

Gumeracha Main Street Project Report Stage 1 - Step 1 Community Consultation

Community Meeting

Held Sunday 18 September 2016
Torrens Valley Community Centre, Gumeracha
12pm – 2pm



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Introduction and Acknowledgements

The Gumeracha Main Street Project is a community-led initiative designed to increase the economics and aesthetics of Albert Street in the Adelaide Hills township of Gumeracha. The community engagement process is being held in the knowledge of and with support of Adelaide Hills Council.

The Gumeracha Main Street Project acknowledges that the township of Gumeracha is located on the land of the Peramangk people and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

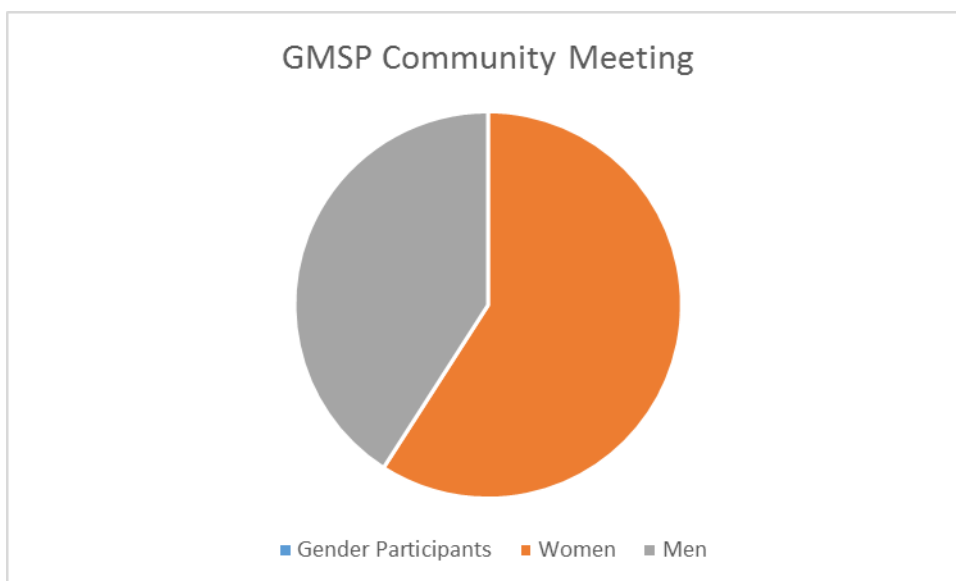
On Sunday 18 September 2016 Stage 1 – Step 1 of the community consultation process was undertaken with an all-welcome community meeting at Torrens Valley Community Centre, Gumeracha.

The meeting attracted 48 people including Torrens Valley Ward members of Adelaide Hills Council Linda Green and Malcolm Herrmann, Acting Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer of Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Paul Gelston, Member for Mayo Rebekah Sharkie and members of the Gumeracha community.

The purpose of the meeting was to harness community energy around a main street project and to start to develop a vision for the main street.

The Gumeracha Main Street Project especially acknowledges Lynne Griffiths, Community and Cultural Development Adelaide Hills Council, for her ongoing support.

Gender break down of attendees



The Next Steps

Continue Consultation

Stage 1 – Step 2

Focus group meeting with business owners who were trading on Sunday and could not attend the community meeting

Stage 1 – Step 3

Online survey to gain further reach of responses and establish evaluation benchmark to enable the project to measure success over time

