CITY OF BALLARAT

REIMAGINING LLANBERRIS RESERVE

Engagement Summary

Proudly working with and for our community



“This engagement report is a snapshot of what the community told us about the future of Llanberris Reserve during April to May 2026.”

Background

The engagement process was designed to inform the community about Llanberris Reserve and its unique characteristics, while creating an opportunity for people to help shape its future. With competitive athletics relocating to the new athletics precinct at the Ballarat Major Events Precinct in late 2026, the reserve is entering a new chapter, presenting a significant opportunity to explore how this much-loved community space can best serve current and future generations.

Community members were invited to share their ideas about the future use of the reserve, including the activities, facilities and experiences they would like to see supported over time.

The engagement also provided an opportunity to communicate site-specific considerations and gather ideas and opportunities from participants, helping to ensure that future plans are practical, achievable, and reflective of community values and aspirations.

This engagement report is a snapshot of what the community told us about the future of Llanberris Reserve during April to May 2026.

Find out more about the project - **mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/reimagining-llanberris-reserve**

Engagement approach

A range of engagement activities was undertaken to ensure community members and stakeholders could provide input into the future use of Llanberris Reserve. Supported by a comprehensive communications campaign to raise awareness of the project, the engagement was conducted over a six-week period from the **16 April 2026 to 28 May 2026.**

A diverse range of communications and engagement activities were delivered to raise awareness of the Reimagining Llanberris project.

These included a dedicated project page on the 'MySay Ballarat' website, posters and postcards distributed to nearby households and community spaces, articles in local newspapers, radio interviews, television stories, organic and targeted social media campaigns, and direct outreach to community groups.

The engagement generated a high level of community interest, with 882 responses received across a range of engagement methods. Together, these activities provided a strong evidence base to inform the future direction of Llanberris Reserve.

882
Responses in total

361
MySay online surveys

295
Face-to-face engagement

202
Social media comments

11
Community group submissions

13
Other submissions

In-person community outreach

In-person community engagement outreach via drop-in, pop-up and vox pop sessions:

- Community Panel presentation and workshop
- Resident Sessions
- Community Conversation Sessions
- Site tours for interested community groups
- School Sports Victoria Secondary School Vox Pop
- Barkly Square Pop-up
- Sonika Youth workshop
- Social Connections workshop
- Live4Life Crew workshop
- Ballarat Kid's Think Tank workshop
- Engagement pack shared with Ballarat Think Tank Schools including a Conversation Starter sheet, school newsletter blurb, One Key Question for discussion, drawing sheet and a group conversation template.
- Other phone calls, customer enquiries responses and community contact points

Key external stakeholder consultation

- Direct engagement with Council's Disability Advisory Committee
- Ongoing engagement with athletics clubs currently based at Llanberris Reserve
- Direct emails to MySay subscribers
- Direct emails to community groups registered in the Ballarat Community Directory
- Meetings with residents, athletics clubs, community groups and other key stakeholders
- Letters, phone calls and emails in response to contact from community members
- Letters distributed to schools

Who did we hear from

Engagement attracted feedback from a diverse cross-section of the community, including nearby residents, current Reserve users, athletics clubs, schools, young people, children, community groups and broader community members. Capturing a range of voices was important to ensure the future of Llanberris Reserve reflects the needs, aspirations and experiences of the people that currently use, or may benefit from the Reserve now and into the future.

Information about participant's connection to Llanberris Reserve was collected through MySay. The following results provide a snapshot of how respondents are connected to and use the reserve.



Key findings

01 Keep Llanberris Reserve for social and community uses and benefits

A strong theme throughout the engagement was the desire for Llanberris Reserve to become a more welcoming and accessible open space that can be enjoyed by the wider community. Participants consistently opposed residential or commercial development, valuing the Reserve as an important green space for Ballarat East.

Participants imagined Llanberris Reserve as an open and welcoming green space, that retains its existing value to support social connection, recreation and activities. Participants imagined a place that encourages people to pause, relax and enjoy their surroundings. Improved entrances, better signage, enhanced accessibility and a more welcoming presence were identified as important steps in helping the Reserve evolve into a more community-focused open space.

