The Freo Alternative Engagement Report

CITY OF FREMANTLE

ENGAGEMENT REPORT | DECEMBER 2016



Creating Communities

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CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
2.	BACKGROUND	4
3.	OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS	5
4.	METHODOLOGY	. 10
5.	DIALOGUE CAFÉ FINDINGS	. 15
6.	FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS	. 25
7.	"THE GAME OF FREO LIFE" COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	. 36
8.	ADDENDICES	. 39

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Fremantle is in the process of developing a strategy for the provision of diverse housing, entitled *"The Freo Alternative – Big Thinking about Small Housing."* As part of this, opportunities to create and provide for diverse housing in the City's Local Planning Scheme are currently being explored in partnership with the Australian Urban Design and Research Centre (AUDRC).

The City has been seeking collaboration, input and buy-in from the local community and stakeholders to inform the development of the Strategy.

City of Fremantle recognises that the housing needs of the community is expected to undergo much change over the coming decades, and wants to ensure that planning for the future address this.

The City of Fremantle have engaged Creating Communities to advise and deliver key elements of their engagement process. This engagement process has included:

- online engagement and collection of stories from the community;
- a survey;
- meetings with key stakeholders;
- a Dialogue Café;
- focus groups, and
- an interactive open day.

1.1. Objectives

The objectives of the engagement process were to:

- provide information to the community on the theory, objectives, implications, fundamentals etc. of the proposed project;
- understand community perceptions on changes to housing and households in the City of Fremantle;
- understand community values and what people want to see within the City of Fremantle;
- encourage discussion and debate; and
- encourage community participation through a variety of engagement initiatives.



1.2. Recommendations

Based upon the extensive engagement with community members which has taken place to date, it is clear that the City's innovative approach to the provision of diverse housing has been positively perceived and is garnering interest in the community.

Based on the findings of the community engagement it is recommended that the City of Fremantle:

- Continue to focus on the values which City of Fremantle residents consider important, and build planning provisions around these values (rather than vice-versa).
- Explore ways of providing for different tenure types, including variegated titles for modular houses, long-term leases, strata titles and other options for cooperative housing.
- Explore ways of enforcing the retention or provision of trees, public open space, communal space, gardens and sustainability initiatives during development.
- Promote to landowners and developers the benefits of providing diverse housing options and the other principles of the Diverse Housing Strategy.
- Continue to explore cooperative housing models including the Baugruppen model and additional alternatives.
- Explore ways of providing housing for the ageing population, people with disabilities and people on government housing programs within cooperative housing developments.
- If the "missing middle" is to be retained or re-gained, investigate further what attracts these "missing" groups.
- Explore creative ways of providing car parking or alternative transport options within future housing developments.
- Continue to provide feedback to the community on the progression of the Freo Alternative Project via social media and other mediums.

2. BACKGROUND

The City of Fremantle Council resolved to pursue a Diverse Housing Project in association with the Australian Urban Design and Research Centre (AUDRC). This project seeks to provide an alternative approach to the Residential Density Codes - to better facilitate the development of moderately-sized housing in established areas, while allowing for open space and integration with the existing streetscape.

The project responds to the identified need for greater levels of diverse housing to create greater affordability and alternative housing choice within the City. Housing data reveals that the City of Fremantle has a "missing middle," in that is it has: many apartments (in the CBD) and large houses (in the suburbs) but relatively few small houses. Additionally there are many expensive houses and some cheap houses available in the area, but relatively few moderately-priced houses. In congruence with this is evidence of a dichotomy of an affluent demographic and a poorer demographic, but relatively fewer middle-income earners. Interestingly when compared to the rest of Perth, there are more smaller households (number of residents per house) but fewer families residing in these houses in the City of Fremantle.

To ensure well informed decision making in the regards to any changes to the Town Planning Scheme, the City of Fremantle and Creating Communities have ensured that the community is properly informed and engaged in the project. They have facilitated well-informed discussion and feedback to inform their future approach.

This report articulates the engagement process and the findings of this engagement.

3. OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

This overview combines the feedback from all of the engagement initiatives. The primary sources of feedback were the Dialogue Café and focus groups.

It is recognised that some of the ideas listed are outside the scope or control of the City of Fremantle's Town Planning Scheme.

3.1. The Future of Freo

Discussions about the future of living in the City of Fremantle show that people are thinking about the following:

- A rapidly ageing population. This group will require new types of housing, and a change in the variety and availability of different services.
- Future opportunities for communal and shared housing models. This could include the integration of
 housing for older people, housing for people with disabilities and government housing being integrated
 with other housing and tenure types.
- **Fragmentation and lack of connection.** This will not only be a problem for families, but also for communities if the development of houses with limited integration with the street continues.
- **Smaller, disconnected families with fewer children.** This disconnection will be partly due to the lack of affordable and/or appropriately sized housing within close proximity to other family members.

In considering these future scenarios, participants expressed a desire to see the following provided for in planning for future housing:

- Shared and/or connected community spaces. A distinction has been made between public open space and private communal space with the latter private space, but accessible to a number of users. Both of these types are desired. Provision of communal spaces may require changes to the planning rules.
- **Modular houses with movable internal walls.** These would allow for a home to change form and size as lifestyle and needs change. If ownership or family structures were to change.
- **Tiny/mobile houses.** There is a desire for added flexibility around providing for and allowing these housing types in the City of Fremantle.
- Long-term (e.g. 20 year) leases. To give the tenant/renter more certainty and stability in their housing choice.
- A sharing economy. As well as the housing itself, shared cars and facilities such laundries could play an integral role in the future of housing and day to day life. This is apparent in current technological and social shifts towards services such as Uber.
- **Businesses in suburban areas** to create better and more localised access to services, as well as greater opportunities for local economic development and social engagement in local areas

3.2. Benefits and Opportunities

Overall, the provision of a diversity of housing options, including smaller houses, was overwhelmingly supported by participants. Some of the recurring benefits and opportunities include:

- **Community.** Participants recognise that although planning rules cannot plan a community, the provision of alternative housing provides more opportunities for a diverse, connected and happy community.
- Affordability. Smaller housing options may also provide more affordable choices.
- **Innovative design and architecture.** By encouraging developers to move away from the traditional four bedroom, two bathroom home, new and different types of designs can be explored.
- Community housing projects. Different tenure options may create more opportunities for houses built and owned by the community. An example is the Baugruppen model, which the City of Fremantle is already exploring.
- **Incentives for sustainable/innovative projects.** Support, either in the form of subsidies, or even information on best practice in sustainable and innovative design.

3.3. Challenges

The following were commonly recognised as challenges which may impede the provision of diverse housing:

- Changes to behaviour of building industry and developers. It may be difficult to encourage developers to build smaller homes if they will make reduced profits. Incentives to encourage landowners to involve their land in the City's Diverse Housing Strategy may help.
- Ingrained expectations. Many people have an expectation or desire that they will own a four bedroom, two bathroom house with a large backyard. However, others recognise that there is a market for smaller homes.
- **Complexity of planning laws.** Changing planning laws is a complex. The City of Fremantle, however, have a history of making innovative changes to the planning system at a local and state level.
- Maintaining green space and trees. When encouraging development, even establishment of smaller homes, maintaining green space and trees will be a complex issue.

3.4. Values

A key part of the engagement process for the Freo Alternative was determining community values. This was crucial as it will help to understand what needs to be retained or provided when forming rules to support the delivery of diverse housing. Those characteristics that were most valued are listed below:

- Trees. There was unanimous agreement in all discussions that trees were essential and should not be lost
 during development. Many participants supported the idea of having a minimum required number of large
 trees per unit area of development.
- A connection to nature and green spaces. As with trees, many participants supported the idea of having a minimum required amount of open space and/or natural space per unit area of development.
- **Community and social interaction.** Most community members expressed a desire to see more vibrant neighbourhoods, more people talking to each other and a greater sense of community.
- Safe streets. Safety, including lighting and the concept of "eyes on the street," was considered valuable, especially by Dialogue Café participants.

- **Different tenure models.** Ownership was considered important, but other types of tenure including renting were also considered valuable. More rights for renters and other tenants was deemed necessary.
- Walkability, "cycleability" and public transport. Participants were commonly divided on whether car parking and use of cars should be encouraged. However, those on both sides of this argument tended to agree that increased options including more walkable and "cycleable" streets and more frequent and reliable public transport, were desirable and would reduce the need for cars and parking.
- **Sustainability.** This was a common used "catch all" term used for describing a key value but needs to be clearly defined as it can relate to environmental, economic, social or other forms of sustainability. All of these are important but must be clearly delineated.

