

Engage Ararat Feedback Report

View Point Street + Banfield Street Footpath and Playground

155 entries as of 22/8/2024

Date Submitted	Feedback
Jul 27, 2024, 12:35 PM	<p>I feel the need to strongly object to this proposal. This remains the only public open space in the area bounded by Minton, Viewpoint, Banfield Streets and George Road. It is an important playground for children in this area of Ararat. To imply that Alexandra Gardens is easily walkable accessible to young children and their parents in this area is ridiculous. The walk coupled with crossing the Western Highway rules out a short a playground. The Hewitt Street playground isn't easily accessible to families with young children in the local area, particularly those between and Banfield Streets.</p> <p>Selling the block and recreating a 'lane' will only create a hard to police and arguably unsafe space for pedestrians, especially at night and will potential cause of disruption to local residents.</p> <p>Ararat is not so short of residential land that we need to sell off public open space in residential areas. An increase in building density in this a only add to the problem of reduced amenity for families and young children in this part of the city.</p> <p>This park is also an important pedestrian link for the neighbourhood. It is used by young families, school children and elderly people.</p> <p>Council's current drive to 'densify' residential housing in the city should actually cause it to increase and protect public open space if its commit a healthy community is true. Play space for young people is greatly reduced by this drive to increase rate revenue and maintaining small spac becomes more and more important to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Adding to the built environment also increases runoff and decreases soil permeability and subsoil moisture takeup and increases the heat in th area, especially during summer. The net effect is a less shady, less liveable residential area and greater pressure on local trees and other veg and greater burden on already inadequate stormwater systems.</p> <p>The loss of this area also removes one of the few surviving relatively mature native trees in the area and will impact local birdlife which include Holland Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Crimson Rosellas, Eastern Rosellas, Wattle birds and wrens, all of which are regularly observed in a around this space.</p> <p>The residents in this area contribute more than enough to Council's rate revenue to maintain our park. Keep your hands off our only surviving neighbourhood public open space!</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 01:30 PM	We walk through this park regularly and I have never seen this playground being used so I agree with the idea of a small walkway and mounta building on more frequently used play spaces
Jul 28, 2024, 01:36 PM	It is incredibly important we keep green areas. There are so many little parcels of land (backyards etc) that are being subdivided with lots of un put on them. There is plenty of other land available. Please do not take away another green space instead of putting on more townhouses
Jul 28, 2024, 01:37 PM	I believe the park should be kept and not sold. In fact I think the space has potential and good location to be upgraded to an actual usable park or even small trampoline park for children in the area. I strongly believe we do not h enough facilities for our infant/toddler/child population in the area.
Jul 28, 2024, 01:39 PM	Absolutely no way! There is so much valuable land for housing around Ararat! Keep this great little park these little pockets of gold are what set rural living apart from inner city housing estates! People come to the country jammed in! I have so many found memories of this park growing up!
Jul 28, 2024, 01:42 PM	Leave the playground alone and rename it Gunstone Park. It was formerly a laneway na m Ed in his honour

Jul 28, 2024, 01:44 PM	<p>Have you thought about removing the playground to reduce the maintenance and replace with a low maintenance native garden or woody mea Start making climate ready spaces which reduce surrounding temperatures.</p> <p>There are enough designated residential areas in Ararat to accommodate the low amount of employment already, such as Evan's park and Gr Estate, already developed areas. Please leave open spaces open, green and available to the public to enjoy.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 01:51 PM	<p>How disappointing to hear that this lovely little park is to be sold off by Council. I live on Banfield Street and see many small children with paren grandparents playing there. It's an easy walk for grandparents and small children - no need for a car trip or to cross the busy (and getting busie highway. There is plenty of land around for social and other housing without taking away such an accessible play area. Thumbs down to Coun this one.</p> <p>██████ Street Resident</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 01:53 PM	<p>This seems like a money grab for council. Leave it alone and let the residents enjoy the green space - remember what it was like to be a kid.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:01 PM	<p>This area has been a lane then a playground. I drive past it every day and there is always mothers with kids or other people there, where will they go to play if it becomes another unit? I as a rate payer am greatly opposed to t of removing this play area for the children of our community.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:01 PM	<p>Please keep this valuable asset to residents living close to Banfield and View Point Streets. The land size is too small for a house - especially proposed lane running beside it. The parcel of land is located on a bend in Banfield Street, which will make it a nightmare for any vehicles tryin enter the block - reduced visibility while reversing out of said block.</p> <p>The subdivision of many traditional house blocks in that area of town (ie multiple units proposed for Ford Street and George Road, and those a built in Banfield Street in recent months) means more people living in the area of this park. As our neighbourhoods are expanding, we need an deserve public open space.</p> <p>Please look at our recreational needs instead of trying to save council a few dollars.</p> <p>The Hewitt Street playground is much larger. Divide and sell off that instead.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:01 PM	<p>Please don't sell it, it's a lovely little playground for the children who live on the surrounding streets.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:05 PM	<p>Leave the playground where it is. Density housing is happening in lots of backyards. Banfield and View Point are two very busy thoroughfares and another driveway will be of safety concerns for drivers and the resident!! I doubt residential home will help the environment with shrubs/grasses etc. Ararat has some open spaces, please leave them alone!!</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:06 PM	<p>Good work Ararat council (not), new builds near the city are ensuring there are ample green spaces and playgrounds and you are aiming to re one. Also, accessing Alexandra Gardens requires crossing the highway, an extremely busy road at times. Did 2020 teach you nothing, access variety of green spaces is important!</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:11 PM	<p>At a time when we need to encourage outdoor activities for children I think it is appalling to remove a functional playground for housing. This is simply council using the need for housing as an excuse to get out of paying maintenance costs to keep a community asset operational. There are plenty of other suitable areas in the township that are suitable for private without destroying community assets. Appalling.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:12 PM	<p>When walking home with groceries I have often stopped and rested at this park.</p> <p>If the playground is removed, could a seat still be provided near the laneway for people carrying groceries to rest?</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:13 PM	<p>I think we should have more parks and playgrounds, not less.</p> <p>Please keep this as open public space, and add additional trees for shade and birds.</p>