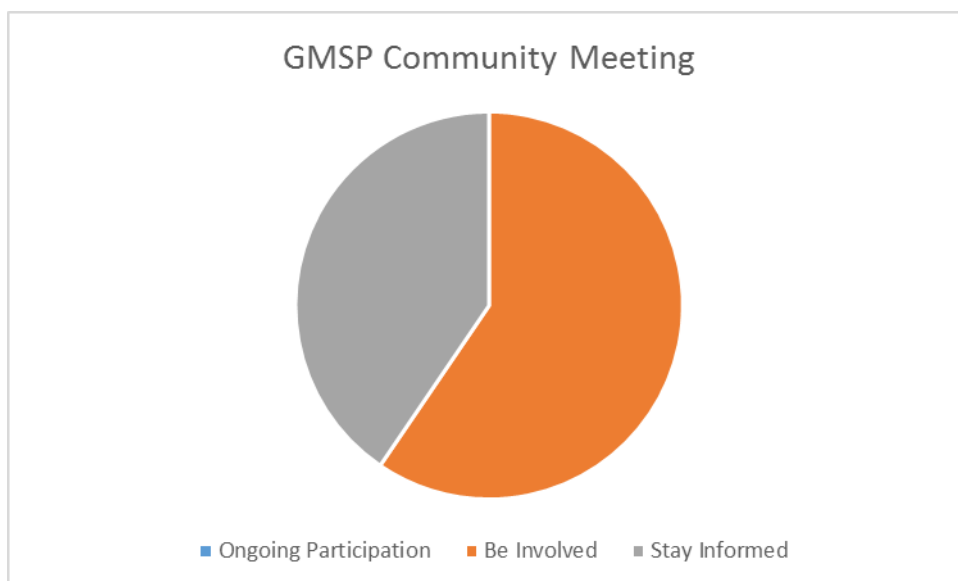
Governance Model

Decide how to progress governance. Establish Vision, Purpose, Values and Masterplan.

At the community meeting, participants favoured that a specific Main Street Group is established (21 out of 48) over joining an existing community group (5 out of 48).

Positively, a majority of participants at the community meeting expressed interest in being involved in the project as it progresses. (See below.)

Proportion of those who want to be involved



Which Towns do you Enjoy Walking or Driving into and Why?

Participants were asked to share answers to this question as a full group and/or on their own paper.

A range of South Australian towns were identified, with towns in the Adelaide Hills featuring highly. Towns mentioned multiple times were:

Woodside, Stirling, Tanunda, Strathalbyn, Hahndorf, Mount Torrens, Bridgewater

The main themes among what they liked about these towns were:

Trees, greenery, flowers, colour, interesting shops

The reasons why they like these towns include:

Beautiful, nice places to eat, safe, inviting, announce themselves as welcoming



Please see Appendix 1 for the full list of responses to this question

What do you associate with Gumeracha? Broad heading prompts: Places, Events, Character, Feelings, Other

Participants were asked to share answers to this question as a full group and/or on their own paper.

MAJOR FEATURES

People associate many things with Gumeracha, with emphasis on major features and events such as the Rocking Horse, the annual Medieval Fair and Bay to Birdwood.

RECREATION

There was also focus on community recreational facilities such as Federation Park, the Skate Park, the oval and sporting facilities.

COMMUNITY

They associate friendliness, a strong sense of community, and a collaborative committed community with the township.

SERVICES

The range of services such as the hospital and GP practice rated highly as being associated with Gumeracha.

HUB FOR CHILDREN

People strongly associate the 'hub' of children's services including child care, kindy, school, kindergym and play opportunities with the town.

HISTORY

The post-settlement history of Gumeracha was acknowledged as an area people associated with the town.



Please see Appendix 2 for the full list of responses to this question

Children were encouraged to participate in the Community Meeting, and to draw pictures of what they love about Gumeracha. Children drew pictures of the skate park, Federation Park, the creek and Summer - below - drew trees and flowers.



What do you love about Gumeracha?

Participants were asked to write on their own paper and share with the group.

A range of responses reflect a large variety of positive feelings people have about Gumeracha, and identify many of the town's strengths.

- Many people made mention of Federation Park, trees, greenery, open spaces, the rural outlook, surrounding beauty and the forest (opposite Talunga Winery).
- The small size of the town, that it is quiet and peaceful is also appealing – as well as that it is a great place to raise children.
- Having services, facilities, the civic centre and a sense of history in the town is important for people – as is the proximity to Tea Tree Gully and the city while still providing rural living.
- Several people identified community connection and community spirit, friendliness and being welcomed as reasons why they love Gumeracha.