3.5. Priorities

Overall, the major priorities identified by participants in the consultation were:

- **To enhance sustainability.** As stated above, this needs to be clearly defined but is nevertheless considered a priority in all of its forms.
- **To support the provision of cooperative housing.** This could house a mix of groups including older residents, students, those requiring crisis accommodation and those with disabilities.
- To create or allow for the creation of a diversity of open spaces. Open spaces should be diverse in function, size, cater for the intended user. Additionally they should include a mix of public and private open space.
- To provide for community and social interaction. Although community cannot be planned, planning and design can help to create a spaces which foster community and create more opportunities for social interaction. An example is that open designs (verandas, doors facing the street, less walls etc.) help people to meet and greet their neighbours, by providing more opportunities for incidental interactions.
- To have businesses in the suburbs and more suburban centres. This would encourage shorter travel times, more walkable neighbourhoods and may aid in preventing the demographic "missing middle" from moving out of Freo. Suggested ways of providing this include having businesses on the ground floor and residences above, or allowing those who operate online businesses from home to have "shop fronts".
- For the City of Fremantle to communicate directly with the community. This may include: providing advice on design and planning principles; informing residents what they can and can't do with regards to planning and development; setting up noticeboards, online forums and other communication options; and organising or promoting community events.
- To have affordable housing affordable to live in as well as to purchase. Affordability of living in a house is related to efficient and passive design such as good solar access so that heating is not required in winter and access to breezes so that cooling is not required in summer.
- To consider alternatives to the personal car. Alternatives may more walkable and "cycleable" neighbourhoods, better access to public transport and consideration of future technologies including communal electric cars.
- Retention and provision of trees and vegetation. This is crucial in both public and private spaces.
- The "Freo" Identity. This idea that "Freo remains Freo" means different things to different people, but was frequently mentioned. To some it is related to character and heritage of the area, whilst to others it is related to a sense of spirit, vibrancy and interest on the streets. What it indicates is that the City of Fremantle is loved by the people who live there, as a place like no other.
- **To provide smaller houses.** Although discussions around the provision of diverse housing options covered a wide range of topics, this key aim of the Diverse Housing Strategy was also considered a priority by attendees.
- For the City of Fremantle to continue good communication and engagement with the community. This may include providing advice on design and planning principles; informing residents on what they can and can't do with regards to planning and development; setting up noticeboards, online forums; organising or promoting community events; and other communication options;.

Figure 1. Word clouds for the Dialogue Café (top) and focus groups (bottom). The size of the word is proportional to the frequency with which it was mentioned.¹



¹ The Dialogue Café word cloud is based upon written feedback from participants. The focus group word cloud is based upon notes taken by a facilitator during discussions between community members.

4. METHODOLOGY

This section describes the key methods of engaging with the community. There were four key elements of the engagement, these being

- Stories from the Community Survey
- Dialogue Café
- Focus Groups
- Community Open Days

These are described below.

4.1. Stories from the Community (Survey)

One survey called for people from the City of Fremantle and further afield to tell their housing stories - what they look for in a home and what challenges they have experienced when looking for or living in a small home. Excerpts of these stories were used in the booklets and the Game of Freo Life characters. Forty-six (46) responses were received.

4.2. Dialogue Café

A Dialogue Café was held on Thursday 8 October 2016, which is a workshop where a menu of food is matched by a menu of conversation. This forum sought feedback from community members on the provision of diverse housing in the City of Fremantle. The session ran from 6.30pm to 9:00pm and was facilitated by Allan Tranter, Creating Communities.

Overall, 71 community members attended the Dialogue Cafe. City of Fremantle elected members (Councillors and Mayor) and staff from the City of Fremantle were also in attendance.

The Dialogue Café included a presentation on the history of housing diversity (or, more recently, lack thereof) in the City of Fremantle and a segment of stories received from community members during an earlier phase of the engagement process.

Participants completed three key activities to obtain feedback on diverse housing opportunities.

Figure 2. Menu of conversation used for the Dialogue Café.



4.3. Focus Groups

Seven focus groups were held on 4 October, 5 October and 8 October 2016 in the Reception Room at the City of Fremantle.

Each session was attended by between eight and twelve community members, two to four staff from the City of Fremantle and was facilitated by a staff member from Creating Communities. Overall, 64 community members attended the focus groups. Of these 64 attendees ten (15%) had also attended the Dialogue Café. This is a positive outcome as it means that a broader range of people attended than those who regularly attend engagement initiatives.

The focus groups sought interactive discussion and feedback from community members on the provision of diverse housing in the City of Fremantle. The focus groups were run as informal group conversations. Specific topics were introduced by Creating Communities and City of Fremantle staff. These topics were then discussed by participants.

Posters were displayed in the room which showed feedback from the previous engagement event: the Dialogue Café. Booklets describing the Freo Alternative project and the Dialogue Café feedback were also provided to each participant for reference.

Figure 3. Conversation sheet used for focus groups.

The Freo Alternative

big thinking about small housing

Focus Groups - Conversation Sheet

1 Introductions and Meeting Purpose	5 minutes	
2 The Missing Middle	10 minutes	
Discussion of the "Missing Middle" in terms of: housing size; housing price; household/family size; income of residents; age of residents.		
3 Future of our Community	15 minutes	
Discussion focusing on what future households and families might look like and the types of housing they will need.		
Focus on timeframes of twenty years or longer, using past changes to frame future changes ("think about how much has changes since 1996 Imagine what could happen in another twenty years")		
4 Values	15 minutes	
Compare initial draft values to feedback and suggested changes to the values following stories from the community and the Dialogue Café.		
Discuss how these values might be captured in providing for alternative housing.		
5 Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges	10 minutes	
Discuss benefits, opportunities and challenges.		
6 Priorities	10 minutes	
Consider priorities based upon benefits, opportunities and challenges. These priorities will inform policy and planning.		
Relate priorities back to the missing middle. Do the priorities address the missing middle? What do we need to give up to have the missing middle?		
7 Location	10 minutes	
Discussion regarding areas to consider/not consider with consideration of :		
• density		
suburban/urban areas		
proximity to public transport		
heritage areas/properties		
 In areas with a diverse existing streetscape character 		
 In areas with similar existing development types and patterns, e.g. aged person dwellings and 5+ strata lot dwellings on one parent lot 		
8 Next Steps	5 minutes	
How will feedback from the Focus Group session will be used?		
Please feel free to attend Open Day(s) on 3, 4 and 5 November		

4.4. "The Game of Freo Life" Community Open Days

The Game of Freo Life was the last in the suite of engagement events held for the Freo Alternative. The game ran over four 'open days' in MANY6160 [former MYER building) on 3-6 November from 10:00am-5:00pm each day. This engagement initiative was designed by AUDRC and facilitated by AUDRC and the City of Fremantle.

The Game of Freo Life comprised a large interactive model of a typical Fremantle suburban area (based upon an "average" of actual street blocks). This area was populated with 1:200 scale 'existing' lots, trees, cars, houses and people. Additional 'game pieces' were supplied which included smaller housing types, trees, cars and 'tiles' that represented sustainability, private space, garden, communal space or 'make your own'. The game used the real life housing stories the City had heard through the engagement to help create characters. The premise of the game was that anyone could drop by, be inspired by a 'character' and design their own little piece of Fremantle by using the additional game pieces.

Approximately 60 people 'played the game of Freo Life', formally completing over 40 models. An estimated 200 people stopped by the model during the open days to observe the model and discuss the project.

The game was another tool to engage with the community on the idea of smaller housing typologies in the City's existing suburbs.



Figure 4. City of Fremantle residents creating their ideal neighbourhood.

4.5. Surveys

As well as the survey seeking stories from community member, another survey mirrored the questions that were posed at the Dialogue Café – future of community, guiding values, opportunities, benefits, challenges and priorities.

4.6. One-on-One Meetings with Key Stakeholders

City of Fremantle staff met with key stakeholders to discuss the Freo Alternative. These meetings included:

- Attending the White Gum Valley precinct group;
- Meeting with the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA);
- Meeting with the Housing Institute of Australia (HIA) and representatives from four leading construction and development companies who have experience in the design of smaller homes.

4.7. Communication Initiatives

In addition to seeking feedback from the community, the following communication initiatives provided background information on the project, and informed the community of upcoming engagement and findings following engagement:

- A dedicated community engagement webpage at http://mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/Freo_Alternative.
 The webpage communicated project background, FAQs, document library, key events and updates with the community.
- Announcements for the major engagement events (Dialogue Café, focus groups and "The Game of Freo Life"). These announcements were made on the City's facebook page, primary website and featured in the City of Fremantle's newsbites in the Fremantle Herald. There were also shared by the Mayor and other elected members and the community on social media. This including specific closed groups on Facebook and features on the Mayor's blog.
- An informative booklet entitled 'What is the Freo Alternative.' This was available online, at the City of Fremantle offices and at the engagement events.
- A summary booklet and the interim report on the Dialogue Café. These were available online, at the City of Fremantle's offices and at engagement events following the Dialogue Café.
- Several update newsletters to the City of Fremantle's mailing list for the Freo Alternative (over 600 people) and additional updates to the City's broader mailing list (over 2500 people).

5. DIALOGUE CAFÉ FINDINGS

5.1. Activity 1 – Future of our Community

Participants were asked to consider the future of their community and record their responses to the following two questions as a group:

- 1. What will our community and the families/households who live there be like in 20 years' time?
- 2. What are the implications for the provision of housing for future generations?

5.1.1. What will our community and the families/households who live there be like in 20 years' time?

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of response and the specific responses which relate to that theme. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar response was stated.

