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 2</p> <p>I'm a visitor to your council area and have been living in my caravan off and on over three years due to my family circumstances, I have contacted the council regarding the state of the caravan cassette dump point at the oval , and been told there is no money to fix up its state . Have been told by your council that they are considering two other sites which I agree would help the caravaners who visit this great town . I have had lots of other caravaners have trouble using the oval site and it would an easy fix to make it more useable and only a few dollars.</p>	
<p>Date: 28.04.2022 Time: 8.54pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 3</p> <p>Where is the funding to fix up Butterworth St? The worst street in the municipality, especially between Berrybank and Derham Drive. Extend the road should before a pedestrian gets injured. Also the footpaths along Butterworth St are atrocious.</p> <p>You also need to look at installing bike paths and walking tracks like Gannawarra. Look at Cohuna and Koondrook for inspo. Utilise the ugly piece of land where the old channel is between Gray St and McCallum St.</p> <p>And please do me at the Pioneer Settlement to attract children/families. Face painting, petting zoo, rock climbing, mini golf</p>	
<p>Date: 29.04.2022 Time: 9.37pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 4</p> <p>We already pay more than suburbs such as Sorrento. Rates are to high, no more rises</p>	

Date: 30.04.2022

Time: 5.37pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 5

Where is the spending for climate related action? Its 2022 and this should be at a forefront for all levels of government and council should be leading the way by example for the local community. For example, purchasing of EVs for the council fleet, EV charging infrastructure, renewable energy and battery storage projects.

Date: 02.05.2022

Time: 3.26pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 6

Hello,

While all the items listed in the budget are important I am concerned that many outlying areas have not been mentioned, specifically Nyah.

As a resident I would really like to see some development on the corner of River St and Church Rd. This is a busy area with the school bus stopping twice a day, trucks, caravans and locals using a very tight, small corner of bitumen.

There is plenty of room to provide a safe bus stop away from traffic & closer to the pump shed. Also toilets & bbq or even murals in this area would benefit park users, locals and tourists. Nyah is a terrific town and our local parks and garden guys do an amazing job.

It would be great to see some amount of progress on our riverfront.

Date: 11.05.2022

Time: 1.50pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 7

1. It is requested that advocacy for 'a true population' as listed in 'Invest in possibility' be included in the budget document introduction. Previous commitments by Council regarding Robinvale's population are yet to be met.
2. Please define 'Visitor Services' as listed at dot point two of Infrastructure.
3. Please provide a copy of the roads program for the municipality.
4. Please provide a copy of the tree planting program for the municipality.
5. I recently visited the Swan Hill Information Centre and information relating to, and a map of, Robinvale was not available. Can Council advise when a brochure dedicated to Robinvale and which includes a map will be developed.
6. Initiative 128 and 132. Wouldn't Council also work with REBA and RIG to promote the municipality. Please include Robinvale and progress groups from other towns in this initiative.
7. Page 25. What are the reasons for the drop from a forecast actual of \$19.158 M for 21/22 for Infrastructure to a budget of \$7.918 M for 22/23? Is it due to an underspend for the current FY and a consequent carry forward of \$11.809 M? Is about \$20M the capacity of the Council to deliver for Infrastructure?

Date: 18.05.2022

Time: 5.11pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 8

Hello

Can you please explain the rationale behind the rate increases/decreases for the different categories. I am trying to understand the correlation between changes to valuations of the different categories & then the corresponding changes to rates.

For example, why have rates for the Dryland Farming category increased by 8.6%, valuations increased by 23.7%, yet Swan Hill Residential category has only increased by 1.6% after valuations increased by 15.7%?

Over the last 3 years, Dryland Farming category rates have increased by 23%, valuations increased by 45.6%, Swan Hill Residential rates increased by 6.9%, valuations increased by 28.2%

Apart from the rate cap, what factors are considered when determining category increases/decreases? Does the increase in the number of properties of each category get factored in when assessing percentage paid per category?

Date: 16.05.2022

Time: 9.41am

Feedback tool: Emailed to Council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Submission 9

Good Morning.

We are Writing this submission in objection to the Proposed Budget that has been put forward by the Swan Hill Rural Council for the 2022/2023 Financial year. I do wish to speak to this feedback at the special council meeting to be held on Tuesday 31st may 2022

As elected President of the "Swan Hill Associated Agents" group that operates with in the SHRLE representing local & outside Council area Livestock Producers, we as an association voice Great concern Surrounding the proposed budget in relation to the Running, Management and fees of our local Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange.