"Community park space with something to do regularly"
– **In-person engagement participant**

"Open Space that helps community be active and provides spaces for younger and older residents"
– **MySay respondent**

"This is a very valuable open space for community use."
– **MySay respondent**

"A place to relax with your friends... A space to run, move and play"
– **Primary School aged respondent**

"Opportunity to provide affordable community spaces, that can be hired at a reduced cost... for creative people"
– **In-person engagement participant**

"The best use of this space is: Community hub, plus recreational space plus parkland. The community hub would provide a central facilities area with food, toilets & seating. There would be a number of rooms suitable for Neighbourhood Houses, Men's Sheds, Cafes, and a bus stop."
– **MySay respondent**

02 Keep the track

Keeping the running track as a defining feature of Llanberris Reserve that supports movement, health and wellbeing for people of all ages and ability. Participants viewed the track as a valued community asset that supports training, casual running, fitness, school sport and everyday physical activity. Widely regarded as safe and accessible, respondents suggested the Reserve should become a "park with a track", available for casual recreation and community use while supporting new activities and experiences around it, letting the track become part of something bigger. Although a small number of participants suggested modifications to the track or questioned its long-term role, the overwhelming preference was to retain the track as a defining feature of Llanberris.

"I would like it if the running track stayed, but if it was reformed and surrounded by a little nature"
– **Youth participant**

"I would like to see Llanberris retained as an athletic facility for training purposes to service the southern suburbs of Ballarat."
– **MySay respondent**

"At the moment I can see a lot of people from different backgrounds and age groups using the space. I use a track for training along with my fellow friends from the running club. I can see people using it for walking and their casual training. It is a great space for amateurs and professional athletes."
– **MySay respondent**

"Remain accessible for community training as a non-competitive track"
– **In-person engagement participant**

"Park with a track, like Preston"
– **In-person engagement participant**

03 Improved amenities around the track

To support the activation of the Reserve as a community-focused open space, participants identified a broad range of amenities and infrastructure that would make Llanberris Reserve more welcoming, comfortable and suitable for everyday use. The amenities frequently suggested included a playground, accessible public toilets, BBQ facilities, exercise equipment, seating, picnic facilities, paths, and shelters. Participants felt these facilities would make the Reserve more comfortable and encourage people to stay longer and visit more often. There was also support for community use for the buildings on the Reserve, cafés, event facilities, community garden, and other activities. These upgrades were seen as important to transforming Llanberris into a more vibrant place that serves a broader range of people and activities.

"BBQs, tables and chairs, cubby house, sand pit, triangle spider web climbing, zip line, lights, swings, spinning pole, playground, picnic area and parking"
– **Kid's Think Tank participant, aged 12, when asked what Llanberris should be**

"I believe Llanberris Reserve should be developed as a well-designed park space that serves the needs of the local community. This should include essential amenities such as public toilets, accessible drinking water, and well-connected walking paths."
– **MySay respondent**

"I think a public space with trees and plants, playground/s, BBQ facilities and a decent-sized open grass area, maybe with a jogging track"
– **MySay respondent**

"I'd love to see an inclusive play space like the ones in Victoria Park and Sebastopol. There are no nice playgrounds in the Ballarat east area and this needs to be addressed. I would like there to be toilets and BBQ facilities included."
– **MySay respondent**

04 Retain Llanberris Reserve as a second formal athletics facility for school carnivals and community use

Many participants recognised the importance of the new regional athletics facility at the Ballarat Major Events Precinct but also highlighted the potential ongoing value of Llanberris Reserve as a secondary formal athletics venue. Support for retaining the Reserve as an athletics facility was linked to population growth, the popularity of athletics, strong demand from schools and community users, and Ballarat's established running culture.

Llanberris Reserve was seen as playing an important role in supporting participation and recreation while complementing, rather than competing with, the new athletics facility. Rather than maintaining Llanberris as a competition-standard venue, many comments supported a community-focused athletics model that continued to accommodate school sport, casual training and fitness activities. Preserving Llanberris as an athletics facility was seen as an investment in the ongoing development and future of Ballarat athletics.