The most common specific responses for what the community will look like in twenty years overall are described below (each response count represents the number of groups that listed this idea):

- Intergenerational living to form support networks (8 groups)
- Communal/shared housing (8)
- Ageing (7)
- Fewer children / smaller families (4)
- Fragmentation and lack of connection (3)

Theme	Specific Responses
Trend towards shared and/or intergenerational living (18)	 Intergenerational living to form support networks (8) Communal/shared housing (8) Sharing of resources, knowledge etc. (2)
Demographic change (18)	 Ageing (7) Fewer children / smaller families (4) Multiculturalism (2) More single occupants (2) Diversity in race, income, sexuality etc. (2) Closer family units (1)
Negative social impacts (9)	 Fragmentation and lack of connection (3) Increasing income polarity / gentrification (2) Economic and employment issues (1) Crime and safety concerns (1) Cost for younger generation (1) Need for medical health facilities (1)
Vibrant and connected neighbourhoods (8)	 More interaction (2) Better usage of community facilities and amenity including schools, playgrounds etc. (2) Designs which enable connection (2) Balance of private and public space (2)
Sustainability as a key concern (6)	Renewable energy use (2)Off-grid housing (2)

Would like to see more sustainable intelligent
communities, however, more likely to see more affluent
and pompous housing (1)
Ecological corridors (1)

5.1.2. What are the implications for the provision of housing for future generations?

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of response and the specific responses which relate to that theme. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar response was stated.

The most common specific responses related to implication for future housing are described below (each response count represents the number of groups that listed this idea):

- Shared and/or connected community spaces (5 groups)
- Modular houses / movable internal walls (5)
- Tiny / mobile houses (5)
- Long-term (e.g.. 20 year) leases (3)
- Cooperative housing (3)
- Car/transport sharing (3)

Theme	Specific Responses
Changes in land tenure models (13)	 Long-term (e.g. 20 year) leases (3) Cooperative housing (3) Security of tenure (2) Building code changes to allow tiny houses (1) More than two options - a) Own b) Rent (1) Adoptive housing (1) Air B'n'B (1) Less investment in properties and re-selling (1)
More modular/flexible/mobile housing (11)	 Modular houses / movable internal walls (5) Tiny / mobile houses (5) Use roof spaces: roof balconies, roof gardens (1)
More shared community spaces (9)	 Shared and/or connected community spaces (5) "Semi-private space" (1) Useful outdoor space – benches, ping-pong tables etc. (1) Micro-communities with: centre, kitchens, co-working spaces, studios, edible gardens, activated verges, bushfoods (1) Greater community usage of schools e.g. Libraries, drama centres, parks etc. (1)
Changes in type/quality of built form (8)	 Consider house entrances via gardens rather than carports (1) Retain high ceilings, position windows etc. oriented towards the North, ensure access for sea breezes (1) Human-centred design (1) Break our love of bricks (1) Must be two-storey on small blocks (1) Lack of design consistency (1) More expertise in compact designs (1) Variety of houses (1)
Encourage walking / public transport and discourage car use (7)	Car/transport sharing (3)Road layouts for enhanced flow (2)

Plan both homes and neighbourhoods to enhance
walking/cycling/prams/wheelchairs (1)
Integrated transport systems (1)

5.2. Activity 2 - Guiding Values: Reflection and Validation

Participants worked in groups to answer the following three questions:

- 1. What values do you agree with and why? [of the following]
 - Safe streets
 - Walkability
 - Street Trees
 - Greenspace and Nature
 - Private Gardens
 - Adequate Parking
 - Open Character
 - Streetscape
 - Local Food Production
 - Trees and Shade
 - Ownership
- 2. What improvements or additions could we make to ensure the values provide a sound basis for future planning for diverse housing choices?
- 3. Are the any other general comments that you would like to make about the draft values?

5.2.1. What values do you agree with – and why?

The list below show project values in order of number of times participants stated that they agreed with that value. The number in brackets shows the number times that value was explicitly agreed with. Note that this number is out of a total thirteen (13) groups.

Draft Values provided by the Project Team

- Greenspace and Nature (12)
- Safe streets (12)
- Walkability (11).
- Local Food Production (10)
- Streetscape (9)
- Street Trees (9)
- Trees and Shade (7)
- Ownership (6)
- Private Gardens (6)
- Adequate Parking (5)
- Open Character (4)

Values Suggested by Participants

- Community/social interaction (6)
- Creativity/Innovation (4)
- Sustainability (3)
- Alternative Tenure Models (3)
- Public open space (2)
- Identity and authenticity (2)

Values NOT Agreed with (3)

Adequate parking (3)*

5.2.2. What improvements or additions could we make to ensure the values provide a sound basis for future planning for diverse housing choices?

This list below shows the themes of answers to this question in order of frequency. The number in brackets shows the number of different responses related to this theme.

- More communal/shared spaces and facilities (11)
- Encourage different Tenure Models (9)
- More trees (6)
- Increased community power and less developer power in planning and development control (6)
- Improve sustainability/self-sustainability (6)
- Safer Streets (5)
- Increase Equity and Accessibility (5)
- Protect/provide green space (4)
- Parking and parking's relationship with transport (4)
- Promote walkability (4)
- Design methods to encourage open character (4)
- More local food production (3)
- More community gardens (2)

5.2.3. Are there any other general comments you would like to make about the draft values?

This list below shows the themes of answers to this question in order of frequency. The number in brackets shows the number of different responses related to this theme.

- Focus on Sustainability (8)
- Ensure a connection to nature (6)
- Encourage housing choice and diversity (6)
- Parking and traffic concerns (4)
- Recognition of importance of Council policies and laws (5)
- Development needs to benefit the community (4)
- Ensure heritage Retention (3)
- More cooperative housing (3)
- Consider benefits versus limitations of open character (3)
- Limitations caused by costs and externalities (2)
- Encourage community involvement and engagement (2)

^{*}Three groups indicated that they did not agree that adequate parking should be a project value.

5.3. Activity 3 - Benefits, Opportunities, Challenges and Priorities

Participants worked in groups to respond to the questions:

- 1. What might the benefits be of providing more diverse housing options in suburban areas in the City of Fremantle?
- 2. What are the key opportunities that should be considered as part any future planning for the provision of small housing options?
- 3. What might the challenges be that will need to be addressed in any planning for small housing options In the City of Fremantle?
- 4. Now that you have heard all the discussion, list the top five (5) priorities that the Freo Alternative Project should seek to address.

5.3.1. Benefits

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of response and the specific responses which relate to that theme. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar response was stated.

The most common specific benefits that were identified are described below (each response count represents the number of groups that listed this benefit):

- Connected communities (7)
- Services that meet the needs of a diverse community (6)
- Able to afford a home in Freo (4)
- Happiness (4)

Theme	Specific Responses
Emotional and community health benefits (18)	 Connected communities (7) Happiness (4) Greater tolerance/inclusivity (3) Diversity of cultures (3) Better mental health for individuals (1)
More diverse/accessible services (9)	 Services that meet the needs of a diverse community (6) Less maintenance time (1) Access to transport (1) Better access for the disabled (1)
Vibrant/thriving/expressive Freo (8)	 Freedom to express, youth empowerment (2) Return of vibrancy in Freo (2) More socialising in the street (2) More arts and culture (1) Every ecosystem needs diversity to thrive and be synergetic (1)
A diverse population (6)	 Creates/maintains diversity of: age; income; family structure; ethnicity etc. (3) Creative and interesting people (1) Innovative; respectful; suitable living conditions for Indigenous perspectives (1) Encourages large households – not necessarily large houses (1)
Access to/Affordability of Housing (6)	 Able to afford a home in Freo (4) Stabilises those who rent, lower income families with long-term tenure needed (1)

	Flexibility to move/relocate (1)
Benefits when Ageing (6)	Intergenerational living (3)
Delicitis when Ageing (0)	Options for ageing in place/downsizing (3)

5.3.2. Opportunities

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of response and the specific responses which relate to that theme. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar response was stated.

The most common specific opportunities that were identified are described below (each response count represents the number of groups that listed this opportunity):

- Innovation/entrepreneurship (2)
- Attract interesting architecture e.g. design charrette (2)
- Policy/laws to provide for diverse housing (2)
- Taking advantage of consolidated blocks for innovative community housing projects (2)
- Council owned land (2)
- Less industry, more housing e.g. the Harbour (2)
- Incentives for sustainable/innovative projects (2)
- Different ways to create small blocks (besides battle-axe) (2)
- Community/self-building (2)

Theme	Specific Responses
Planning to support diverse housing (8)	 Policy/laws to provide for diverse housing (2) Well thought out structure plan (1) New ownership models for low-income earners and singles/small households (1) Experiment with a "special economic zone" of no planning rules (1) Opportunities to build alternative small housing to strata communities (1) Self-governance of sub-communities (1) Streamlined planning departments (1)
Potential Land Available (8)	 Taking advantage of consolidated blocks for innovative community housing projects (2) Council owned land (2) Less industry, more housing e.g. the Harbour (2) Lots of land in Freo owned by other government departments for innovative sustainable development (1) Integration with Rottnest/water (1)
Incentivise sustainable/small housing (7)	 Incentives for sustainable/innovative projects (2) Different ways to create small blocks (besides battle-axe) (2) Make it easier for Tiny Houses to be legally accommodated (1) Allow building material re-use and move to lighter building materials (1)

	 Embedding sustainability into the planning strategy (1)
Involving community members in design/development (6)	 Community/self-building (2) Specific development sites for co-ops (1) Community agreement (1) Create formal engagement processes (1) Forming smaller action groups and subcommunities (1)
Opportunities for interesting design and architecture (6)	 Innovation/entrepreneurship (2) Attract interesting architecture e.g. design charrette (2) Mix of grouped and standalone layouts (1) Challenge norms e.g. Combine norms – allow washing machines in kitchens! (1)

5.3.3. Challenges

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of response and the specific responses which relate to that theme. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar response was stated.