Please see Appendix 3 for the full list of responses to this question

Why do you live here?

Participants were asked to write on their own paper and share with the group.

There were many similarities to the answers in this section to the previous question of what people love about Gumeracha including the beauty, that it is quiet and a great place to raise children.

People again reflected on the strength of the community and the proximity to Adelaide and Tea Tree Gully.

A theme that emerged in this section was housing affordability.



Please see Appendix 4 for the full list of responses to this question

Visualisation: What is your best version of the Main Street of Gumeracha?

Participants were asked to close their eyes, and to imagine they were standing in front of the General Store at the top of the main street. It's a beautiful sunny day, and they were asked to picture their very best version of the main street – to think about what they see, and what they hear. They were then asked to write down what they saw and share with the group if they chose.

There were a range of Best Main Street images that emerged with consistent themes around undergrounding powerlines, slower traffic, alfresco dining, heritage lighting, trees, flowers, public art, a pedestrian crossing, thriving businesses and more seating. A few visions are shared below.

More stores, trees, better pub, with a plush forest in the background.

Upgraded/extended kids playground and skate park. Bike trails from the main road leading into the forest.

No stobie poles. Parking bays. Wider footpaths. Public art.

Pedestrian crossing. Garden outside pub. Public seating.

Free wifi. Masterplan: coordinated colour.

Lots of trees, flowers, planter boxes.

Public sculpture.

Power lines underground.

People sitting and chatting. The main street is landscaped. It's a healthy environment.

Mix between leafy green surroundings and vibrant businesses and recreational spaces. Thriving businesses, happy people, public art, trees and plants, parking bays, a drawcard pub.

Trees. Boulevard of trees.
Underground telegraph poles.
Street lighting more antique style – solar powered.

Greenery.
Gardens.
Plants.
Lamp posts.
Trees.
Flowers.
Seating with people chatting.
The town had come alive!

Modern, attractive colours to the buildings. Vibrant businesses.
Trees, flowers, seats, underground powerlines. A great masterplan for the street/town.

Hustle and bustle – activities for families. Greenery and colour (flowers/plants). Strong sense of history. Well maintained properties. Crossing area (zebra?)
Artworks. Children's spaces – young families have specific needs and bring life to a space. Community hubs.

No stobie poles. Nice lighting. Slow traffic (calmed with parking bays and crossing in centre of town for children and elderly). Trees and plantings (into street verges/community share/herbs). Vibrant commercial spaces – butcher, art, deli, good. Artworks. Seating – benches and space for public and alfresco dining. Paved pathways.

No powerlines. Slower traffic. Free wifi. A lot more people around.

More trees/gardens. Improved shopfronts. More variety of food choices. More outdoor dining.

Capitalise on heritage buildings. Consistent/more street lighting. Development on vacant block by post office.

Narrower roadway. Safe pedestrian crossing points on Main Street. More speciality/gift shops.

More seating. Improved paving/artworks.

Please see Appendix 5 for the full list of responses to this question

Small Projects

Participants worked in small groups and were asked to generate ideas for Small Projects that could be achieved in the main street up to 1 year, and 1 year+. They were also asked to consider who is or can be responsible for achieving them. All ideas are listed below.

Small Projects up to 1 year

Ideas	Who is / can be Responsible
Façade lighting Town Hall	Town Hall committee
Courts lighting upgrade	Sports committee
Seats in park - rotunda	Gumeracha Community Assoc.
Table and seats, BBQ north bank of creek	
Skate park landscape	
Finish footpath to Rocking Horse	Council
Trees, planter boxes	Council/community
Masterplan	
BBQ near skate park	
Caravan/RV friendly	
Beautification of entry points to town – gravel pits, Kingston Place, Rocking Horse, Randell Tce	
Improved paths/footpaths	Council
Beautification – trees, plants, flower boxes, murals, sculptures to add colour/interest	Community groups
Mosaic on hospital wall by road	
Use empty spaces for public art (ie empty shop)	Building owner / committee
Startup businesses in commercial leases (short term trials)	Building owner / committee / Renew Adelaide
Outdoor settings – Council/shops etc	Council and business
Regular committee for Main Street Project – advocacy to Council, business, community	Community
Plants	
Seating	
Paint bus shelter near oval and add more seating	
Vacant block (adjacent to post office) due to severe contamination from waste material dumping since 1939. Development within the future may be a major problem. However, in the interim pits can be excavated and backfilled(?) with mushroom compost and subsequently planted with fast growing wattle or similar.	
Advertise History Walk	
Prominent information board on Main Street	
Change road surface to pavers, will slow traffic down and create visual interest	
Put up signs to stop trucks using engine brakes	
Steam clean pavers	
Plant trees	
Flowering plants	
More herbs	
Disguise stobie poles	
Flags	