"The best future for the Llanberris Reserve is for it to maintained as an Athletics Track available to schools and community groups for use... If this is taken into consideration in terms of the numbers impacted, schools, and subsequently students, impacted by the option of a second track it is definitely a viable option."
– **MySay respondent**

"Ideally, I would like the track to be maintained as an athletics training facility/walking and exercise track - this need will only grow as Ballarat expands... I understand that there is a considerable cost entailed in keeping the track at competition level but less would be required to maintain for training purposes."
– **MySay respondent**

"This venue is widely used by locals and plays an important role in our community. It should be preserved in its current form for everyone to continue enjoying."
– **Social Media comment**

05 Create a green space for community

The engagement highlighted the importance of Llanberris Reserve as a valuable and unique area of open green space for the Ballarat East community. Participants saw the Reserve as an opportunity to create a park-like environment that supports recreation, wellbeing and social connection, while retaining its open character. The imagining of Llanberris as a greener environment included family-friendly spaces, nature-based recreation, biodiversity improvements and possible links to the CBD and the nearby Canadian Creek. Nature was referred to as a way to bring people together, creating spaces where friends, families and community can relax, learn, explore, play and connect. There was support for balancing the retention of the openness of the space with increased planting and habitat, that benefits both people and wildlife. The improved green space was seen as complementary to the track, creating a park-like setting that supports gentle recreation, accessible physical activity and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature and support their wellbeing.

"I would like to see the addition of a park and play space, gardens and a café that expand its use to more community members"
– **MySay respondent**

"I would like it to be a green space. A lovely park of trees, shrubs with walks through it. For relaxation and peaceful space."
– **MySay respondent**

"I would go to Llanberris if it was a calm welcoming space with lots of nature"
– **Youth participant**

"Rare opportunity for a new green space of this size"
– **In-person engagement participant**

"Could make it a green space, keep the running track but add lots and lots of trees. In Golden Point they have only two small parks so would be lovely to have a large green space."
– **Nearby resident**

"Keep and create more gardens around the perimeter of the property with seating, picnic tables etc. Basically, create a community space which encourages the community to do more exercise."
– **MySay respondent**

06 Use the space for other sports and recreational activities

Many participants supported broadening the range of recreation and sporting activities available at Llanberris Reserve, by making use of the internal green space, incorporating opportunities for organised sport and/or active recreation. Across the engagement Llanberris Reserve was noted as a potential home and training facility for up to nineteen different organised sports. Suggestions for other recreational activities included small-sided soccer pitches, footy posts, half basketball courts, fitness equipment, yoga, tai chi and other related health and wellbeing activities.

"Turn it into a multi-sport precinct, Football, Cricket, Soccer, Netball, Tennis. Ballarat is rapidly growing and having more sporting facilities is a must. Ballarat city council already struggle with scheduling most weekends with grounds being overused causing long term damage to existing grounds. adding another oval for multiple sports would take some pressure off the existing grounds and allow for future growth in junior and senior sport"
– **MySay respondent**

"Needs a variety of spaces for people to use for different purposes - suggestions e.g. quiet reflection, play, creative arts spaces where a class could occur, space for yoga, tai chi"
– **MySay respondent**

"Leave the running track and add basketball courts, tennis walls, etc"
– **MySay respondent**

"I live nearby and want to see it stay as a sporting venue, we do not want to see it turned into any form of housing. It does require more parking and disability access toilets"
– **MySay respondent**



Next steps

An Expression of Interest (EOI) process was considered for the activation of the Stuart Hunter pavilion. The EOI process was undertaken over two rounds, with the first round occurring concurrently with the engagement period. Eleven submissions were received from eight community groups. The evaluation of the EOIs remains ongoing and will help inform future decisions regarding the use and activation of the pavilion.

The next stage of the Reimagining Llanberris Reserve project will involve considering the community's aspirations alongside the site's characteristics. This will help ensure that future recommendations are community-informed and achievable over the short, medium and long term. Updates on recommendations, decisions and the transition of the Reserve will be shared via the City of Ballarat's MySay website and communication streams.

Any future upgrades would be delivered in stages, subject to Council budget allocations, site considerations and external funding opportunities.

CITY OF BALLARAT

Customer Service
Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm

Phone
5320 5500

Email
info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Postal Address
PO Box 655
Ballarat, VIC 3353

Website
ballarat.vic.gov.au

NRS-Friendly Hearing or Speech Impaired?
Call via the National Relay Service on 133 677

Translating and Interpreting Services
Call 131 450 for immediate phone interpreting (available 24 hours)
Visit **tisnational.gov.au** for online service

@BallaratCityCouncil

cityofballarat

ballarat-city-council