The most common specific challenges stated that were identified are described below (each response count represents the number of groups that listed this challenge):

- Change to behaviour of building industry and developers e.g. incentives (5)
- Ingrained narrative and story (4)
- Segregation/conflict between groups (4)
- Diverse community expectations (3)
- Changing policy and laws/by-laws (3)
- Existing policy and laws/by-laws (3)
- Maintaining green space and trees (3)

Theme	Specific Responses
Changing Existing Approaches to Development (16)	 Change to behaviour of building industry and developers e.g. incentives (5) Good design (2) Sustainable/efficient design (2) More small houses/less large houses (2) Ensuring that development encourages beneficial trade-offs for the local community e.g. A large development might vest some land for a community garden (1) Ensuring that values drive development (1) Architecture-led development (1) Avoid mass demolition by developers (1) Reducing the power/influence of developers (1)
Changing ingrained attitudes and expectations (12)	Ingrained narrative and story (4)Diverse community expectations (3)

	 Understanding that risk is good. Early 20s cost of living has made us risk-averse and greedy (2) Respecting non-financial values (2) Fear of change (1)
Planning Laws/Policies (11)	 Changing policy and laws/by-laws (3) Existing policy and laws/by-laws (3) Move from rule-based to performance criteria-based approach (2) Unclear how diversity could work if zoning rules etc. remain so prescriptive (1) Political issues (1) Restrictive building code (1)
Retaining what is liked (9)	 Maintaining green space and trees (3) Maintaining architectural styles (1) Amenity loss (1) Streetscape loss (1) Maintaining diversity and vibrancy (1) Balance of private and open space (1) Where do the children go (and play)? (1)
Negative social impacts/attitudes (6)	 Segregation/conflict between groups (4) Social dynamics of community (1) Fremantle "too hip for own good" (1)
Parking and Transport Impacts (6)	 Parking (2) Vehicle and transport types (2) Transport infrastructure to accommodate population (2)

5.3.4. Priorities

Each of the thirteen (13) groups of participants were asked to list their top five (5) priorities that the Freo Alternative Project should seek to address. Priorities have been ranked based upon the following system:

- Priorities were categorised by theme.
- Themed priorities were ranked by the frequency with which that theme was mentioned (by each of the thirteen tables) multiplied by weight.
- Higher priorities were given higher weights as follows:
 - First priorities were given a score of 5, second priorities were given a score of 4, third
 priorities were given a score of 3, fourth priorities were given a score of 2 and fifth priorities
 were given a score of 1.
- For example, sustainability was listed as a first priority by two groups $(2 \times 5 = 10)$, as a second priority by two groups $(2 \times 4 = 8)$, as a third priority by one group $(1 \times 3 = 3)$, as a fourth priority by one group $(1 \times 2 = 2)$, and was not listed as a fifth priority by any group. The overall total score is: 10 + 8 + 3 + 2 = 23.

The top 13 priorities are shown below. The number in brackets shows the overall score for that priority.

- 1. Sustainability (23)
- 2. Affordability and access to housing (19)
- 3. The "Freo" Identity (14)
- 4. Smaller houses (14)
- 5. Sharing of spaces, resources and facilities (13)
- 6. Implementation of City of Fremantle planning policies/laws (13)
- 7. Housing options for all demographics (13)
- 8. Trees and green space (12)
- 9. Parking and traffic management (8)
- 10. Innovative and creative thinking (8)
- 11. Cooperative housing options (6)
- 12. Values-driven planning (5)
- 13. Community involvement in planning (5)

6. FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

This section provides a summary of the topics which were raised by focus group participants.

Overall, the major priorities were:

- 1. **To support the provision of cooperative housing** which could house a mix of multiple groups including older residents, students, those requiring crisis accommodation and those with disabilities.
- 2. **To create or allow for the creation of a diversity of open spaces**. Open spaces should be diverse in function, size, intended user and should include a mix of public and private open space.
- 3. For the City of Fremantle to communicate directly with the community. This may include providing advice on design and planning principles; informing residents on what they can and can't do with regards to planning and development; setting up noticeboards, online forums; organising or promoting community events; and other communication options;.
- 4. **To have housing which is affordable to live in as well as to purchase**. Affordability of living in a house is related to efficient and passive design such as good solar access so that heating is not required in winter and access to breezes so that cooling is not required in summer.
- To consider alternatives to the personal use car including more walkable and "cycleable" neighbourhoods, better access to public transport and consideration of future technologies including communal electric cars.
- 6. Retention and provision of trees and vegetation in both public and private spaces.

Some points which were raised multiple times and which are relevant to the purpose of The Freo Alternative include:

- Providing businesses in the suburbs and more suburban centres. This would encourage shorter travel
 times, more walkable neighbourhoods and may aid in preventing the demographic "missing middle" from
 moving out of Freo.
- Designing a community which is incidental, not artificial. It may seem counter-intuitive to assume that designing a community would make it less artificial; however, multiple participants felt that open designs (verandas, doors facing the street, less walls etc.) help people to meet and greet their neighbours. This is more incidental than having to join an organisation or club to meet friends.
- Linked to cooperative housing, modular housing and alternatives to subdivision, "variegated titles" or varying percentage of title could be a new type of tenure for flexible home-ownership. For example, a couple owns 70% and shares with a housemate who owns 30%, when the couple have children the housemate sells the 30% to the couple which can then be sold to their children later. This type of title may also encourage ageing-in-place and mean less people are forced to move away from their families.
- If the "missing middle" is to be retained or re-gained, consider what attracts these groups. For example, schools for families.
- **Encourage landowners to involve their land in this project** (i.e. provide opportunities for people to be involved in The Freo Alternative).

The following sub-sections look at how each specific conversation point (The Missing Middle; The Future of Our Community; Values; Benefits, Opportunities and Constraints; Priorities; and Location) was discussed by participants.

6.1. The Missing Middle

A staff member from the City of Fremantle presented the concept of the "missing middle" to participants. This concept related to the fact that housing data reveals that the City of Fremantle has a "missing middle," in that is it has: many apartments (in the CBD) and large houses (in the suburbs) but relatively few small houses. Additionally there are many expensive houses and some cheap houses available in the area, but relatively few moderately-priced houses. In congruence with this is evidence of a dichotomy of an affluent demographic and a poorer demographic, but relatively fewer middle-income earners. Interestingly when compared to the rest of Perth, there are more smaller households (number of residents per house) but fewer families residing in these houses in the City of Fremantle.

Participants discussed this concept, particularly with regard to what they felt was "missing" from the City of Fremantle.

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of discussion and specific statements which relate to the "missing middle." The number in brackets shows how many times a similar discussion point was raised across the seven focus groups.

Theme	Specific Responses
Loss of demographics who can't afford/can't find suitable housing in Freo (7)	 Whole streets which are getting older (in terms of age of population) with nowhere nearby to go Grown children who can't stay where they grew up There are still older Italians and Portuguese but without children Those who are over 65 are residents who never left (there are few over-65-year-olds moving in) Fewer people in their 20s Fewer people in their 20s living independent lifestyles "People who I have grown up with have moved away"
Agreement that there is a missing middle of housing (6)	 General agreement that there is a missing middle, especially with regards to housing (3) Once a block is available it is predictable that large 2-storey house will be built Exclusive rather than inclusive e.g. excludes Tiny Houses Still inclusive as a community but not for housing
Rigid planning laws (5)	 Blocks on the same street have different zonings – some can be subdivided and some can't Stalemates between density and heritage (e.g. in Hilton) Rigid rules do not allow for diversity Granny flats don't allow for ownership Huge pieces of land that can't be subdivided (due to heritage restrictions)
Gentrification (4)	 In places which cannot be subdivided there are parts of "the middle" but a "well-off middle" e.g. young professionals Young professionals without children can afford to live here There was a time when no one wanted to live in Freo – then "yuppies moved in" Freo is a "victim of its own success"
Loss of shared sense of community (4)	 Loss of social fabric "A proliferation of margins" rather than a community with a core set of values Loss of vibrancy, youth culture and social connection The community seems artificial

6.2. What do we want for the Future of Our Community

The facilitator asked participants to imagine what their community was like 20 years ago and what their community might be like in 20 years (be it a particular suburb or the City of Fremantle as whole).

Participants discussed what they felt could be expected and what was desired for the City of Fremantle in the future. There was agreement amongst multiple groups that there is a difference between "what we want" and "what will probably happen." This was described by one participant as trying to stop "a train rushing towards a cliff." Most participants discussed what they wanted rather than what was expected.

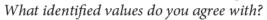
This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of discussion and specific statements which relate to the future of the suburbs of the City of Fremantle. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar discussion point was raised across the seven focus groups.