Small Projects 1 year+

Ideas	Who is / can be Responsible
Umeracha sculpture (on the way)	Joint committees Medieval Fair, Town Hall, Lions, Gumeracha Community Assoc.
Improved info notice at Ring of Oaks – Peramangk	
Peramangk input to Heritage Links Connection	
Christmas Street Party – Post Office to Hotel	
Initial investigation into underground power lines (included on 5-10 year plan)	
Coordinated colour scheme	
How can welcoming friendly nature of Gumeracha by 'advertised' and made visible	
Street scaping - seating	Community / school / Council
Painting stobie poles	Community / school / Council
Upgrade park – nature play space	Council
Art installations / sculpture	Community – partnership with Arts SA / Country Arts SA
Diversity in shops – different food, artisan shop (co-op)	Business
Better footpath all the way to the Rocking Horse	Council
Footpaths going past the Main Street	Council
Information centre	Business
Art hub – quality, connected to community, history	Community / Council / Business
Complete upgrade of the playground, connect a bike track connecting to the skate park (include a bike track around parklands)	Council / Dept Recreation and Sport
Parking / planter bays	
Chicanes	
Pedestrian crossing island	
Underground wiring	
Heritage light posts	

Big Projects

Participants worked in small groups and were asked to generate ideas for Big Projects that could be achieved in the main street in 1-5 years and 5-10 years. They were also asked to consider who is or can be responsible for achieving them. All ideas are listed below.

Big Projects 1-5 years

Ideas	Who is / can be Responsible
Power lines underground	ETSA
Lights crossing in Main Street	
Planters	Council?
Maintain trees	
Heritage type street lights	Council replacement in time
Masterplan	Council and groups
Heritage trail - pavers with names of historic people	Community / Council
Litter bins with artwork, eg designed as cherry	Council
More shops, cafes, bakery	
Underground power	SA Power, Council and State Govt
Heritage lights	
'Exploit' your history in Gumeracha Aboriginal history Randell family	
Parking an issue (time span and space) need parking bays, car park	
Underground power lines	DPTI / Council
Street trees and lighting and beatification	
Pub appeal	Business owner
Improved road safety – chicane to slow into town / parking / pedestrian crossing	DPTI / Council
Walking / bike trails accessed and sign posted from main street	Landowners and Council
Night lighting skate park	Council
Parking	
Landscaped street line	
Have a designer come through the street and suggest businesses to run a theme – painting/ design for shopfront	
Underground wiring	
Underground cables	
Old fashioned lights	
More lights in park	
Business incubator investment – see Playford Council example	

Big Projects 5-10 years

Ideas	Who is / can be Responsible
Accommodation for visitors / events	Private enterprise
Art works fence lines – kindy and Council Depot and parkland	
Wider footpaths	
Redevelop Torrens Valley Children's Centre – expand services options	DECD and State Government
BBQ in north bank of Federation Park	
Underground power lines. Allows trees to grow	Council and State Government
'History montage' through the town Points of interest. How can this be more obvious?	
Large sign, parking bay at entrances to Gumeracha. What is here for you to see.	
Views of Gumeracha close up from hospital and at a distance from Checker Hill Road	
Set up tourism destination – Brand!!	
Pavements	
Trees and landscaping	
Commercial business in commercial lot	
Flatten the street – remove stobie poles	Council / Government
Full street upgrade – lighting, art, colour	
Roundabout at Albert and Victoria intersection	
Amphitheatre in Federation Park for performances^	
Close off area in front of Library to cars and build seating space with trees and flowers^	

^ Ideas discussed following the meeting, and added to this list.