Jul 28, 2024, 02:13 PM	<p>This is not a good thing for the people of Banfield St.</p> <p>Many people use it as a short cut when walking to the street. Many of these are elderly who sit and rest on the journey.</p> <p>This park is accessible for families with small children.</p> <p>The tight bend in the road already has a guard.</p> <p>How many residential buildings could it accommodate? How would these benefits outweigh the loss of this public space?</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:17 PM	<p>We use this park regularly as it's right near our house and our kids love it!</p> <p>We would be so disappointed if it wasn't there anymore</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:29 PM	<p>Dear council, Are we really so desperate for money that we need to sell off all the bits of vacant garden/playground land around town? We have been unlucky enough to now have four residences looking into our back yard compa the original one, what an invasion of privacy this is, all because council wants more rates for the budget. We are not in favour of off the selling land. Also, when you approve the subdivision of land with in the city, can you make sure it's next to your homes? Probably not.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:30 PM	<p>I am very disappointed to hear that you are thinking of selling this small patch of land. I have recently moved up to High St West but lived on th of High & Viewpoint st for over 20 years and my grandchildren have spent many hours enjoy this space. We would often take our lunch across (until the table & seats were removed) and enjoy the slide, climbing tower where we would drive the fire truck with great views of the mountain down the fireman's pole, practice our balancing on the timber border, and enjoy the rocking animals. Surely council is not that desperate for m they need to sell this block. I ask councillors to please reconsider.</p> <p>██████████</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:32 PM	<p>I would like it to remain a green space. Remove the playground if necessary but keep it as a small open area.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:37 PM	<p>I think it could use some improvements as a Public Space. Very little in it, and could be made more inviting to engage with.</p> <p>Perhaps it could be an invitation to form a local community of people willing to join together to improve it? Just an idea I have seen work in oth communities...</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:39 PM	<p>I object. I lived in the area most of my life growing up and the park is not only a shortcut but a place for people to stop and catch their breath and enjoy.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:45 PM	<p>This space should be maintained for local community use in that area. Council needs to show us a plan for green spaces throughout the city, w areas of green planned for community use to make living in the town a way of being. Our forefathers were aware of the necessity for these spa mental well being.</p> <p>Where is our overall plan in these new subdivisions for green parks????</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:46 PM	<p>With blocks of land getting smaller and smaller within Ararat Housing density is getting ridiculous. We need more green areas/playgrounds for the families that are having to raise their children on tiny blocks. We shouldn't I playground areas.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 02:54 PM	<p>It appears that Ararat are getting many houses and units being built in house yards; laneways; with several being crammed together on small b so why remove one of the current playgrounds for children, surely they deserve to have an area to use outdoors.</p> <p>We adults want kids to get outdoors and away from screens, tv and have the ability to mix with others by playing sport so why take this well us away from them during their early formative years.</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 03:12 PM	<p>I think it's a disgusting idea to sell the land off, I used that area as a child just as I have taken my children there as they were growing up. Nowadays I have grandchildren and will be bringing them down there as well. My gra lived a few doors away and it was always cool to go meet up with friends there. I'm against it being sold off..</p>
Jul 28, 2024, 03:34 PM	<p>I would rather keep the playground as it is great for toddlers</p>

Jul 28, 2024, 03:35 PM	I often walk through this space on my way to the supermarket from home. The kids love to stop in and have a play on the playground. The playground needs a bit of an update though. Our children still need to know the importance of playing outside and if we have more quality spaces of playgrounds for them benefits them.
Jul 28, 2024, 03:41 PM	No leave it as a playground.
Jul 28, 2024, 03:55 PM	I have used the pathway through this playground as a resident of both Banfield and View Point Streets. It is very rare to see children playing there. My grandchildren tried it out but very quickly decided they much prefer the playground in Alexandr Gardens. Walking the dog through the playground this week, unaware of the councils proposal, I thought to myself that the cost of maintaining rarely used space would be better spent elsewhere. I endorse the proposal and hope the saved maintenance costs and increase in rate income used to upgrade other playground that have higher usage.
Jul 28, 2024, 04:04 PM	Please do not sell off this piece of land for residential. All communities need parks available for the young and old to use. Open spaces are good for everybody so as a rate payer it is not something I will agree with. [REDACTED] Ararat.
Jul 28, 2024, 04:08 PM	I would like the park/playground to stay as is. It provides a place to rest, a space to play for children and a shorter walk to facilities such as church, supermarket and Barkly Street shops. That is a very pretty part of Ararat and cramming multi units or townhouses amongst the characterful houses would be a blight in my opinion. There is more space on the outskirts of town. Leave this one be .
Jul 28, 2024, 04:10 PM	Considering how small the area involved is why not just leave it alone, especially when it currently serves a purpose as a rest stop and children's park. Only got to travel around town to view some ugly congested new builds , Barkly/ Maude st units, McGibbony/ Vincent etc. build on larger land spaces, no back yards and not attracting families, amazed the permits are approved, one unit in the Maude st build is nearly in the lane gutter. I could understand using the Banfield area if it was a larger expanse , but I please leave it alone
Jul 28, 2024, 04:17 PM	No no no please don't remove the park We lived on Dawson Street for 4 years and the amount of people who sit at the park and the kids that are young and not big enough to play at parks are there with parents because they're very aware it's a safe space for them No houses on that site
Jul 28, 2024, 04:24 PM	Leave the land for current green space used for the whole community. Suggest demolish the Angling Club Hall which is unfit for use and use the land for housing.
Jul 28, 2024, 04:26 PM	I disagree to proposal, we need to promote kids being outdoors and playing outside. Ararat families deserve to be able to access playgrounds, and in my opinion more people would utilise this space if it were made more family friendly
Jul 28, 2024, 04:33 PM	Absolutely not. We regularly use this playground and space, it is the closest playground and does not require us to cross the highway with small children. This space is important to us and our community. In times where we are encouraging our children away from screens, it is important to provide us with proximate alternatives to entertain them. It is not in the interest of residents in the area to sell this space.
Jul 28, 2024, 04:35 PM	Having grown up and also raised my own family in this area I see this as a very important public space and have spent countless hours here in the past forty years! Surely there is more land available for development and town could spread rather than becoming denser! Also those that are living centrally should be afforded the green recreational space our town is for