Theme	Specific Responses
Businesses in the suburbs and more suburban centres (4)	 Businesses operating from residential properties Businesses in the suburbs e.g. corner shops People use the online market to sell what is produced in their home – make this visible/tactile e.g. residential shop-fronts Less formality about doing business from home "Communities within communities" More small hubs More focus on outer suburbs e.g. Samson
Variety/diversity of housing choices to provide for a diversity of people (7)	 Variety Planned diversity More diversity Keep young families – this requires affordable housing Mix of renters and owners Facilities for a diverse population Life stages create different needs
Connection to neighbours and the street (6)	 Verandas and connection to neighbours Community needs to be incidental, not artificial (open designs help this) Houses on the street – not set back Entering house from veranda/garden, not carport/garage More "open" designs Places where you don't feel locked in
Integrated housing for ageing and for crisis accommodation (4)	 Spread out/diluted and integrated public housing rather than concentrated "slums" Crisis housing integrated rather than "ghettos" Communal facilities, especially for ageing Multipurpose complexes of buildings, especially for older residents
Community facilities which allow for interaction (4)	 Alternatives to churches and primary schools which involve people – especially for adolescents There are youth community facilities such as PCYCs but they are not accessible/walkable Community space Dwellings with communal facilities around them
Don't suburbanise/sterilise Freo (4)	 Return to the feel of a "home town" in Freo CBD More Melbourne, less Sydney (more grungy less sterile) Don't build suburban houses and turn Freo into a "suburb" Get back to the 1990s

6.3. Values

The facilitator showed participants the list of values provided at the Dialogue Café by the project team. This list (Figure 5) also indicated whether each of the thirteen (13) groups present at the Dialogue Café agreed with that value and additional values which were raised by Dialogue Café participants. The 13 person-shaped icons indicate each of the 13 groups present at the Dialogue Café. They are shaded where that value was explicitly agreed with by a group. Where additional values were suggested by participants, the number of icons indicate the number of groups which suggested this new value.

Figure 5. Dialogue Café feedback on guiding values.





Dialogue Cafe participants were asked to vote within their groups on values they agreed with. The results from each of the values are shown above.

Focus group participants discussed these values, made comments on those existing and suggested new values. There was a general agreement that there should be more human-related values (such as those suggested by Dialogue Café participants) to complement the physical or built values. There was general agreement among many participants that by humanising the values rules could be made to fit around the community, rather than the other way around. These points are evident in the feedback shown below.

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of discussion and specific statements which relate to the values. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar discussion point was raised across the seven focus groups.

Theme	Specific Responses
Businesses in the suburbs and more suburban centres (11)	 Commercial areas with employment opportunities in the suburbs – town centres Allow commercial "spill-out" onto streets – use of paved areas outside commercial properties Commercial areas close to home Local employment – this increases connectivity

	Buildings with commercial ground floor and residential
	above
	Businesses in residential areas
	Corner stores
	Offices/co-working spaces in already successful
	neighbourhood centres (e.g. Hilton)
	 Local centres/urban villages have more "good mornings" and "hellos"
	Neighbourhoods which are not within walking distance of
	Freo centre need somewhere to walk to
	Closer workplaces
	Changes to built form types and materials
	Good architectural design without it trying to be
	something/somewhere else
	Efficient design
Better built form and efficient design (7)	Better "Freo styles" of architecture (e.g. Brian Clopper)
	but not a Council telling us how to build a house
	Housing with regard for its location
	Good pre-fab design
	Imaginative design
	A mix of designated and informal community hubs
	More enforcement of planning laws (e.g. Not giving retroppedium permission)
	retrospective permission) • Variety of facilities
	Look at the attractors (e.g. Schools) for the "missing"
Community facilities which allow for	middle"
interaction (7)	Non-denominational/non-religious community
	groups/clubs
	Community classes (e.g. art) and clubs (e.g. cycling)
	Community clubs exist but are not available after 5pm
	(exceptions include Glyde Inn and "The Meeting Place")
	Transport options and accessibility
	Public transport – more Cat buses which go further and to
More transport options (5)	more places • Public transport
iviore transport options (5)	Public transport"Cycleability"
	Shared community cars (this reduces the need for
	parking)
	Parking is a divisive issue/value (we need to provide
Parking (for and against) (5)	parking vs. we need to discourage driving)
	Drop-off bays for shopping instead of permanent parking
	Less cars reduces need for garages and allows for
	verandas
	Street parking (e.g. In Hilton)
	Reducing/moving parking

6.4. Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges

The facilitator showed participants the list of benefits, opportunities and challenges raised at the Dialogue Café (Figure 6). These, and additional benefits, opportunities and challenges were then discussed by focus group participants.

Figure 6. Dialogue Café feedback on benefits, opportunities and challenges.

What might be the key benefits, opportunities and challenges in providing diverse housing?



There were not enough benefits, opportunities and challenges discussed to collate a list of themes. The comprehensive list of points is therefore listed below in its entirety.

It should also be noted that what might be considered benefits or opportunities for some might be considered challenges or costs for others.

6.4.1. Benefits

- Connection with other generations
- Tiny houses cost less to build than a 10% deposit on a \$500,000 house
- Lower walls and more openness allows for running on the streets
- Streets with grid layouts, finer grains and more smaller back-streets can help accessibility and walkability

6.4.2. Opportunities

- Learn from other successful projects/places (11)
 - o Gosford Tiny Houses project
 - Chattanooga Model (cheap broadband internet brought in the creative economy and brought back young people. But, Chattanooga was a cheap, old industrial town);
 - o Coolbellup (re-zoning) but done better

- Woodman Point Holiday Park
- o "Big World Homes"
- o 6160 building is being used well, as is Kim Beazley Building
- Josh Byrne's building of traditional housing in sustainable ways
- o Take lessons from Europe rather than the USA
- Look at Victoria Park: "things happen," it is affordable (for young people), it is at maximum residential capacity, "it is like Freo 30 years ago"
- Look at the Netherlands e.g. how to encourage cycling
- More public transport and sustainable transport
- New transport technologies
- A "sharing economy"
- A co-op model incorporating city farm/food production where the architect and builder are "owned" by the owners
- Less investment properties "if you buy it you have to live in it"
- Parking at the end of cul-de-sacs with charging stations for electric card
- Thoroughfares of activity centres to other suburbs e.g. Murdoch, Cockburn with "micro-centres" in between
- Less parking and cars for developments closer to the centre of Freo
- Using Council-owned land
- Container homes
- An online discussion forum facilitated by the City of Fremantle
- A resource-centre for good building design
- Council to link service providers and technology to people
- City squares
- Housing with limited maximum price
- Flexible titles or flexible proportions of title for properties (e.g. a couple owns 70% and shares with a housemate who owns 30%, when the couple have children the housemate sells the 30% to the couple which can then be sold to their children later)
- Turn vacant land into public open space/community gardens
- Potential to use underused/vacant spaces as "incidental public open space"
- If there are options to work in Freo there isn't the same need for car ownership
- · Building housing for life
- Technologies and changes in service provision e.g. Uber
- Car-pooling (using technology to facilitate this)
- Space costs a lot to buy and also to live in (e.g. to heat and cool) smaller housing is more affordable

6.4.3. Challenges

- Predicting what changes in technology will bring
- How would an attempt to follow good international trends/models influence the planning provisions?
- Do walls make streets safe or do they do the opposite?
- Major roads make connectivity, accessibility, walkability, "cycleability" difficult in Freo
- Overcoming how technologies (e.g. online shopping) can take away from community connectivity
- Some (or many) people like their car and their 4x2 house
- Building codes as well as planning laws
- Negative attitudes towards public transport
- People expand their homes due to family changes not just for property investment

- There are ebbs and flows of people and age-groups in any place
- It is easier to knock down and rebuild a house than alter an existing one
- Flexible titles can be exploited e.g. by Air BnB
- Laws (e.g. fencing) not being complied with
- Some community facilities (e.g. community gardens) can be exclusive to those who can afford the time
- Start-up businesses are limited from starting because of rigid policies/laws e.g. required number of car bays
- Getting involved (e.g. in co-housing) is harder as an individual than as part of a group

6.5. Priorities

The facilitator showed participants the list of priorities ranked according to frequency with which they were listed by Dialogue Café participants (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Dialogue Café feedback on priorities.



Focus group participants discussed these priorities, made comments on those listed and suggested their own priorities based upon the discussion that had taken place up until this point.

This list below shows the most commonly stated themes of discussion and specific statements which relate to the values. The number in brackets shows how many times a similar discussion point was raised across the seven focus groups.

