

Darlington Towards 2060

Our Vision for our Future

Introduction and Background

From June 2009 to April 2010 some 150 residents of Darlington have contributed to the development of a strategic plan for Darlington. The process included two workshops in which about 50 people took part.

The participants were asked to describe Darlington as they would like it to be in 2060, and from that picture define the vision that will best achieve their aspiration for the village, the values that underpin the vision, and the key strategic objectives that must be achieved in order to reach the desired Darlington in 2060.

This strategic plan is derived from that work. It is intended to provide overarching support for the village community as it develops its plans for its future. The Strategic Plan will inform the Darlington Precinct Plan and other plans that may be prepared for the locality. The plan has been prepared in a format similar to the Mundaring Shire Strategic Plan¹, and it is intended that it should assist communication between the Darlington community and the Council and Shire of Mundaring, and other levels of government.

Vision

The Darlington community has established this vision for our future. Our aspirations are that we will be:

An informed, responsible, creative and multicultural village community with an affinity to the natural environment whilst fostering art, education, recreation and business activities.

Values

The values underpinning this vision are:

- Respecting the growth of our cultural, historic, artistic and educational background
- Pride in, and desire to preserve, our village and its unique semi rural characteristics and quality of lifestyle
- Striving to live sustainably, in an environmentally responsible manner
- Supporting community endorsed development that is sensitive to our existing environment
- Responsibility, collective and individual, for the future of our village.

¹ Strategic Directions - A Plan for the Future - November 2008 – June 2012 - (As reviewed November 2008), prepared by the Shire of Mundaring.

Objectives

1. LEADERSHIP

Maintain a constructive dialogue with elected representatives and relevant statutory authorities to ensure that they meet the needs of the Darlington community.

It is too easy for individuals and indeed whole communities to feel disempowered by the government they have elected. This strategic plan is intended to empower the residents of the Darlington locality; so that they ensure their elected representatives at all levels of government know that the representative is the servant of the community and not the other way around. Darlington residents will achieve this through their active participation in government via continuous constructive dialogue.

Outcomes

- Mechanisms to continue dialogue and embrace the interests of the community.
- Simplicity of governance
- Embrace change
- Negotiate with government at all levels.
- A socially engaged community.
- Darlington centred shire councillors.

Key Actions

1.1. Ensure community leaders are briefed on, understand, and are committed to the Strategic Plan and the Precinct Plan

1.2. Attend Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA) meetings and Council meetings frequently, and be prepared to ask relevant questions.

1.3. Vote in local elections

1.4. Join DRRA, and make it work for you.

1.5. Establish a process in Darlington to ensure that full community consultation takes place on issues affecting the village.

1.5.1. Ensure that all stakeholder groups are represented in DRRA.

1.6. DRRA to hold a village meeting to discuss issues affecting the village at least once per year.

1.7. Participate in our community.

1.8. Once every two or three years revisit the Vision and Values and Key Strategic Objectives for Darlington.

Final
Endorsed at Community Meeting
Wednesday 7th April 2010

2. ECOLOGICAL INTENT

Maintain and grow an ecologically sound village environment while preserving and improving the village aesthetic.

Darlington wishes to maintain and improve the local aesthetic. The treed environment, views and natural surrounds, with the associated lack of orderliness, is very important to us. We wish to retain the minimum half acre blocks, but recognise that it may be desirable to endorse well planned, sensitive and unique seniors accommodation in areas close to the village centre.

Outcomes

- Pedestrian oriented development
- Encourage walking and cycling paths in accordance with the Darlington Precinct Plan
- Maintain a soft-edged green environment
- Sustainable in power, water and sewerage
- Explore national and international examples of sustainable development to achieve the aspirations listed above.
- Maintained verges to extent required to manage fire risks
- Do not want:
 - Excessive street lighting
 - Traffic lights
 - Darlington to be the thoroughfare from A to B
 - Traffic solutions driven by Federal Funding

Key Actions
2.1. Become self sustainable in power, water and sewerage to become "power positive", "water neutral" and "zero rubbish collection" by 2020.
2.2. Engage resources and explore international examples e.g. grey water, poor soil technology, solar panels, and perma-culture.
2.3. Encourage solar and wind power generation so that each home generates its own power and enough power for the community facilities.
2.4. Encourage composting and recycling so that there is no requirement for garbage collection from the locality.
2.5. Establish the area surrounding the schools, kindergarten and commercial areas as a pedestrian dominated zone. Speed limit 40 kph, with road surface materials to encourage traffic calming and help drivers of vehicles to be aware of pedestrians.