Appendix 1

Which Towns you Enjoy Walking or Driving into and Why?

Participants were asked to share answers to this group as a full group and/or on their own paper:

- * Woodside – interesting shops
- * Stirling – shady, inviting, green, beautiful and has nice restaurants/bakeries to eat out, tree lined and beautiful
- * Tanunda – beautiful gardens, gardens and plants, trees, flower boxes
- * Strathalbyn – creek that can be used, trees, flower boxes
- * Hahndorf – heritage is clear, canopy of trees, lots of trees
- * Mount Torrens
- * Bridgewater – tree lined and beautiful
- Mt Crawford forest – lots of walks
- Naracoorte – leisure parks
- Any towns that have a vista
- Autumn trees, flowers
- Oakbank/Balhannah – painted stobie poles
- Entering a town which announces itself as welcoming – colourful signage, a tree shaded grove, safe and quiet feel
- Moonta – interesting shops, great eating options
- Streaky Bay – sculptures
- Anywhere in November with jacaranda trees
- Gumeracha entrance – school and hospital and Rocking Horse entrance
- Angaston – trees, flower boxes
- Nuriootpa
- Aldgate
- Barossa Valley towns
- Towns that have greenery/natural beauty
- Towns with power lines underground and lots of street trees
- Ones with – opportunity shops, second hand shops, antiques, safe footpaths, parking available

* *Denotes mentioned multiple times*

Appendix 2

What do you associate with Gumeracha? Broad heading prompts: Places, Events, Character, Feelings, Other

- * Federation Park
- * Rocking Horse
- * Medieval Fair
- * Bay to Birdwood
- * Sport oval and sporting facilities
- * Skate Park
- * School / kindy / child care – hub for children
- * Hospital / Dr surgery
- * Friendliness
- * Community
- * History – Randell's Mill, Old Coach House, old buildings on main street
- History Centre
- Community Association
- Community Centre
- Home and cottages
- Vacant space
- Anzac Day event
- Christmas party/street closure (memory from the past)
- CFS Christmas Santa visit around town
- Welcoming
- Caring for community
- Giving
- Scary road in and out of town
- Fear of traffic
- Road layout / logistics / parking
- Civic Centre
- Show 'n' Shine
- Winery
- Vines on the hill sides
- Open space
- CFS
- Community spirit
- Character buildings
- New Years Eve party
- Handmade market
- Safe community living
- Small main street
- Good vistas
- Beautiful gum trees
- Collaborative community
- A strong friendly community feeling
- Committed people
- Home
- Family
- Apples
- Cherries
- Wine
- Play opportunities
- Fast traffic
- Opportunity to improve (visual, safety)
- Strength in services and community values
- Big old red gums along the roads into town and in the park
- Kindergym
- Community that punches above its weight
- Environment where let children roam – except I don't because of the main street traffic

* Denotes mentioned multiple times

Appendix 3

What do you love about Gumeracha?

Participants were asked to write on their own paper and share with the group.

- * Community spirit
 - * Friendliness
 - * Peacefulness
 - * Federation park - large open space that has both structured play areas and open parklands undulating
 - * The people
 - * Countryside
 - * Forest
 - * Best of both worlds – rural living but still close to the city
 - * Trees and green spaces
 - * Kids and their freedom
 - * Services, facilities and civic centre
 - * History
 - * Quiet and small
- Community connection
Trees and hills
Interesting – may make a ‘forest’
History and laid back (like a lot of local towns)
Lots of space – not crowded
Green spaces for families
History – Peramangk and Randall history – links to river area
Parkland – village atmosphere
Volunteer response for township CFS
School
Central township facilities – Hall, oval, parkland
Sense of community
Not the city
All the facilities available
The warm welcome when I moved here, and ever since – no sense of my being an ‘out-of-towner’
Close to city and country, and the rest of the Hills
I love that it is a safe place for kids to explore with friends giving them an independence they wouldn’t necessarily have in town
Randells Mill
Heritage buildings
Community living
Escape from ‘rat race’
Community atmosphere
Great services – eg Police, GP, school, hospital
Heritage buildings
Great local businesses
Library
Walks

Appendix 3 cont.