Theme	Specific Responses
Cooperative housing (9)	 Integrate crisis accommodation with other housing (2) Cooperative housing Younger residents caring for older residents – incentivise this (e.g. free rent) and create a registration process/EOI Intergenerational living and ageing in place Shared spaces and housing A mix of multi-purpose integrated housing Tiny House communities (even just a couple of them) Things for children and teenagers to do and grow in cooperative housing
Diverse open spaces (including public and private) (8)	Public and private green space (3)

	-
	 A diverse mix of community, green and sustainable spaces Design of natural environment Better, more functional parks Multiple-use public space Public spaces for food trucks/pop-ups Collaboration and advice from the City regarding good architecture and sustainable design principles Communication with the Council "open for discussion" to inform residents what they can and can't do
Communication with/facilitated by the City of Fremantle (6)	 "Cuddling" between City of Fremantle and the community (relationship-based planning rather than covenant) A "how to be a nice neighbour" course Community noticeboards and other communication options Council-supported interaction e.g. street parties
Affordability (6)	 Affordability (4) Mortgage vs. life Affordability allows diversity and sustainability in many ways
Alternatives to the personal car (6)	 "Cycleability" (2) Access to public transport – ties in with walkability A mix of transport types Walkability More public transport ("chicken before the egg") and more timely transport
Retention and provision of trees and vegetation (6)	 Retain mature trees (2) Verge planting (2) Retention of trees – canopy policies Deep verge planting zones – legislate 25%

The remaining themes of priorities are listed below:

- Flexible/modular housing and tenure (5)
- Businesses in residential areas (5)
- Better and more functional design of homes (4)
- Development which is not only profits-driven (4)
- Design of whole blocks, rather than individual properties (4)
- A better understanding/definition of sustainability (4)
- Comments of current list of priorities (3)
- A better understanding/definition of "The Freo Identity" (3)
- Safe streets (2)
- Heritage (2)
- Enforce building sizes (2)
- Diversity and variety (2)
- City to advocate diverse housing (2)
- Social hubs and clubs (1)
- Adequate parking (1)

6.6. Location

Only one of the seven groups was able to specifically discuss the location of future diverse housing and therefore there is not enough feedback to provide a list of themes.

There is one general comment which can be made. Those who discussed location suggested that the planning rules for diverse housing should be applicable everywhere across the City of Fremantle.

6.7. Other Comments

Feedback which may not be directly relevant to the provision of diverse housing but may be useful for the City of Fremantle for future engagement is that the discussion of "The Freo Alternative" related specifically to the suburbs of the City of Fremantle. This caused some confusion for a few participants as to the difference between the central CBD "Fremantle" and the suburbs of the City of Fremantle. This may need to be more clearly defined when discussing specific locations with community members.

7. "THE GAME OF FREO LIFE" COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS -SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



These open days allowed community members to interact with a model of a typical City of Fremantle suburban area. By rearranging, removing and adding housing, trees, open space, parking and other components to the neighbourhood, participants were able to think of ways in which diverse housing sizes and other key pieces of a neighbourhood might be provided.

The nature of the Game of Freo Life was such that the new models created by participants were not necessarily applicable to potential changes to planning rules. The three images on the next page give a rough idea of some of the neighbourhood designs created by participants.

What each game piece means... Standard game pieces Opptional add-in pieces Your Small House Communal Areas 5 x 5m Places to share and care. Communal areas may have common facilities such as bbqs or be used to share resources. Tour Small House
There are 5 different sizes of homes you can
choose for your character to live in (Tiny, Small or
Moderate). Use your small house to show us how
you will incorperate a new small house into the Sustainability Ideas What sustainability initiatives would you like to use. Place a tile somewhere to show that you want to see this as part of your design. Gardens 5 x 5m These are soft areas which may be grassed or planted. These areas allow rainwater to infiltrate the earth and support local ecosystems. MYO 5 x 5m (Make Your Own!) Hey we only know what we know, but we want you to tell us what you would like. You can write or draw on these tiles to create new types of outdoor space. Maybe its a chicken insert your Private Outdoor Areas 5 x 5m These are usually paved areas which may be covered and can be used for outdoor dining and coop or a frog pond? passive leisure activities Flexible space 5 x 5m x 1storey Need some more space for storage, hobbies or a monthly bake off? Squeeze me in. Love em or hate eml Usually each dwelling needs at least one car space and they take up a lot of room, what do you think about this? Where do you think the car should be parked? Want to work on your urban forest? Then give me some room to grow.

Figure 8. Legend for "game pieces" in the Game of Freo Life.

Some general observations can be made:

- Trees are important. This is consistent with feedback from the Dialogue Café and focus groups.
- Creative solutions to car parking were considered and explored by participants.
- Both the standard and optional game pieces were well used. This suggests that sustainability
 initiatives (e.g. solar panels), gardens, private outdoor spaces and communal outdoor spaces are all
 important. This is consistent with feedback from the Dialogue Café and focus groups.
- Clusters of higher density development including public open space, communal space and collocated
 parking appear amongst the more typical residential blocks. This may also be consistent with feedback
 from the Dialogue Café and focus groups which expresses a desire for shared housing, and feedback
 from the focus groups which expresses a desire for neighbourhood centres including commercial land
 uses within the suburbs.

The major outcome of the Game of Freo Life, which is key to this project, is that it garnered interest in provision of diverse housing. As it was run in the format of an open day and was located in a public space it engaged a broader audience, including children, than the previous engagement initiatives. It succeeding in raising:

- Interest in the Freo Alternative project;
- Interest in urban planning (a difficult task); and
- Public understanding that planning is a difficult process which requires trade-offs. These trade-offs may include the loss of important or well-liked components of an area to provide for others.



Figure 9. Game of Freo Life - Example of designs by community members 1.

Figure 10. Game of Freo Life - Example of designs by community members 2.



Figure 11. Game of Freo Life - Example of designs by community members 3.



8. ADDENDICES

8.1. Online Communications Materials

The below online communications were available on the City of Fremantle's website, Facebook page, Twitter and were emailed to the City's mailing list.

Figure 12. Promotion for stories (survey) on My Say Website

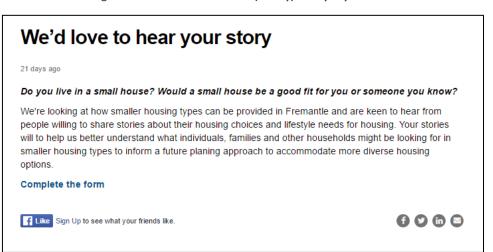


Figure 13. Dialogue Cafe update on My Say Website



Figure 14. Promotion of survey on My Say Website

Freo Alternative Survey - we'd love to hear your thoughts 2 months ago We want to hear your thoughts about how to provide more diverse housing options in Fremantle's suburban areas. Your response to these questions will help inform the City's planning approach to housing diversity in Fremantle. Complete the survey Figure Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Figure 15. Promotion of Dialogue Cafe outcomes on My Say Website

Dialouge Cafe outcomes

about 1 month ago

The first phase of Freo Alternative engagement took place in September with 76 people contributing to the values and principles that will guide the development of future planning policy, both in person at the Dialogue Cafe and via the online survey. Read the community engagement report here.

- The Freo Alternative Snapshots from the Dialogue Cafe September 2016 (PDF) (Summary)
- The Freo Alternative Dialogue Cafe Compiled Findings September 2016 (PDF) (Full report)

This valuable feedback will help inform the focus group discussions.

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Figure 16. Promotion of the focus groups on My Say Website

Deep dive into the Freo Alternative

606

2 months ago

Come along to a Freo Alternative focus group and continue the conversation on small housing we initiated with the community at the dialogue cafe in September. We're interested to know what you think about the community-inspired values to drive a new planning approach. Limited places, registration essential.

RSVP for focus group.

Figure 17. Promotion of the outcomes of the focus groups on My Say Website

The Freo Alternative Focus Groups about 1 month ago Thank you to everyone who attended a focus group to discuss changing planning rules to provide more housing options for a growing number of small households in our community. It's been valuable hearing what housing diversity means for you and about what values you want to inform future planning policy. A report on the outcomes of the focus groups will be available on this site soon.

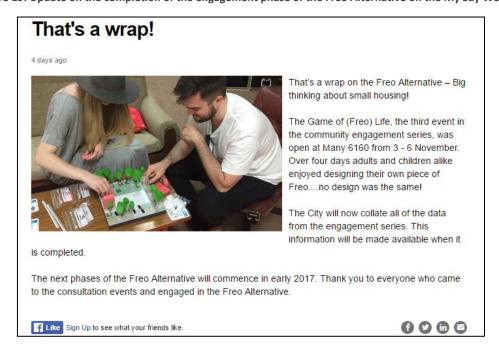
Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Figure 18. Promotion of the Game of Freo Life on My Say Website

6060

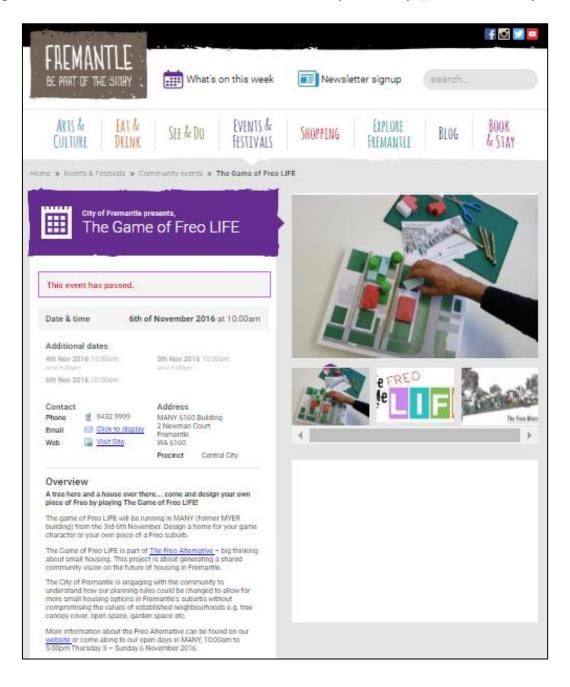


Figure 19. Update on the completion of the engagement phase of the Freo Alternative on the My Say Website



The image below shows that the Game of Freo Life open days were also promoted on the City of Fremantle's economic development and marketing website, "Fremantle Story" website, which shows upcoming events in the area.