Jul 28, 2024, 04:40 PM	Once council start grabbing public land for its own benefit where will it stop. We need public areas, and this one, situated among many homes with families is a great community asset. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. We should encourage kids to get outside and play, not take away the places they can walk to and from their homes.
Jul 28, 2024, 04:45 PM	Absolutely ridiculous idea to get rid of this playground. It has been around for as long as I can remember. Used regularly by toddlers and families. It's obviously just a ploy to get more housing so more rates are paid to the council
Jul 28, 2024, 04:45 PM	Hi there, [REDACTED] & I feel very strongly about keeping public playgrounds and parks open and available for residents of the rural city to use. I have recollection of using this park and the one in Speed Street when our children were growing up. Instead of using it for more housing it would be put some rates into improving the spaces, e.g fencing for safety. Regards [REDACTED]
Jul 28, 2024, 04:47 PM	Why take away a multi purposeful nook such as this within close proximity of the CBD, for the sake of say, \$300,000? Please do not resell or redevelop the playground!
Jul 28, 2024, 05:08 PM	The space should be left as is, if this land was developed, property entrances would be via Banfield street and viewpoint st. To enter the property from Banfield street via a car would be dangerous because of the frequent traffic bend, it would cause significant risk of a car accident or pedestrian being hit by a car.
Jul 28, 2024, 05:08 PM	Don't be greedy grubs! Very shortsighted and arrogant proposition. I find this utterly insulting
Jul 28, 2024, 05:10 PM	DO NOT SELL OR DEVELOP THIS LAND. It is a lovely spot and serves the community just fine the way it is.
Jul 28, 2024, 05:29 PM	I disagree with this proposal. 1. It should be kept an open park space as housing density is increasing. 2. This is a tight corner and another driveway on either side would be dangerous. Banfield St is hard to see and Church traffic on other side causes congestion as well.
Jul 28, 2024, 05:29 PM	No, do not agree with the selling of land. It won't solve any housing issues this town already sees. To what, build one house/unit there, a small one. What's even going to fit there. Nothing. It's a tiny block. Just leave it alone. What's the point of keeping some for a little laneway that will just become a safety issue and attract undesirables.
Jul 28, 2024, 05:33 PM	I think that's a great idea to sell it!
Jul 28, 2024, 05:48 PM	My children are frequently playing at this playground and land. It is within bike riding distance for my son as well as walking distance. This playground provides safe high climbing ladders and slides for my toddler daughter, which she can confidently and independently complete building her gross motor skills as well as her confidence and feeling of accomplishment without needing adult assistance, which the other play areas you've recommended, don't provide! Grumps park in particular does not have a ladder or steps as such to reach the slide, it is other obstacles which lead up to the slide which my toddler can not independently complete, therefore leaves her feeling less confident and capable abilities.
Jul 28, 2024, 06:00 PM	The small amount of revenue this will generate compared to the benefit of maintaining this as an open space is not worth the loss of this playground
Jul 28, 2024, 06:06 PM	You the council tried to close this playground years ago. I complained as I used it daily for my grandkids new play equipment was added. This little playground is still used often. Leave it as it is as there isn't many places for young families in this area without a car to use. Yes Hew street may have one but this is handy for young families in THIS area within walking distance for young children to walk to and from their homes. Leave it alone DO NOT close it leave it for the public. I for one would not want to walk in a small lane at night or walking my dog with other dogs walk from the other end.

Jul 28, 2024, 06:06 PM	Why are you constantly removing reasons for young family's to stay in town? Your making it harder and harder for people to stay and afford to stay.
Jul 28, 2024, 06:12 PM	Please leave our playgrounds alone, with so many of backyards being sold off I think we desperately need to have the playgrounds, if not as a playground then as just a green space. Why clogg the street up with more housing.
Jul 28, 2024, 06:12 PM	Hi I am not in favour of this little playground being removed we walk with our little grandchildren from the middle of Banfield Street to Safeway an have a little play on the way and on the return. Many people use this area daily and the other options are out of the way. Ararat should be keep these areas free for everyone to use and not profiteering from children [REDACTED]
Jul 28, 2024, 06:19 PM	We fully oppose any thoughts of selling the public land as mentioned. Council should leave any residential land acquisition to property develop Council should seriously consider the pedestrian access to the CBD and the health and safe activities of our young citizens. Users of this acce consider any proposal of a narrow laneway as a security risk. Does Council intend to canvass the thoughts of our traditional owners'? Any councillors intending to seek re-election should now make their vi about any sale of land very public. [REDACTED]
Jul 28, 2024, 06:21 PM	Leave it as it is! Plenty of people use it for the kids!
Jul 28, 2024, 06:26 PM	I think it should be left as it is.
Jul 28, 2024, 06:40 PM	We disagree with this suggestion as outdoor entertainment is so important for children and all. Parks need to be encouraged, not taken away. [REDACTED]
Jul 28, 2024, 06:47 PM	I stop at this park with my grandson for a quick play when we are out and about, he calls it his favourite little play ground
Jul 28, 2024, 06:51 PM	Only days ago I used this playground with my two nieces whom are both under the age of five and live in the nearby vicinity. It would be such a shame to see this sold off.
Jul 28, 2024, 07:05 PM	Keep the playground here also an upgrade to equipment and seating would work for this area.I played here as a kid when I visited Nan across the road in viewpoint. I have fond memories
Jul 28, 2024, 07:06 PM	I have used this lane way and have photos of my grandchildren playing on the equipment as different age. My now younger grandchildren no longer use this area as their are much better playgrounds around.
Jul 28, 2024, 07:16 PM	I do not agree with this proposal. This little park is very important to keep, particularly as it is a small patch of public open space left in a large u area which is being rapidly overtaken by increasing housing density. Surely there is an even greater argument for access to open space and playgrounds when population density increases and yards get smaller. I regularly used this park as a stop for a rest and a play with my children when we were walking home from the supermarket. I see many other the same now, children playing and elderly taking the opportunity to rest or get some fresh air. I don't think it is reasonable to expect them to go somewhere else, particularly the elderly. Green space is an important part of any residential a the more the better. There are numerous other areas that provide development for housing, the Greenhill lake estate is a prime example. Are you sure council is not wanting to do this simply to save money on upkeep and maintenance and to turn a quick buck through the sale of t