First point of call that has raised concern for the Association and for many local producers is of the fees that have been put forward for the 22/23 year. These fees are extremely high and do not represent the quality of service that the Council facility of the SHRLE should be providing to the local community. Of major concern are the fees relating to "no sale/passed in " for both cattle and sheep, "yard/sighted" for cattle and sheep & "NLIS tag" for sheep and cattle. As the association we seek explanations on reasons for such high prices that our vendors are been expected to pay.

In extension to the ongoing rising fees I would also like to point out further to why as an association we object to the above. It has become noticeably more evident that the condition of both the cattle complex and sheep yards has, and is becoming worse in what appears to be a band aid approach to deuterating infrastructure

Below are reinforcing points that highlight the need for explanation from Council to the Association and local livestock Producers.

- * Rubber matting that has been used to block a non working scanner Infront of the weigh bridge. This temporary Fix has now been in place since the opening of the new cattle complex.
- * Out dated NLIS Scanning infrastructure that has reached end of life and production, repairs or spare parts are not able to be accessed.
- * Maintenance records that show load chains are worn and end of life review is needed for hoists on cattle ramp. This was advised as far back as 27/7/2020 by an independent audit as per the maintenance records.
- * Major erosion and damage present in sheep complex that has been present for a number of years and causes continuing OH&S issues to staff, producers, buyers, agents and the welfare on

livestock entering the complex.

* Extremely poor drainage that is present in all lane ways running parallel NS to drafts after minimal rainfall . Continually effecting the safe delivery, processing and selling of livestock.

In conclusion we have great concern with the future of the SHRLE and that if producers choose to sell there livestock at other centres this will lead to a loss of revenue for SHRLE and can also take local producers away from spending money in our town.

On behalf of all livestock producers who make the choice to sell at the Swan Hill Regioinal Livestock Exchange the Swan Hill Associated Agents requests the following.

1. An objection to the proposed budget for 22/23 an councils forecasts for revenue into the 22/23 FY.
2. An objection to the proposed fees and charges schedule for SHRLE 22/23 FY.
3. A Detailed Explanation into how Livestock Producers can be expected to accept a price rise in fees when the service and infrastructure is presented in its current form.
4. A Detailed Explanation into Why the infrastructure of the SHRLE has not been maintained
5. A Detailed Explanation into what measures are in place and what council Commits to safe guard livestock producers businesses & Agents Representing those producers in regards to the likely hood of infrastructure that has been poorly maintained failing, and therefore majorly effecting the outcome of a sale Price and the ability to be able to conduct a sale with in the SHRLE.

Date: 19.05.2022

Time: 9.48pm

Feedback tool: emailed to council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Submission 10

I wish to comment on the Swan Hill Rural City Council Draft Budget 2022/23 on behalf of the Woorinen District Progress Association (WDPA). The Association welcomes the inclusion of the early years education opportunities in Woorinen South in the draft budget. Matters that are important to our community have been identified in the Action Plan 2021-22 from the 'Woorinen Community Plan 2021-2025' and include:

- Advocating for a wastewater system for Woorinen South;
- Promote and support residential development in Woorinen South;
- Advocating for improved mobile phone and internet connectivity in Woorinen District and Woorinen South;
- Woorinen South Community Hall maintenance and repairs;
- Community public art projects;
- Walking trails.

We would welcome the inclusion of Woorinen South / Woorinen District in the 'Small Town Strategy'. Woorinen South is within a major fruit growing employment hub of Victoria and is the closest commuter town to Swan Hill in the municipality, being just 10 minutes' drive. We consider our town and district can contribute further to the growth and prosperity of the municipality with the provision of public infrastructure and investment.

Internal submission

Date: 19.05.2022

Time: 4.43pm

Feedback tool: Emailed to council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Submission 11

A range of changes need to be made to the Fees and Charges for the Planning and Building Departments. The majority of changes need to be made to State Government prescribed statutory fees. These are fees that are applied uniformly State wide.