Figure 20. Promotion for the Game of Freo Life on the Fremantle Story website: https://www.fremantlestory.com.au



8.2. Newsletters, E-Newsletters and Advertising in the Fremantle Herald

Several newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative were distributed to the City of Fremantle's Freo Alternative mailing list (over 600 people).

The three articles below were published in the Fremantle Herald.

Figure 21. One of several newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative, also published in the Fremantle Herald



Figure 22. One of several newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative, also published in the Fremantle Herald



Figure 23. One of several newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative, also published in the Fremantle Herald



The following articles were in e-newsletters distributed to the City of Fremantle's entire e-newsletter mailing list (over 2500 people).

Figure 24. One of several e-newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative



Thinking big about small housing

As our population grows and household dynamics change, smaller housing options are needed to make Fremantle an affordable place for everyone. We're keen to explore options for creating smaller homes in Fremantle and want to hear your thoughts and ideas on how this could be done.

From early September, there will be events and opportunities to get involved and help shape the future direction of alternative housing choices for Fremantle.

To find out more and register for events and updates on the Freo Alternative project visit mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au

Figure 25. One of several e-newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative



Have my say

We want to hear your thoughts on some of the many things happening in Fremantle at the moment via our community engagement portal My Say Fremantle. The portal is powered by world-renowned community engagement tool Bang The Table and is your doorway to commenting on a diverse range of issues and projects.

These are the current projects open for comment:

The Freo Alternative

We're exploring how we can support more housing options for small households in the future by changing planning provisions in Fremantle. Would a small house suit you? Tell us why! Find out more.

Figure 26. One of several e-newsletter articles related to the Freo Alternative



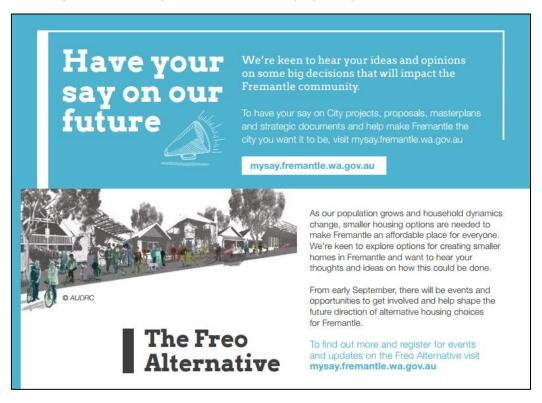
Play the Game of (Freo) Life

Head down to MANY 6160 this weekend and play the Freo Alternative team's Game of (Freo) Life. In this game, you are given the opportunity to show us how you would allow different types of small housing to be built within the neighbourhoods you know and love.

You set the planning rules and you can be as creative as you want with the designs for small housing development on a typical Freo suburban lot. Share your ideas or see how others responded on Saturday 5 and/or Sunday 6 November between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm. Find out more.

The article below was published in Pulse – the City of Fremantle's quarterly newsletter which is sent in hard copy to all residents.

Figure 27. Promotion published in Pulse - the City's quarterly newsletter to all residents



8.3. Article in the West Australian

The article below, written by project team member Anthony Duckworth-Smith from AUDRC, was printed in the West Australian on 10 August 2016.

Figure 28. Article in the West Australian on 20 August 2016

Finding suburban 'missing middle'

STREET WISE

Anthony Duckworth-Smith

The Planning Institute's WA president recently remarked on the need to embrace a diversity of infill housing choices "particularly that 'missing middle' — the typologies between single residential and medium/high rise apartments . . . typologies (which) are ideally suited to our suburbs.'

The Australian Urban Design
Research has been working with
the City of Fremantle to explore
ways of addressing this need.
Over the past two decades the
overwhelming majority of
homes built in the suburbs of
Fremantle have been four or
more bedrooms while
households have become

smaller and increasingly diverse. Although housing options are emerging in inner areas many of these smaller households have lifestyles that would suit a bit of space and the amenity that suburban locations offer. If Freo wants to retain its diverse social mix then it needs to look at options for creating smaller homes in suburban areas.

Fremantle led the pack with

its small secondary dwellings amendment in 2011, which was adopted in State policy in 2013. This created another option for housing, however its suitability to the diverse range of small households is limited, and it does not cater for those who may want to own.

Additional titled dwellings in suburban areas typically happen through rezoning where "mum and dad developers" subdivide the family block and this has proved very popular in Perth. This indicates an alignment between supply and demand — the land and housing can be relatively easily produced and the location and product are sufficiently attractive. Existing owners reap a windfall from the sale of the land. Building can take place using low-scale, cost-effective traditional techniques and

prospective owners are attracted by a piece of land in a suburban area.

So why don't we try to accelerate it to address the "missing middle"?
Unfortunately the current controls do not promote diversity. Single medium-sized homes are often replaced with two or more larger ones. In addition neighbourhoods are cleared of mature trees, driveways take over the verge, buildings loom over private backyards, paving dominates and the microclimate suffers.

Local councils are therefore increasingly reluctant to let this continue. If, however, modified local planning and design guidance could be developed that respects the essential character of suburban places then couldn't an existing and popular mechanism for

achieving urban infill be revived?

Such an approach would cater for a diversity of West Australian urban lifestyles and not limit broad-scale infill to apartments. It promises not only to safeguard Fremantle's social diversity but also illustrate an approach that could be extended more broadly and truly shift the balance of new housing provision in Perth towards achieving a more compact city.

It's not an easy task and requires research, development and community guidance but Fremantle is again prepared to help lead the effort.

 Dr Anthony Duckworth-Smith Is a research associate at the Australian Urban Design Research Centre in Perth



Density in Fremantle. Source: Google, Digital Globe

8.4. Freo Alternative Project booklet and Dialogue Café booklet

The following pages show:

- An informative booklet entitled 'What is the Freo Alternative.' This was available online, at the City of Fremantle offices and at the engagement events.
- A summary booklet and the interim report on the dialogue Café. These were available online, at the City of Fremantle's offices and at engagement events following the dialogue Café.





The Freo Alternative

big thinking about small housing

Big thinking about small housing

Fremantle has a proud history of welcoming and accommodating a diverse community. From the pioneer days of worker cottages to the expansion into suburban living, our city has always been a thriving and attractive place for people from all walks of life.

As our population continues to grow and change, a challenge for Fremantle will be to ensure suitable housing options are available to the growing number of single-person and small households. Fremantle's inner-city provides a diversity of housing options.

There are, however, fewer small housing options in Fremantle's suburban areas, meaning less choice for those households that don't need or want large homes or would prefer to downsize and continue to live in communities they love.

The Freo Alternative is an opportunity to **think big about small housing.**



The Freo Alternative

The City of Fremantle has been looking at how Fremantle households compare to the Perth metropolitan average, and how housing is currently developed in suburban areas.

Through the Freo Alternative, the City is bringing the community together to explore how we can provide more diverse housing options in our suburban areas.

We also want to explore with the community how to achieve this diversity while protecting the things we value about our neighbourhoods.

We want a city that
thrives on
diversity,
that dares to
be different
and delivers
on its promises.."

- Community Strategic Plan 2015-25



"We want Fremantle to be a welcoming place for all people; and a liveable city that serves its peoples needs."

> - Fremantle 2029: Community Visioning Project

What we've heard...

"At my age simplicity is key, so small is great!"

'There is a huge concern in Australia that our young people will never be able to afford home ownership, however, with a focus on **smaller dwellings**, their chances will be improved..." - Samantha (a lady should never tell her age)



"Small homes need to be very well designed to be solar bassive plus incorporate the best in sustainability"



"A range and choice **of housing** which meets the changing social and economic needs of the existing community and future residents"

- Fremantle Planning Strategy



"I live in a subdivided lot with a house measuring 90m2...

This is the perfect size for 2 people and a cat..."

- Rachael, 35



"I am looking for a medium density housing option where myself and friends can age disgracefully, in blace"

- Linda, late 50s





"To date I haven't found any standalone small houses of reasonable quality in the Fremantle area"

- Annette, mature age

"Close to transport, good neighbours, easy to take care of and storage" - Rachael, 65

"We've found the perfect small house for our family. Though it was hard. **So much** housing stock is so oversized (and

overpriced as a result)"

- Anthony, 44

home, eco and environmentally friendly, with permaculture designed gardens... - Denise, 63



How do Fremantle households compare to the Perth metropolitan average?





Half the number of larger family households





1.5 x more share households

1.5 X more **one parent + one child** households

What housing options are currently available in Fremantle?

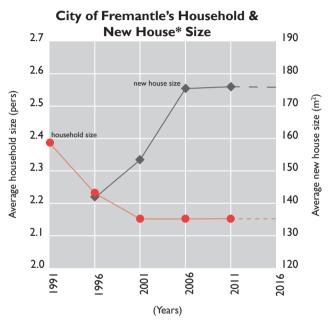
City of Fremantle household size has been declining since the first census records in 1921. In the past 10 years, the size of new homes built in Fremantle has steadily increased.

New apartment developments have delivered small to average housing in Fremantle's inner urban areas. There is however a gap in small housing availability in Fremantle's suburban areas as most new housing is four bedrooms or larger.

If suburban housing stock continues to develop the way it has over the past 20 years in Fremantle, there will be even fewer options for smaller households to find housing or remain living in the areas they prefer.