Jul 28, 2024, 07:20 PM	This is a lovely little park perfectly suited to toddlers. A seven minute walk to Hewitt St is NOT seven minutes for an under 5. We should be pre spaces like this not selling them off as we can never get it back once it's gone. Even without children I enjoy this piece of open space when w town as it breaks up the houses so that the area feels less crowded and more welcoming. It would be awful to lose it for a little short term gain save a bit of money on maintenance.
Jul 28, 2024, 07:53 PM	Please keep this land as a small green space amongst increased density of housing and reduced greenery in the town. This is so important for the mental health of residents.....green spaces are becoming scarce. Please NOTE that not all residents have cars and there are residents who therefore can not drive to the other venues you mention. Thank You
Jul 28, 2024, 08:09 PM	Leave this play ground as is! It is a good little spot to stop when walking in that area! My kids always have a little play when we go past! Maybe an update and some more equipment and will be perfect
Jul 28, 2024, 08:28 PM	There needs to be parks for parents to walk to with their children. Leave the park alone and look at the big picture and develop one of the waste of space parks like Centenary park or Kokoda park. We have 2 major ovals and park so open these parks up for housing
Jul 28, 2024, 08:38 PM	No.Do not sell it,it's an asset that will never be able to replace, it's not a good idea!!!
Jul 28, 2024, 08:38 PM	This is a terrible idea. There is way too much overdevelopment in Ararat at the moment and it is becoming not a very nice place to live. Too m trees are being removed for development of housing and not being replaced. People come to places like Ararat to enjoy the open space, it is the appeal of living in a rural city/country town. There are plenty of vacant blocks of land in and around Ararat. I can think of several that have for sale for a considerable period of time. The overdevelopment is having a negative impact on peoples mental health and causing a lot of stress to some residents who have lived in an supported this town for many years. One particular out of town developer has no regard for the local residents, tradesmen and local suppliers. quality of life has certainly diminished since a development took place next to our residence. A laneway sounds like it would also be a safety issue and the area would be better left open so that people have a safe environment when usi area. It appears that Council are happy to sell out the residents and ratepayers of our town for their own personal gain i.e. meet personal KPI' targets!
Jul 28, 2024, 08:56 PM	Leave the play ground as a public area, LEAVE AS IS!
Jul 28, 2024, 08:57 PM	Please leave the area alone and available as free space, not more units
Jul 28, 2024, 08:59 PM	I am totally agains this proposal please leave some green space & a little playground in place for the kids to play. I have taken my younger cou the playground and they love it. The small equipment is great for the kids, I often see elderly residents sitting in the park. Please just leave it al
Jul 28, 2024, 09:12 PM	I regularly use this playground with my children when walking back from supermarket. There are not enough green spaces or playgrounds in th I would support upgrade to playground but not adding housing here. Sad to see council not prioritising family and children
Jul 28, 2024, 10:27 PM	Areas set aside for public use (playgrounds,sports fields and parks) should NEVER be sold or taken away for profits We need to increase areas for our kids to play safely - and our rates help pay for these areas and it's equipment We have seen in the past where developers tried to turn centenary park into a housing development, and our outdoor swimming pool faced clo Council needs to look at the community needs and not be swayed by the developers looking to make a quick buck at our expense
Jul 28, 2024, 11:13 PM	Please leave our playground alone.

Jul 28, 2024, 11:25 PM	This is a terrible idea! My family regularly uses this park. Why not upgrade the park & create a nature play park & add more seating & shade for enjoy. Green spaces are valuable in our community
Jul 29, 2024, 06:20 AM	No, leave these free open spaces alone for people to enjoy!!!
Jul 29, 2024, 06:25 AM	Why on earth would the Council sell such a small block of land. When I lived in Viewpoint st, I saw children and adults use the park. Surely there are more blocks of land that would be better to sell.
Jul 29, 2024, 07:30 AM	"Leave the small park alone," I have used it many times over the years walking to the main st with my young children. They always looked for stopping there to play. How many playgrounds is there for our children to enjoy on that side of town "Not many". Why must the urban spread such a small piece of ground. Children need these spaces.
Jul 29, 2024, 07:34 AM	I think it's a great idea. I often walk through there so the laneway is also a great idea. I've not seen the facilities there utilised in many years.
Jul 29, 2024, 08:35 AM	What a joke this council is why do the council want to sell it ?
Jul 29, 2024, 09:31 AM	My family which included four kids,lived in Beauville street for year. This park was not just a shortcut to the supermarket and Main Street our kids going there for a play or to meet their friends and hang out and yack, As they got older it was their cut through home from their nights out and a quick rest on the seat, To some it's not much of a space to many it's welcomed rest spot, meeting space and small safe play area, I'm sure my four kids, husband and many others have memories of this small space funds allow please leave this space open [REDACTED]
Jul 29, 2024, 10:13 AM	Crossing a busy highway is not a feasible option for most families on this side of the highway. People like the closeness of the location to them. The Hewitt St park needs to be more accessible, its got no tracks leading to around the playground. Its also very loud due to the proximity to the kindergarten. The selling of this land makes no sense, other than if the property right beside is going to buy it. How about being honest about the consultation if that's the case. It will be of no purpose to anyone else, its a tiny land - you cant fit a house there, especially as the whole block isn't being sold as a lane-way is still going to be placed there. This only makes sense either adjacent property is looking to expand their current property line. Don't agree the lane-way > sure its needed, but it will quickly become unusable. You wont be able to see who is coming around the corner, there will be no visibility in between two high perimeter fences.
Jul 29, 2024, 10:23 AM	I think it's a perfect opportunity to remove and put the playground and some swings in Evans park for all the kids and families
Jul 29, 2024, 10:31 AM	The way this reads is that the property on the side where the lane way is not wants it, as it has recently been sold. No other scenario makes sense.
Jul 29, 2024, 11:02 AM	Leave as open free space so many people benefit from that area for so many years. Omg enough is enough Upgrade the playground and keep as a thoroughfare for the aged, disability to access shopping areas easily and somewhere to sit and rest.
Jul 29, 2024, 11:24 AM	This is an important through-way that lots of people use, i walk my dog daily and constantly see people there, its really nice to have a wide view and open visibility, would be a shame to close this off.
Jul 29, 2024, 11:27 AM	If it is going to be sold it off - sell the whole lot and forget putting in the lane. Close it off completely. Its like 4 houses to the end of the block. People can walk around. Its not that far really.
Jul 29, 2024, 11:35 AM	I live in Dawson st and I would like the playground to stay. My kids take the dog for a walk and like to stop at this park and have a play. They are both autistic and it is safe for them to walk down there and rest and then come back up again. It's nice to have a small park, they get overwhelmed at the larger playgrounds.