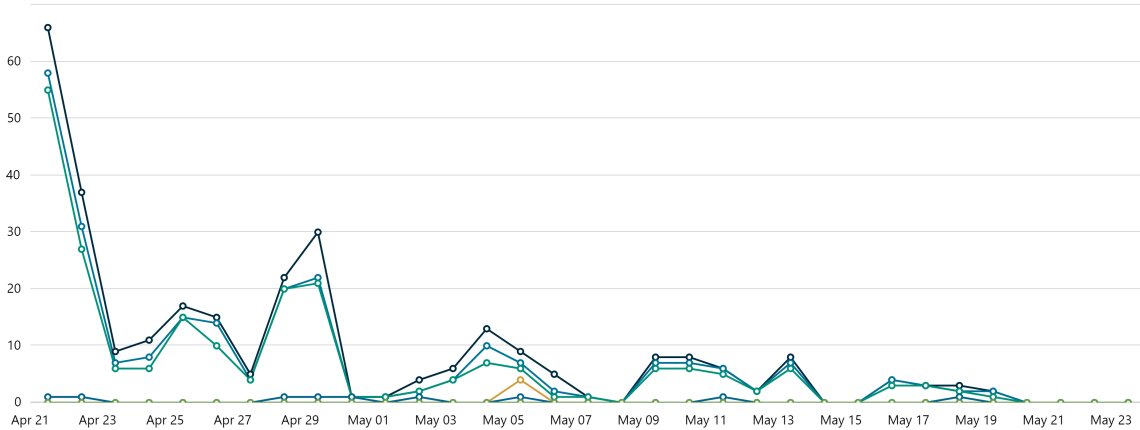
There have been some changes made to charges to reflect the fee schedules in comparable and/or neighbouring Councils.

Let's talk

Report Type: Project
 Project Name: Proposed budget 2022/23
 Date Range: 21-04-2022 - 23-05-2022
 Exported: 23-05-2022 11:57:57

Performance Summary

Information regarding key visitation and utilisation metrics for your Site or projects.



296
Views

247
Visits

221
Visitors

12
Contributions

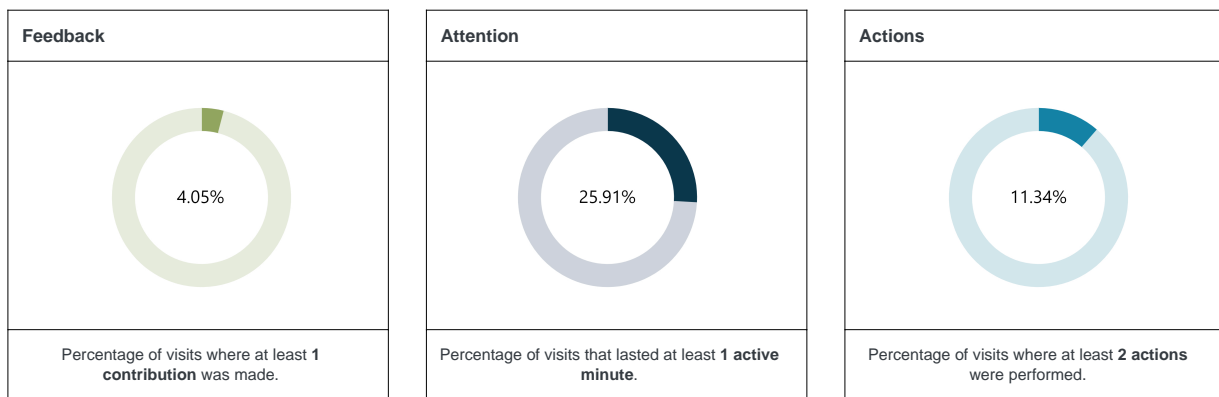
9
Contributors

0
Followers

Views - The number of times a Visitor views any page on a Site.
Visits - The number of end-user sessions associated with a single Visitor.
Visitors - The number of unique public or end-users to a Site. A Visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.
Contributions - The total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools.
Contributors - The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a Site through the participation tools.
Followers - The number of Visitors who have 'subscribed' to a project using the 'Follow' button.


Conversions


Information regarding how well your engagement websites converted Visitors to perform defined key actions.



Participation

Information regarding how people have participated in your projects and activities.