"Big houses are fine for families of 3+ children...but for the typical family of I or 2 children, or the average adult, small homes are more easily affordable."

- Grace, 17

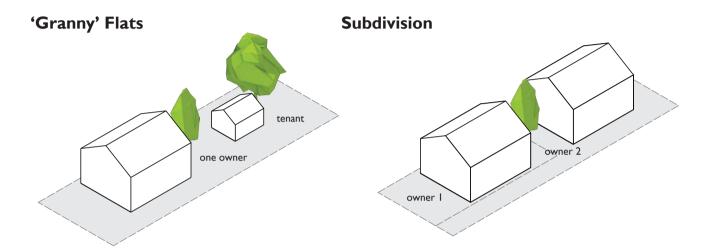


^{*} Standalone and grouped dwellings based on census data and average home sizes over time.

Note: Projections to 2016 based on forecast i.d. and City of Fremantle planning approval data 2011 to 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 1991-2011

How is new housing currently delivered in suburban areas?



New housing in suburban areas is typically provided through either 'granny' flat development or subdivision.

'Granny' flats have to be on the same lot as the main house. They often provide additional accommodation for the same owner and retain space for outdoor activity, but do not provide multiple property ownership opportunities.

Subdivision often results in building footprints that maximise the use of space. They allow for multiple property ownership opportunities, but often reduce outdoor activity space, trees and shade.

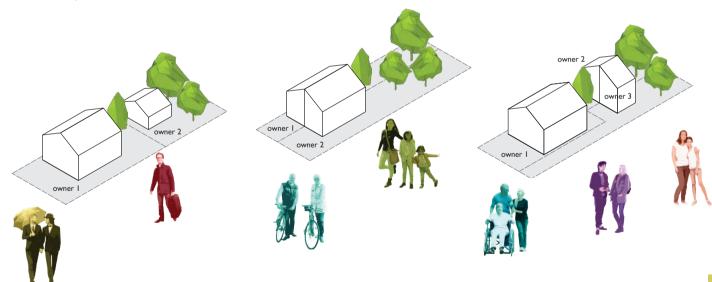
Overall, there is limited flexibility for property owners to be creative with different housing sizes on separate lots.

What are the alternatives?

There are a range of alternative small housing types that could be considered to fill the gaps in the current town planning rules while still retaining the features we love about our established areas. The Freo Alternative wants to explore these different ideas.

For example, should some granny flats be allowed to have a separate title? Could an existing house be divided into two units? Could housing with a smaller footprint be encouraged where other values such as open space are retained? Let's think BIG about small housing options!

Examples:



What is the Freo Alternative trying to achieve?

To provide a range of housing that best reflects the varied needs and aspirations of our residents while retaining community diversity, we need more housing alternatives. Providing small housing options for our existing and future residents is what the Freo Alternative is all about.

The project is a starting point to explore community ideas about small housing and the features we value about our established areas.

These values and ideas will be used to inform the City's planning policy and guide the development of housing diversity in Fremantle.







How can I get involved?

The City of Fremantle is running several community events and focus groups during the Freo Alternative project.

For current events and project information please visit the City's My Say Freo forum at

mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/Freo_Alternative





Creating Communities

Snap Shots from the Dialogue Café



big thinking about small housing

The Freo Alternative & Project Time line

The Freo Alternative – big thinking about small housing is about generating a shared community vision on the future of housing in Fremantle. Fremantle has always been a diverse community, yet growth in the number of small households and declining housing affordability have left some people unable to find a small home suitable to their needs.

We're engaging with the community to understand how our planning rules could be changed to allow for more small housing options in Fremantle's suburbs without compromising the values of established neighbourhoods e.g. tree canopy cover, open space, garden space etc.

The Freo Alternative Timeline

Dialogue Cafe i

September 2016

An opening event to encourage a shared discussion on a variety of considerations in providing diverse housing in the City of Fremantle.

Pop-In Open Days

3-6 November 2016

A four day open event to provide feedback on what we've heard and an interactive model to test how providing smaller housing might look in Fremantle.

Considering possible planning solutions

Recommendations based on the findings will be used to suggest possible planning approaches to achieve the community vision for diverse housing.

Starting the Conversation

August 2016

We started the conversation around diverse housing by asking people for their housing stories in our online survey.

Focus Groups

October 2016

Several small focus groups to explore how smaller housing types can be built in the suburban areas of Fremantle.

Reporting on our Findings

Early 2017

A report compiling the findings from community engagement on the Freo Alternative produced and presented to Council.

Next Steps

Proposed planning approach to go through statutory processes, including community comment.

How the Dialogue Café Worked

The City of Fremantle in partnership with the Australian Urban Design Research Centre and Creating Communities, held a Dialogue Café on Thursday 8 October 2016. Over 70 community members attended the dialogue café as well as City of Fremantle elected members (Councillors and Mayor) and City of Fremantle staff.

The Dialogue Café included a presentation on the history of housing diversity (or, more recently, lack thereof) in the City of Fremantle and a segment on the stories received from community members during an earlier phase of the engagement process.





Dialogue Café Evening Activities

Attendees, worked together in 13 separate groups, to complete three key activities structured around a "Menu of Conversation" which was aligned with the courses of a meal. The purpose of the activities were to gain feedback from community members on all aspects of the provision of diverse housing in the City of Fremantle. The following provides a snapshot of the responses on the night.



Activity Topics

Future of our Community

Guiding Values

Benefits, Opportunities, Challenges & Priorities

Key Snap Shots

A summary of what we heard at the Dialogue Cafe



What we heard on the night

A variety of responses were provided by the participants that attended the Dialogue Cafe throughout each of the activities on the night. This booklet provides a summary of the most common themes that came from these responses.



This Word Cloud shows the most commonly used words (with size corresponding to frequency) across all of the feedback sheets for all activities completed during Dialogue Café.

Activity One

Future of our Community



What will our community, families and households be like in 20 years' time?

"Intergenerational living to form support networks" Vibrant & connected neighbourhoods

Demographic Change

"Fewer children and small families"

Trend Towards Shared & Intergenerational Living



Negative Social Impacts

Sustainability as a key concern

"Fragmentation and lack of connection"

What could the implications be on providing housing for future generations?

"Modular houses and movable internal walls"

More Shared Community Spaces

"Shared and connected community spaces"

Changes in land tenure models

More Modular Flexible Mobile Housing

Changes in type & Quality of Built Form

Encourage Walking & Public Transport & Discourage Car Use

"Long term leases"

A variety of specific responses were heard from each of the tables at the Dialouge Cafe and have been grouped into themes. The size of the word corresponds to the frequency that theme was mentioned by groups.

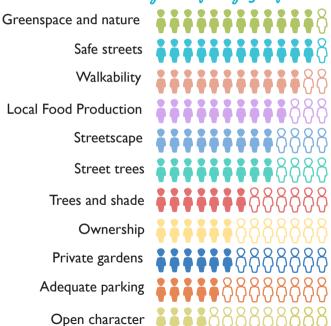
Activity Two

Guiding Values

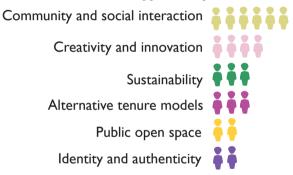
What identified values do you agree with?



Values Agreed Upon by Group



Additional Values Suggested by Participants



Values NOT Agreed Upon by Participants

Adequate parking



Dialogue Cafe participants were asked to vote within their groups on values they agreed with. The results from each of the values are shown above.

How do we ensure the values provide a sound basis to plan for diverse housing choices?

Protect & Provide Green Space
Parking & Parking's Relationship with Transport
Increase Equity & Accessibility

Improve sustainability & self-sustainability

Encourage Different Tenure Models

More communal & shared spaces & facilities

Promote Walkability

Increased Community Power & Less Developer Power in Planning & Development Control

Safer Streets

Design Methods to Encourage Open Character

More local Food Production

Activity Three

Benefits, Opportunities, Challenges & Priorities

What might be the key benefits, opportunities and challenges in providing diverse housing?

Emotional and Community Health Benefits

a Diverse Population

Benefits when Ageing

Benefits

access to Affordability of Housing

More Diverse and Accessible Services

Vibrant, Thriving, Expressive Freo

Planning to Support Diverse Housing Potential Land Available **Opportunities**

> Involving Community members in Design and Development

Opportunities for Interesting Design and Architecture.

Incentivise Sustainable and Small Housing

Planning Laws and Policies

Negative Social
Impacts and Attitudes

Changing Existing
Approaches to
Development

Challenges Transport Impacts

Retaining what is liked

Changing Ingrained
Attitudes and Expectations

Themes in size order based on the frequency of answer.

What are your top 5 priorities for the Freo Alternative project?



Groups were asked to rank their top priorities. From the list of responses these priorities were ranked in importance.

Thank You

Thank you to those that were a part of the Dialogue Cafe discussions





How can I still get involved?

The City of Fremantle is running several focus group events and a 'Pop-In' Open Day during the Freo Alternative project. For current events and project information please visit the City's My Say Freo forum at

 $mysay. fremantle. wa. gov. au/Freo_Alternative$

The Snap Shots from the Dialogue Cafe booklet has been summarised from the compliled findings report which is available upon request.

This publication is available in multiple formats upon request.





Creating Communities