

1.2 Defining a “Community Hub”



Trentham Mechanics Institute Hall
Shedding and Storage

A Community Hub- What Is It?

The term “community hub” is used regularly throughout this report to describe a specific type of facility that may be proposed for Trentham.

A community hub typically involves the clustering of community facilities that provide space for local organisations and community groups to meet and for a range of activities, programs, services and events, which address the social needs of a community.

While co-location of facilities and services is widely viewed as an important component of a community hub, the research evidence for this project suggests that to be successful, a hub will need to be more than a cluster of services and spaces.

The essence of a community hub is the concentration of activity that occurs and how the mix of those activities, is accessible to, and serves the needs of, a diverse range of community members.

Importantly, hubs are places that are integrated, both in terms of the programs, activities and services that occur within them, and in terms of

the physical and social relationships with surrounding uses such as local shops, activity centres, public places and transport nodes.

Community hubs are more than the traditional community or neighbourhood centre. The mix of uses within a hub is more extensive and may include facilities such as a library, as well as services like health care and social support, meeting space for community groups, office accommodation for community organisations, space for community functions and events and possibly some form of enterprise, whether that be commercial or social in nature. Community hubs are also places that encourage social gathering and are designed to provide spaces for people to congregate and meet together in both planned and incidental ways.

Accessibility is a strong element of a community hub and the hub’s location in relation to activity centres and capacity to extend hours of operation of services through shared staff and volunteer resources is also important and relevant to Trentham.

What is a Community Hub for Trentham?

The Trentham Community Hub concept acknowledges the potential for synergy and collaboration between organisations that could arise from co-location in a single building or physical location.

The focus of a community hub is to provide a space and environment that supports collaboration between user groups in a way that builds capacity and enables each organisation to deliver opportunities that would otherwise not be available were the co-location not in place.

On this basis, it is therefore important to spend some time to define what a community hub is and what value this type of development should bring.

Put more simply, a community hub should:

1. Offer an accessible and welcoming place that brings together a range of community activities
2. Provide opportunity to integrate services internally as well as linking to other activity nodes such as local shops, library, school etc.
3. Drive collaboration between involved organisations, which can lead to greater efficiencies in delivery, and also greater synergy in service offerings.
4. Provide a welcoming space that can define the location and identity of a community. It can also provide an important outward symbol to the community that reflects civic values and outwardly promotes community wellbeing and connectivity.
5. Is a recognised place for people to meet and strengthen connections within a community through planned and incidental ways.

**ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THIS
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