Jul 29, 2024, 01:51 PM	Isn't that block of land unsuitable to build on. le right on the curve of the road, the entrance and parking would be a great problem. Leave playground where it is please. :)
Jul 29, 2024, 01:51 PM	Isn't that block of land unsuitable to build on. le right on the curve of the road, the entrance and parking would be a great problem. Leave playground where it is please. :)
Jul 29, 2024, 03:22 PM	Please don't remove this park. I grew up there many years ago and loved playing there. As cities get bigger and more congested parks and spaces like this are more and more valuable.
Jul 29, 2024, 03:35 PM	I believe it is important to maintain green space. It provides a playground for young children and also a rest point for the elderly. As we head towards higher density living, it is important to provide this space as backyards disappear. Also, with an ageing population, where driving is not an option, such a playground provides a rest point. Please keep the playground.
Jul 29, 2024, 04:55 PM	I do not want the playground changed. It is a very valuable area for the elderly that walk to Woolworth and back to their homes. People stop to have a little rest there on the seats. Giving elderly their independence. I also take my grandchildren there to play. I must admit graffiti on the play equipment and the rubbish left there is annoying but everyone seems to help keep the area safe.
Jul 30, 2024, 02:32 AM	I do not support this, we need more not less play spaces for our children, yes it's a 7 minute walk to another, then these areas get more utilised or not as then kids just don't go out and sit in front of their screens. More interaction with others and being outside should be encouraged, different playgrounds with different activities to engage our children. There is plenty of development going on around town you can make money off rates, you don't need to sell off spaces like this.
Jul 30, 2024, 06:54 AM	It's important to keep green spaces in residential areas. Surely there are other areas that are not as built up already that could be sold. It's not all about money. It's about current residents quality of life too!!!
Jul 30, 2024, 11:54 AM	Hands off our open areas which are used by our elderly and parents and children, it is also a cut through to the church and supermarket. Having a laneway there is not a good idea, too hidden and unsafe as there are too many degenerates lurking around..
Jul 30, 2024, 02:16 PM	It should stay a park
Jul 30, 2024, 08:31 PM	Please don't sell this off. It's a great cut through area & playground.
Jul 30, 2024, 08:37 PM	I am very strongly against the proposal to sell the existing playground thoroughfare to become residential property. This area is well used for people walking to and from the business area, families stopping to play at the playground and older people walking to meet each other. We live very close by and take our grandchildren to play when we prefer not to take the children across a busy highway to Alexandra gardens or the much longer walk to Hewitt St. The area is a very valuable open space in an otherwise quite congested area of town.
Jul 30, 2024, 09:01 PM	Leave the park as a park. Ararat has seen enough housing development by greedy out of town developers.
Jul 31, 2024, 12:19 AM	Dreadful proposal. It is community space, for the community. There is already too much multi dwelling (over) development. Council should pay attention to the economics and the downward population trend and support the needs of the entire town, not just the developers. Do what you're paid to do!
Jul 31, 2024, 12:40 AM	Really?? The council should focus on the job they were elected for. Clearly you are pandering to developers and will wave through as many projects as you can, particularly if there are no objections. Consider this: we rate payers either don't know what is proposed, or don't know how to object (or council does not provide an easy to use system), or simply don't have the resources to object. Your rate payers- the people who elected you, remember - deserve better... a council who looks after the best interests of the WHOLE town. Here's a hint: Preserve the public space, and stop the rampant over development. There is simply not enough work here and the houses being built are not "affordable housing" as your State Government overlords are ordering. Wake up to yourselves!
Jul 31, 2024, 10:00 AM	The park is a valuable green space, rest area and play ground, used by all ages, and should remain available to the community.