Contributions by Activity			
Contributions by Activity is a breakdown of contributions across each tool			
Activity	Contributions		%
 Form	12	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #004a7c;"></div>	100%

Top Activities			
Top Activities is the top 5 tools that received the highest contributions			
Activity	Page Name	Contributions	Contributors
 Form	Proposed budget 2022/23	12	9

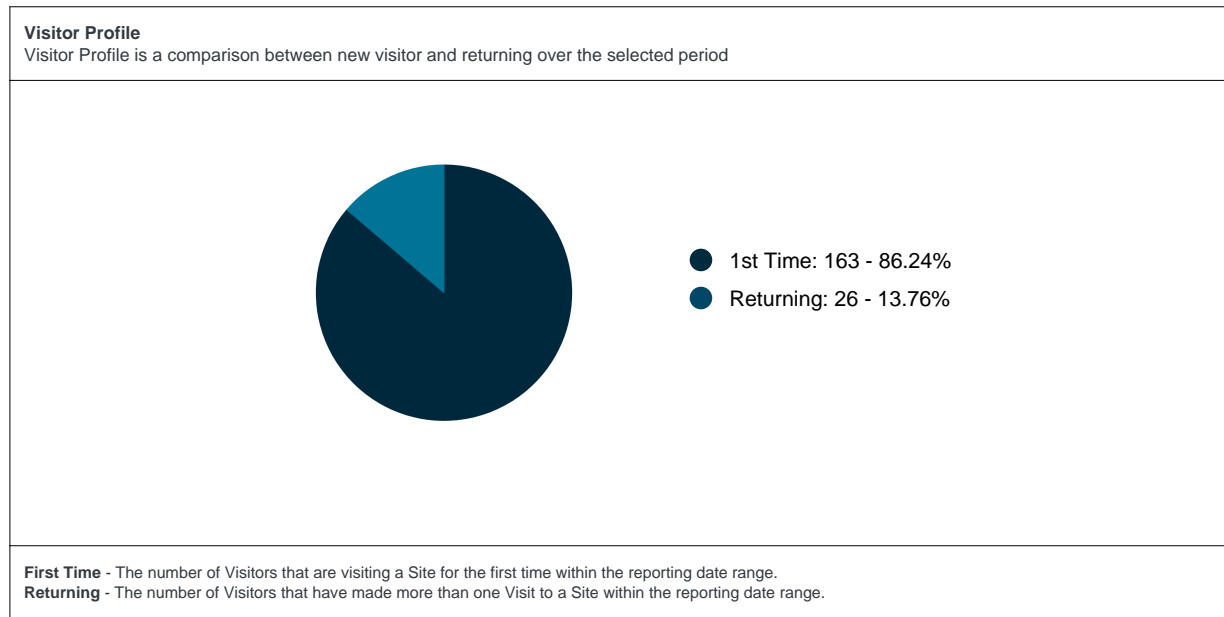
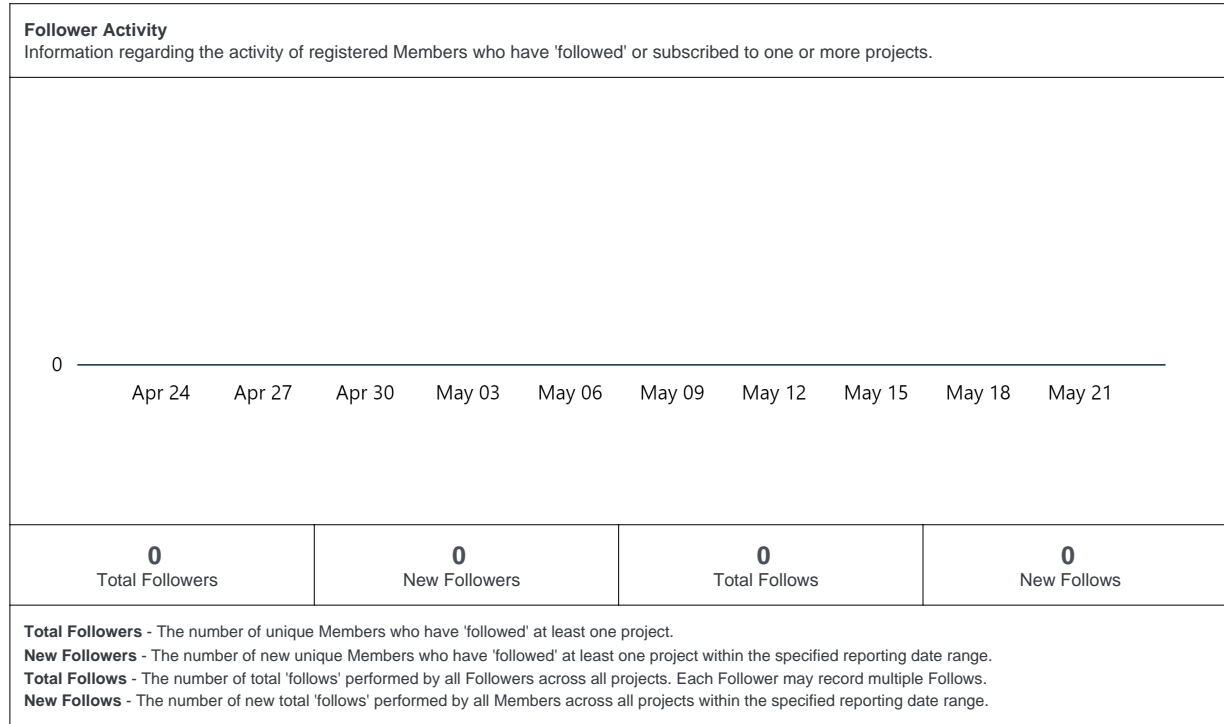
Projects