Local bus service

All facilities (oval, tennis, netball, BBQ, river, hall, library, RSL, Lions, skate park on one site)

Quiet and small

Medial practice and hospital

Great children activities – library, playgroup

Butcher shop

Friendly community

Greenery – trees, birds

Civic Centre

Its personality and the fact we have just about everything here we need with regards to services and a fantastic part and Community Association

People are friendly

Nice to walk around streets

Close proximity to the Plaza

Being far enough to still be country

Away from the city

Birds etc

Easy to get around

Community feel

Beautiful surrounding area

Fantastic park

Strong community

Close access to facilities and services (school, Dr, hospital, chemist community centre)

Roaming spaces for my kids

Access to nature

Small village unlikely to be developed like other towns in hills eg Mt Barker, Nairne, Littlehampton

** Denotes mentioned multiple times*

Appendix 4

Why do you live here?

- * Housing affordability
- * Proximity to town/TTG/city
- * Strength of community
- * Great place to raise kids
- * Beauty of the environment
- * Quiet

I like a country community atmosphere

Good place to raise family

Quiet

I live in Mt Torrens but in a similar sense, we chose a small hills town because it offers security, community, familiar faces, space to move around in and a slower pace

In retirement lasting social contacts

Memberships of township committees and groups

Rural outlook

Great community

Not many farms to buy in Adelaide

To get away from urban sprawl

Farmer, cattle, cows

Good people

I could afford to – wanted sense of farmland and bushland and not too built up

We work here and love the prettiness of the town and the sense of community

I like the peace and quiet

I love that we are a small town

We run Randells Mill

Lovely community

Cool nights in summer

The people

Close proximity to Adelaide/TTP etc but great country vibe

Great local services

Open spaces / vistas

Federation Park and great Civic Centre

I live in Birdwood but I am a Member of Gumeracha Library, Gumeracha RSL, Torrens Valley Lions Club, Neighbourhood

Watch and Friend of Gumeracha Library

Close to town but we have all the essential needs within walking distance

Medical centre and hospital

Close to town and suburbs where my family is

Because it is one of the most beautiful places on earth – no matter what the season

To be near my daughter

Live in Mt Torrens – live in area due to ability to walk safely no matter the time

Quiet

Views of the hills

Close to work

I was born here (a home coming!)

Have made great friends

Affordability

Community

School

It's great to raise a family here

Away from suburbs

Rural living but still close to city/suburbs, services and facilities

Friendly community

Safe for children

* Denotes mentioned multiple times

Appendix 5

Visualisation: What is your best version of the Main Street of Gumeracha?

Participants were asked to close their eyes, and to imagine they were standing in front of the General Store at the top of the main street. It's a beautiful sunny day, and they were asked to picture their very best version of the main street – to think about what they see, and what they hear. They were then asked to write down what they saw and share with the group if they chose.

More stores, trees, better pub, with a lush forest in the background. Upgraded/extended kids playground and skate park. Bike trails from the main road leading into the forest. No stobie poles. Parking bays. Wider footpaths. Public art. Pedestrian crossing. Garden outside pub. Public seating. Free wifi. Masterplan: coordinated colour.

No power lines or poles. View over buildings to surrounding hills. Locals visiting butcher, post office, chemist, shops. Children from kindy and school walking. Welcoming – flowers street decorated – murals, sculptures. Places to sit – benches.

Painted poles. Plantings. Street party. Nice seating area out the front of the civic centre for people to sit and chat/read and have a cuppa.

Lots of trees, flowers, planter boxes. Public sculpture. Power lines underground.