Jul 31, 2024, 02:36 PM	This is one of the few parks we can use regularly on our short walks without crossing the highway, or needing to tie my dog up separately. We use it fairly regularly and it seems a shame to sell it for the sake of one potential house.
Aug 01, 2024, 02:04 AM	I walk this track weekly sometimes even daily on my walks and when the kids are with me they always stop to have a play at the play ground. Leave the playground there please.
Aug 01, 2024, 01:28 PM	My husband and I are against this proposal of selling this small park in our area. Ararat has plenty of other places to build on. There seems to be a considerable amount of construction happening at present that needs to be occupied first. We do wonder about the quality of some of these buildings squashed into very small areas and how much power would be required to live in them. We don't want to Ararat to look second rate.
Aug 01, 2024, 06:26 PM	Please do not see this parcel of land. This is used by locals to rest and play.
Aug 01, 2024, 10:35 PM	<p>Ararat Rural City Sale of Our Park for Residential Use</p> <p>As ratepayers, residing opposite the small public park between Banfield and Viewpoint St since October 1987, we strongly object to the proposal to sell the land for residential use for a number of reasons.</p> <p>The small park provides an open space that is highly utilised by residents young and old, either taking a short cut on their way to the shopping precinct or using it as a recreational space.</p> <p>Each day we observe a large number of residents take a short cut through the park whilst walking to or from the shopping precinct rather than crossing at the busy roundabout intersection of Banfield and High St. This provides a much safer option than crossing at the busy intersection of Banfield and High St.</p> <p>Parents with young children often stop to rest as do the elderly as their mobility declines. The existence of the playground equipment and seating provides encouragement for our residents to walk, instead of driving. Walking is of great benefit to the health and well-being of our residents and having a spot to sit on the way to the main street promotes this healthy activity. Most noticeable is the number of parents with young children. An opportunity to play on the playground equipment acts as an enticement for the toddlers and early primary school age children. The equipment is well maintained and most appropriate for this age group. Quite often we observe elderly residents out for a walk of the block who will stop, sit on the seats and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.</p> <p>This little park with playground equipment is a safer option for families with young children living in the neighbourhood to access on foot than trying to cross the busy highway to Alexandra Gardens.</p> <p>The park is well illuminated and quite an open space. It provides a safe passage at night for our adolescents and residents walking home from dinner in the main street. Selling the block and creating a narrow walkway bound by fences will add to the anxiety of walkers at night. It is harder to "police".</p> <p>With the push by council to promote denser residential living (such as the 4-5 two bedroom units currently under construction on the Ararat West school crossing in Banfield St) it is even more essential our small public park be retained. It boggles belief how Council in the first place approved the construction of 5 units on a normal house block right on the AWPS school crossing. The park opposite our place needs to be retained and other scrubs and trees planted to offset the impact of these and other high density building developments "popping up" in Ararat. These residential buildings with little space for a garden all add to global warming.</p> <p>Ararat is not so short of residential land that it needs to sell off this pocket of public land with its large established native tree. The small space needs to be protected for native birds and wildlife. It would be great if council were to plant some additional native shrubs too.</p> <p>Selling the park and building a residence may lead to traffic congestion/make it less safe in Viewpoint St.</p> <p>We trust that the Council will NOT entertain the idea of selling of the small public space for residential living and OPT to retain and improve this small public space for future generations to enjoy and use.</p>

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Aug 02, 2024, 09:15 AM	I would be extremely disappointed to see this space and playground removed. We regularly use this short-cut between Banfield St and Viewpoint St, and always stop with our children for a play on the playground. There are often others walking through as well, or older people resting on the park bench, and it's a lovely opportunity to say hello to other members of the community. I would be much less inclined to use a laneway, it would not feel as safe. It would be really tragic to lose a green space in this area of town.
Aug 02, 2024, 12:46 PM	It's a beautiful green space in an urban environment. We need MORE green spaces like this, not less. Do NOT ruin this lovely open space in a residential area. Keep Ararat green & environmentally friendly.
Aug 02, 2024, 02:49 PM	We think that this is an asset and should be retained. Its value as a playground and walkway should not be lost to the community. Once it is gone we will never be able to get it back.
Aug 02, 2024, 04:26 PM	I believe it would be detrimental to the area to lose this park. Many older people use this space as a resting place after walking from Barkly St to their homes in the area of George Rd, Banfield St, Clay St and Dawson St. It is also a pedestrian link for old and young alike to get to Barkly St shopping area, Woolworths, K-Hub, Ararat Medical Centre etc. Many young parents use this park as an outdoor activity space for their children....also taking into account the mental wellbeing that this space provides for parents and children alike. Selling this block and creating a "laneway" would possibly be an unsafe option. Hard to police and not user friendly for young or older people day or night. Walking through the park is a safer option than walking down a lane especially at night. With the amount of graffiti that's been happening in Ararat I would not be surprised to find the "laneway" targeted with this vandalism. Surely there must be some other areas in town that can be acquired that are not as publicly utilised as this park. Please leave our park as it is.
Aug 02, 2024, 05:12 PM	This play area needs to be kept as it is used for young children. I use it for great grandchildren school holidays. Why do the Council want to sell , is it a money grab or has a building co come to them wanting to build on it Leave it as a open area
Aug 02, 2024, 07:24 PM	How ridiculous to think that the City Council should want to remove the park on Banfield St. It shows that they don't understand what it means to people and their children and grandchildren who stop and walk through this area daily. This park is also used by many elderly shoppers who use it as a rest stop on their way home with their shopping. Disgusted. ██████████
Aug 02, 2024, 08:09 PM	It may be a very small playground but it is well used and well loved. The seating is also used and needed. A laneway is a horrible idea. What a tragic loss this would be to the community if it was sold off and replaced with a cheap and nasty shoebox of a building, especially in such a character filled street. The area could certainly be enhanced further, plant more trees and gardens. Its a valuable community space.
Aug 02, 2024, 08:17 PM	NO! This is a valuable and unique community space, it's more than just a very small playground. It's an open space that's available to all. Selling it off might provide a short term financial boost but the long term loss would far outweigh it. How many new residential areas does the town need? The new developments aren't even closed to full. Then there are the derelict empty houses in prime areas. Don't take away this unique space.
Aug 02, 2024, 08:24 PM	Why would Council consider selling this very small piece of land? It's not big enough for development. This little piece of tranquility has been there for a very long time. It's a beautiful place to just sit and ponder, a short cut to Barkly Street, the Medical Centre. It's always been a great little area for kids to just play and enjoy. To sell this little oasis is wrong. ██████████ Thank you for your time and I hope my input is worthy of consideration.
Aug 03, 2024, 02:57 PM	Will make corner too unsafe if turned into residents Please we need to preserve these locations to maintain community feel and not overcrowded, once these sort of changes are made they can never be changed.
Aug 04, 2024, 09:45 AM	The ██████████ family are very upset with the proposal by council to close and sell our treasured park/green space for a housing development! It is a low cost park/green space for the council that has been used by the community for decades and is a must keep for future generations. As residential living becomes more dense we need to retain all our public parks/green spaces for the well-being and comfort of our future citizens. Although small, it offers young children a sense of ownership and adventure without intimidation and fear. It is also a resting area and walk way for elderly, families and all adults. This area is a real outdoor well being centre for our part of the community. Please do not remove from the map! Regards ██████████