The current number and status of your Site's projects (e.g. engagement websites)

<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Engagement Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Days</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Apr 21st 2022</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Thursday</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Peak Visitation Date</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Peak Visitation Day</td> </tr> </table>	Engagement Time			0	4	16	Days	Hours	Minutes	Apr 21st 2022	Thursday	Peak Visitation Date	Peak Visitation Day	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Top Visited Pages</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Summary information for the top five most visited Pages.</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Page Name</th> <th>Visitation %</th> <th>Visits</th> <th>Visitors</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Proposed budget 2022/23</td> <td>100%</td> <td>247</td> <td>189</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Top Visited Pages				Summary information for the top five most visited Pages.				Page Name	Visitation %	Visits	Visitors	Proposed budget 2022/23	100%	247	189
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Apr 21st 2022	Thursday																													
Peak Visitation Date	Peak Visitation Day																													
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Summary information for the top five most visited Pages.																														
Page Name	Visitation %	Visits	Visitors																											
Proposed budget 2022/23	100%	247	189																											

People

Information regarding who has participated in your projects and activities.

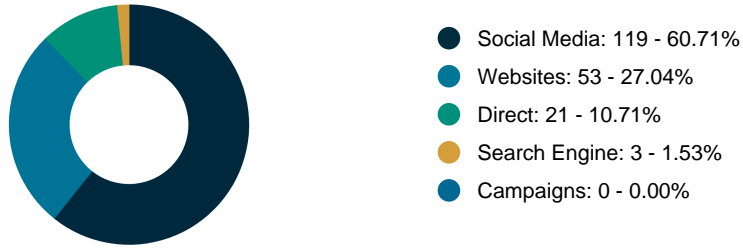


Acquisition

Information regarding the method by which Visitors arrived to your Site or projects.

Referral Types

Referral traffic is the segment of traffic that arrives on your website through another source, like through a link on another domain.



Direct - Visitors who have arrived at a Site by entering the exact web address or URL of the page.
Search Engine - Visitors who have arrived at a Site via a search engine. Such as Google, Yahoo, etc.
Websites - Visitors who have arrived at the Site after clicking a link located on an external website.
Social Media - Visitors who have arrived at a Site by clicking a link from a known social media site such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.
Campaigns - Visitors who have arrived through a campaign (using a UTM). See your email campaign report for more details on campaigns sent from this platform.

Downloads




Information regarding your downloads, the total set of unique documents downloaded, total downloads of all files, and your top downloads.

 6 Total Documents	 220 Total Downloads
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Top Downloads		
Top file downloads in your selection, ordered by the number of downloads.		
File Title	File Type	Downloads
SHRCC_Draft_Budget_2022-23.pdf	PDF	111
Budget Highlights.pdf	PDF	64
Budget Highlights.pdf	PDF	39
Budget Highlights.pdf	PDF	6
Budget 2022.png	PNG	0

Email Campaigns

Information regarding your email campaigns, your total campaigns, the total number of recipients, and your top campaigns by click-through rate (clicks as a percentage of total recipients).

 1 Email Campaigns Sent	 43 Total Recipients	 20.93% Click-through Rate
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Top Campaigns			
Top email campaigns that have activity in your selection, ordered by click-through rate (clicks as a percentage of total recipients).			
Campaign Name	Recipients	Clicks	Click-through Rate
Proposed budget 2022/23	43	9	20.93%

There being no further business the Mayor, Councillor Jade Benham closed the meeting at 1.27pm