Final
Endorsed at Community Meeting
Wednesday 7th April 2010

3. PLAN FOR LAND USE + INFRASTRUCTURE

Encourage local businesses to meet the needs of the community while maintaining the village ethos.

We want the businesses in Darlington to thrive in order that we can maintain our village lifestyle. At the same time those businesses must support and improve the sustainability of our environment and make positive contributions to the village aesthetic.

Outcomes

- DRRA to monitor, report, liaise, and raise issues as they occur.
- Establish specific objectives for the physical village.
- Establish centres for local social interaction.
- Do not want:
 - A Service station, supermarket, or hotel.

Key Actions
3.1. Update the 1998 Precinct Plan to cover the Darlington locality. 3.1.1. Update the 1998 Precinct Plan in preparation for Mundaring Shire Town Planning Scheme No. 4.
3.2. Aged care accommodation and local social interaction facilities aesthetically developed for use by all ages.
3.3. Establish a village development plan that is consistent with the Strategic Plan and the Precinct Plan. 3.3.1. Consider the inclusion of tearooms, a cafe', an art gallery, and a craft gallery. 3.3.2. Investigate and possibly establish a local waste water and sewerage treatment facility to support local businesses. 3.3.3. Establish the community sports pavilion. 3.3.4. Establish a youth facility at current cricket pavilion. 3.3.5. Establish the "Railway Station" Coffee shop. 3.3.6. Restore the Hudman Quarry as an historic precinct to be used as a recreational facility for all age groups.
3.4. Support and retain the Post Office.
3.5. Investigate the establishment of a General Medical Practice in the village.

4. CREATIVE DIALOGUES:

Preserve and nurture the village's high standing as a place of learning, development of the arts, and related intellectual pursuits.

Darlington's strengths in education and the arts, and its appreciation and maintenance of the natural environment, make the locality an ideal place for creative effort. Creativity is stimulated by interaction with nature and the exchange of ideas.

Outcomes

- Provide incentives to support sustainable goals such as education programmes.
- Programmed conservation and maintenance of the natural environment.
- Provision of opportunities for all age groups.
- Smart community, celebration of creativity.
 - Nurture through children.
- Celebrate the history of this artistic community and support its continued evolution.

Key Actions
4.1. Encourage and support participation from groups from the wider community including schools and students, artists and historians, in developing their ideas for the village: i.e., open art studio days, a Historical Society, etc.
4.2. Encourage and support local small arts and crafts businesses.
4.3. Involve the Darlington schools in research debate, and creative participation in Darlington's future.
4.4. Ask the students what they want for Darlington (in, for example, essay competitions, art, music etc).
4.5. Encourage universities to contribute to Darlington's objectives through research projects.
4.6. Record and value Darlington's intellectual property.
4.7. Establish a Centre for Creative Education, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.7.1. Art, Music, Dance, Writing, Performing arts, and4.7.2. Sports such as Yoga, Cricket, Tennis, Football (all codes), etc.

5. CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY:

Utilize emerging communication technologies for information exchange and consultation within the community.

The Federal Government's intention to establish a National Broadband Network is an opportunity for Darlington. With the improved information exchange speeds potentially available in the NBN there is opportunity for improved e-commerce, internet-based community security monitoring, a fire warning network and a rapid communication of ideas within our community.

Outcomes

- Global Spokes (Web).
- Connected village.
- Enable unobtrusive, flexible development of supportive technologies.

Key Actions
5.1. Develop a model community website for dissemination and sharing of community information such as internet-based community security monitoring and fire warning, as well as a tool for constant community feedback and consultation on emerging issues of the day.
5.2. Develop a master plan for effective consultation, both within the community and with the Shire; after successful trials promote to other communities.
5.3. Establish an "on-line creative community".
5.4. Create space for debate on all aspects of community matters.