Aug 04, 2024, 03:25 PM	<p>I strongly disapprove of the council selling off public land to a private developer. This parcel of land (the playground and the walk through) are utilised by different members of the community at all times of the day and night.</p> <p>It is also good to have some green space in the community, a pity that the trees that were planted and died were not replaced.</p> <p>I hope you take on board the comments made by the community in this regard and that this idea of selling off public land is shelved permanently.</p> <p>Regards rate payers of Ararat</p>
Aug 04, 2024, 04:56 PM	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I would like to express my gratitude for the public consultation process regarding the potential release of Council owned land between Banfield and View Point Streets.</p> <p>As the property owner of 61 View Point Street, I would like to provide input on why I support the release of this land and why I believe it is in the best interest of our community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More Housing: The land in question occupies a prime location that could accommodate multi-housing due to its proximity to key amenities in town. Our key services (e.g. hospital) and future industry rely on more and diverse housing typologies. Releasing land with close proximity to amenity will support this growth, limit the sprawl of the township and help attract needed talent. 2. Efficient Use of Council Resources: The site is currently under utilised and will better suit the needs of the community by accommodating housing and investment. While the site currently has a very limited selection of play equipment it has low amenity, doesn't attract high usage, nor is it strategically zoned in Councils planning code as public open space - it is zoned residential. 3. Nearby Recreational Facilities: Council correctly notes the other community open spaces in close proximity of the land which are better suited as public parklands and with funds from the sale, more resources can be concentrated into these existing fit for purpose parks and play areas to boost their facilities. 4. Local Jobs: Development of the land will create local job opportunities during and after construction. With the potential of a multi-housing project on this site, it will offer significant job opportunities for local trades and apprentices. 5. Diversity of Housing Typologies: The project could deliver different housing - terraces for example, catering to different needs and demographics within our community. 6. Economic Investment: This initiative aligns with the broader council strategy to attract economic investment. 7. Maintaining and Improving Through-Site Link: The sale of the land will maintain and improve access through the site, benefiting both new residents and the existing community. <p>Thank you for considering my input.</p> <p>Sincerely, </p>
Aug 04, 2024, 08:20 PM	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My in laws live across the road in Banfield St. This is a treasured local park which we take our toddler to which she loves. I also note the park is often busy with other children , indicating its value to the local community. We often also see other older people sitting in the park , enjoying it as a place where they can sit and engage with the community outside their houses and the main shops. It would be a shame if these people had the park taken from them for the council to put a property on. Could this isolate the already vulnerable people in the community if you take away a place for social engagement? Also Banfield St is a busy road and cars often disregard the speed limit, the park sits right on the corner , has the council considered the possibility of crashes (I believe there have sadly been lives lost on this corner) and the risk to inhabitants living in the new property? You could argue that children playing at the park could also be at risk playing during the daytime , however if drivers have been drinking etc/nighttime, this would clearly be a greater risk to people residing in the property?.</p>

	Thanks, [REDACTED]
Aug 04, 2024, 08:22 PM	<p>I absolutely don't consider the other playgrounds nearby, a 7 minute walk with a toddler, multiple children or being not as able as others, can take a lot longer! & why would you dig up and move the current play equipment that is perfectly well used where it is.</p> <p>With the population growing you shouldn't be selling off public land that is used by children & families, absolutely ridiculous. We need more outdoor spaces to encourage our young population to be outside. Think of other ways to generate income, don't take away opportunities for children and families and all in the community. The variety of playgrounds is also very beneficial for families.</p> <p>I would consider a small lane way as dangerous and wouldn't walk through it with my family and especially wouldn't use it if I was elderly or by myself. I feel very safe walking through the current playground walkway.</p> <p>Why can't you be more strategic and think of ways that will generate ongoing income. Selling off a piece of land will only create a lump sum, that will likely go nowhere. This would be such a loss for this area of the town, with lots of young families, who not only live in the area, but also visit their relatives and use the playground.</p> <p>With more intelligent ways of generating ongoing income, you can then have more money to maintain & improve the current playgrounds.</p>
Aug 04, 2024, 08:26 PM	Hi please disregard my wife's name [REDACTED] on my submission, Thanks [REDACTED]
Aug 04, 2024, 09:53 PM	<p>Councils option of destroying an established playground area is not in my opinion to the benefit of our community. The park between Banfield and Viewpoint Streets is a patch of well utilised and appreciated communal open space. Recognition is made of the health and environmental benefits of outdoor green spaces. As we move to higher density of residential buildings, areas such as this playground will further provide for community wellbeing. Therefore I oppose the possibility of private urban development on this site.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Aug 04, 2024, 10:16 PM	<p>SAVE OUR PARK</p> <p>The Council of the day developed this area between Banfield and View Point streets when community members requested that the road be removed and replaced with a park after a fatality on the intersection of Banfield Street and the park, formerly an extension of the current Dawson Street. On the council website, councilors express their passion to provide for all residents in the municipality so that surely includes us.</p> <p>Our park is well used. In this built-up area, it's a place to play, socialize or just have a rest after shopping etc. and is a green space in line with climate change preparedness. Although small, this accessible space is appreciated on this side of the national highway which is dangerous for adults let alone children to cross. (It has already claimed the life of a child attempting to). The Alexandra Gardens are not easily accessible, nor is the Hewitt Street park for many people. We know council is very interested in the welfare of its citizens including road safety.</p> <p>Our park has high visibility. The proposed lane/alleyway is not at all acceptable. There would be safety concerns with the possibility of misbehaviour including inconsiderate cyclists etc. People with walking frames or prams may be reticent to use it. Possible vandalism could only lead to more costs for council. There would also be the cost with new paving and lighting. Anyway, why would you go to the expense of putting a lane on the other side of the park when there's already a path with good lighting ?</p> <p>What other costs to the community could be incurred? This park is home to public utilities/infrastructure: a power pole, 5 heavy power lines across it and the Telstra/NBN pillar. In one corner of the park near View Point Street there is a sign 'Telecom Australia. DANGER. High Voltage Underground Cable'.</p> <p>Keep our green space. The council 's 'Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2030' states, 'We are prepared for the impacts of climate change'. That's good to hear. We need more green spaces, not less. Surely it includes this one. They contribute to the health and wellbeing of human beings, pets and wildlife, help balance temperatures and regulate rainfall runoff. It's sad that in the current 'climate', the almighty dollar dictates that every bit of dirt be covered with bricks and mortar. What will be next ? There are many problems associated with over development which we're sure don't need to be spelt out.</p> <p>Some comments from our councilors on the council website: One has been very involved with "Landcare", obviously interested in the environment.</p>