Hustle and bustle – activities for families. Greenery and colour (flowers/plants). Strong sense of history. Well maintained properties. Crossing area (zebra?) Artworks. Children's spaces – young families have specific needs and bring life to a space. Community hubs. Services for aged.

Randell Family – history centre. More made of pioneer family reunions.

Road crossing in post office area. No stobie poles. Occupied shops. Trees. Light poles with planters. More seating. Beer garden at pub.

Trees. Boulevard of trees. Underground telegraph poles. Street lighting more antique style – solar powered.

Tree-lined. Planter boxes full of flowers. Heritage style light poles – no stobies. More seating. More open shops.

The landscape.

No ugly electricity poles. Trees.

Visualisation: What is your best version of the Main Street of Gumeracha? cont.

Green trees. Containers for hardy plants with flowers all the way to the oval. Hospital garden as a showpiece. More open shops. No power lines. A history walk including Randell's Mill, Salem Church cemetery, Ring of Oaks, the Old Cold Store etc.

Beautify any public/private structures that are utilitarian but ugly (according to me). More shops that are owned by locals if possible, offering things that are handmade perhaps – though I know this is a big call financially and risky. Arts/craft hub and info centre. No stobie poles. Flows down both sides of the street – easy to grow – waterwise. Village feel.

Greenery. Gardens. Plants. Lamp posts. Trees. Flowers. Seating with people chatting. The town had come alive!

Colour. Brighten the main street up a bit. Trees and flowers. Better access to the Rocking Horse. The sidewalk finishes way too soon.

Modern, attractive colours to the buildings. Vibrant businesses. Trees, flowers, seats, underground powerlines. A great masterplan for the street/town.

Trees – birds. Gardens – people (happy). Busy shops. Busy tourism. Beautiful gardens at the entrance. Eg 50kph signs coming into the town. Verges. Gravel pits. Kingston Place. Rocking Horse, Randell Tce.

No powerlines. Slower traffic. Free wifi. A lot more people around. More trees/gardens. Improved shopfronts. More variety of food choices. More outdoor dining. Capitalise on heritage buildings. Consistent/more street lighting. Development on vacant block by post office. Narrower roadway. Safe pedestrian crossing points on Main Street. More speciality/gift shops. More seating. Improved paving/artworks.

Visually attractive. Welcoming. Well marked facilities. Adequate parking, particularly for caravans.

It's beautiful down the valley. No powerlines. Established tree-lined street. Vacant land below post office beautiful restaurant with alfresco dining to enjoy the views. Nature playground in park with bike trail.

Green trees – shady trees. Colour – flowers, planter boxes. Footpaths – safe. More uniformity in shop faciers – heritage style. Less 'A' frame signs and banners – more artwork. No stobie poles. More public seating.

Good footpaths, trees and seats to be able to sit and rest, flower boxes.

Trees lining street all the way down. Paths paved. Old lamps lighting the street.

Visualisation: What is your best version of the Main Street of Gumeracha? cont.

Colour. Hear children/people. Paint on street – pictures.

Tree-lined road. Possibly café's for Sunday morning breakfast.

No overhead wires. Appropriate style lights – old fashioned lamps. Greenery. Must not be narrower. Flower boxes. Colour.

Mix between leafy green surroundings and vibrant businesses and recreational spaces. Thriving businesses, happy people, public art, trees and plants, parking bays, a drawcard pub.

People sitting and chatting. The main street is landscaped. It's a healthy environment.

No stobie poles. Nice lighting. Slow traffic (calmed with parking bays and crossing in centre of town for children and elderly). Trees and plantings (into street verges/community share/herbs). Vibrant commercial spaces – butcher, art, deli, good. Artworks. Seating – benches and space for public and alfresco dining. Paved pathways.

Shops filled. Land used. Alfresco café/dining spaces. Public art. Pride in buildings/businesses/children centre etc appearance. People wanting to slow down and stop, experience Gumeracha. Trees/gardens/nature (could be used to slow traffic).