	<p>In relation to Ararat others said they have a “large focus in developing our recreational facilities”, “have always had the interests of the whole municipality at the fore”, “maintain new and existing sporting, recreation and community facilities”, “to deliver what Ararat Rural City truly deserves”. Selling off our park just isn't in line with these comments.</p> <p>We aren't against development per se but there are other places more suitable.</p> <p>We are adamant about maintaining the status quo. Please leave our park alone, a park for all ages, a green space for us and the environment, another valuable amenity.</p> <p>Thankyou and regards, [REDACTED]</p>
Aug 05, 2024, 12:20 PM	I believe that the above park, whilst small, is a significant and much valued "green space" and community space in its present location.
Aug 05, 2024, 12:33 PM	I am against the selling of this land. One house on it or a continued open area for all to enjoy
Aug 05, 2024, 12:54 PM	<p>Well first up I disagree with the selling of this block of land at all. Firstly the council needs to inform the people of Ararat exactly what is going to be built on this block of land, we do not need another block of one bedroom apartments especially in this area of Ararat. And who is going to be paying for all the removing of the power lines running across the block and anything else that needs to be done. And we all know what happens with small laneways don't we a haven for vandalism. And on top of that cars could not come out of there onto Banfield street it is to dangerous. Another reason I walk past this play ground on a regularly and parents with very young children stop and let their children play for awhile as it is a playground for smaller children and it is in perfect spot for parents who have walked to Main Street.</p> <p>I often wonder about the unused old football ovals that could be opened for housing development.</p>
Aug 05, 2024, 06:59 PM	While I can appreciate the need for more housing in Ararat, I do not see the need for the council to sell off open green space for residential development. There seems to be a number of residents willing to 'share' their back gardens with developers or sell their older house for redevelopment without resorting to selling our parks to pacify developers greed for land. If council needs to increase their income by selling land or by rating new properties to build their bank balance, why not develop and sell off the parcel of land they acquired years ago in Hadland St? Leave our open green space and parklands alone!!
Aug 05, 2024, 07:01 PM	It's one of the last playgrounds for children and my husband was one who had it updated when our children were small. It's a short cut for many elderly people. Please leave it alone.
Aug 06, 2024, 10:12 AM	We use this playground from time to time when walking. It would be a shame for it to go.
Aug 07, 2024, 12:06 PM	My kids attend this playground regularly will be sad to see if go
Aug 07, 2024, 07:05 PM	<p>What's is the council going to do with the proceeds of the sale? Why wouldn't you use the footpath that already exists instead of adding expense to the proposal? Is the land for private or public housing? Is the Ararat Council that broke that it needs to sell land that is a public space and if so what else are you proposing to sell off? Where is the old drunk dude going to drink now? On a completely different topic, how or who decided on the EV charging point outside the Town Hall? It appears that Dr Harrison's Tesla seems to be parked there, regardless of it being charged. Could the council then rent the car space he has allocated at the Council offices to someone else?</p>
Aug 07, 2024, 08:02 PM	I object to this it's like houses on Top of each other. I have stopped at this park often it's a nice tidy area for all ages. [REDACTED]
Aug 08, 2024, 09:26 AM	Leave it as it is.
Aug 08, 2024, 12:18 PM	As a long term resident of Ararat West, I object to this closure of the park. It is necessary to keep these areas for future generations and to enhance the neighbourhood. Please leave this little space alone. [REDACTED]

Aug 08, 2024, 01:20 PM	Leave this little playground park alone. It is small takes little maintenance. Develop one of the larger unused parks such as Kokoda park or Centenary park. Banfield st park should stay
Aug 08, 2024, 02:16 PM	Please leave this area as is. So many people and children utilise this.
Aug 08, 2024, 04:32 PM	why is this even an issue it's a great playground and walk way the councillor s and mayor want to worry about other things what are happening around the town and look at other towns to see how it's done come on council elections hopefully get a new councillors and mayor that knows what there doing .
Aug 08, 2024, 06:21 PM	I use this small park 3 to 4 times a week to walk down to the shops, and on the way back, to read a few articles in good weather. Every weekend I see parents with small children when I pass through. Most parks nearby are across the Western Highway, a road that entails risk to parents with small children. Are you sure you can't leave that tiny park for public use? Greed is not always the best way to make decisions.
Aug 09, 2024, 10:29 AM	I would like to object to Council selling the Banfield Street Park. This park would have been provided by the Public through Public Open Space Contributions in the past. This park is used by families & walkers and also a rest area for walkers. Council shouldn't be competing with private developers, there are many blocks for sale in and around Ararat, with more becoming available. We are a country town and our parks are an important part of this. A fenced pathway beside the block would not feel safe for walkers especially at night, it would also be an area that may attract graffiti and rubbish. Parking would also be a problem on both Banfield Street and Viewpoint Streets. Please consider this decision very carefully and the rate payers that this will affect. Kind Regards, [REDACTED]
Aug 09, 2024, 06:45 PM	That's very disappointing, as it's the only playground in the area. I would like to oppose this plan, as the land needs to remain as parkland for families in the area to enjoy. Please reconsider, don't sell the land, it should remain as is.
Aug 10, 2024, 08:30 AM	This land should be left to be used by the community. We have developed building land in Ararat that has not sold for months. We are not that tight for residential land.
Aug 10, 2024, 05:43 PM	This is a valuable public space not only for children to play in but used as a rest point for walkers as a break in their walk to the Main Street and beyond. This is a space which has disability access and often see elderly people in the space taking a rest before continuing their journey. What a greedy attempt at selling off public land space!
Aug 11, 2024, 10:45 AM	Leave it as a park and shortcut for residents. The more green spaces we have around our beautiful city, the better. It is a great asset and the equipment is perfect for very small children.