

# Building a Better Blayney



## Blayney Town Community Plan 2018-2028



BLAYNEY TOWN ASSOCIATION Inc.

*Building a better Blayney!*

Developed in partnership with the Blayney Shire Council

# Building a Better Blayney

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Where is Blayney? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Community Engagement Strategy.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The profile of Blayney .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Strengths, weakness, opportunities &amp; threats .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Blayney Projects .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Theme: Public Infrastructure and Services .....	11
Theme: Local Governance and Finance .....	11
Theme: The Local and Visitor Economy .....	12
Theme: Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture .....	13
Theme: Our Natural Environment .....	15
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>15</b>

# **Building a Better Blayney**

## **Vision**

We are the quintessential rural country town and by engaging with our vibrant, welcoming, innovative and caring community we will build a better Blayney.

## **Mission**

We will achieve this by:

- Respecting and preserving our history while being productive and innovative
- Promoting Blayney as an attractive, family friendly place to work and live catering to the needs of all ages and circumstances
- Growing the economy and employment opportunities by encouraging new industries and supporting local businesses
- Ensuring that the built environment capitalises on the four seasons, Belubula River and aesthetic beauty of the town and surrounds to attract more residents and visitors
- Enhancing and developing our sporting and recreational assets so that our facilities are modern and have regional standing
- Collaborate with each other and create positive networks to build resilience and support our community

## **Introduction**

The Blayney Town Association has developed a vision for Blayney and a Community Plan to ensure that the potential that exists for the town becomes a reality. The Blayney Community Plan 2018-2028 was developed in partnership with Blayney Shire Council, which supported the Village Association's enthusiasm and efforts in setting some goals and projects that will ensure the future viability of Blayney.

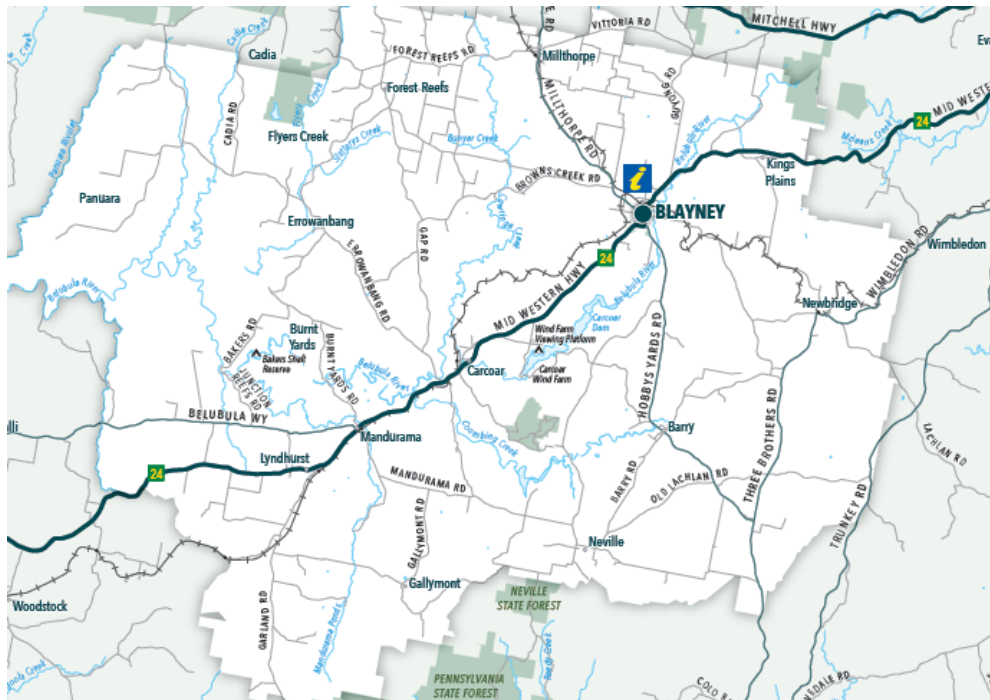
By June 2018, Blayney Shire Council will review the long-term Community Strategic Plan (CSP) the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. The CSP identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community, and must involve a whole of community engagement process. A CSP identifies who is responsible for its implementation and may include the community, individuals, local, state and federal government.

As Blayney is the 'Shire of Villages', Council has recognised the importance for the village of Blayney to take advantage of its amazing heritage, country lifestyle and high visitor appeal and that we work together for the benefit of the community and local businesses. There is no person, organisation, level of government that can achieve this alone. A prosperous and healthy village, businesses and community is dependent on everyone working together.

# Building a Better Blayney

## Where is Blayney?

Blayney is a town with a population of 3,500, located in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales, approximately 3.5 hours by road from the centre of Sydney. It is the centre of a closely settled and populous district, which stretches east to Bathurst, southwest to Cowra and north to Orange. Blayney is a comfortable 25 minutes' drive to Bathurst with a population 33,000 and to Orange with a population 34,000. Blayney is the main township and administration centre of Blayney Shire Council which is fortunate to have a number of historic and picturesque villages.



The sighting by Surveyor George Evans in 1813 of 'three hills to the south', is the first European record of the Blayney district. Evans named these hills the Three Brothers and during an expedition in 1815, Evans set out from the fledgling village of Bathurst towards the Three Brothers. As he travelled west, he observed a large flat mountain to the north which he named Mt Lachlan, later to become Mt Macquarie. There was temporary settlement throughout the area between 1821 and 1828 before the gold rush of the 1850s and 60s sparked the development of a number of settlements throughout the region including Blayney and Forest Reefs. Initially the shire was allocated for farming, however, with the opening and working of many mines, the townships flourished. The site eventually decided upon for the township of Blayney was in a picturesque valley with the Belubula River running along its eastern boundary.

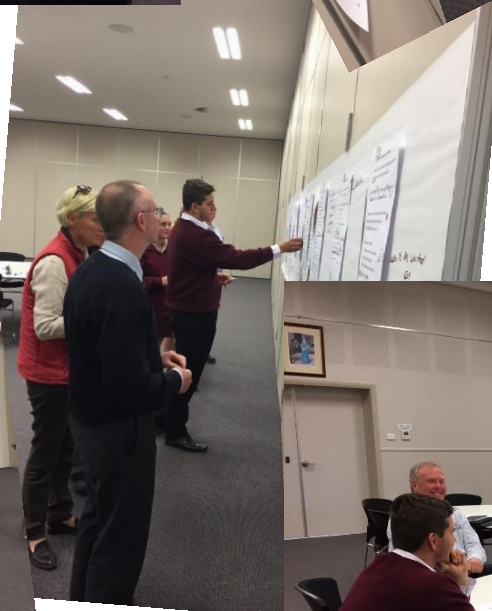
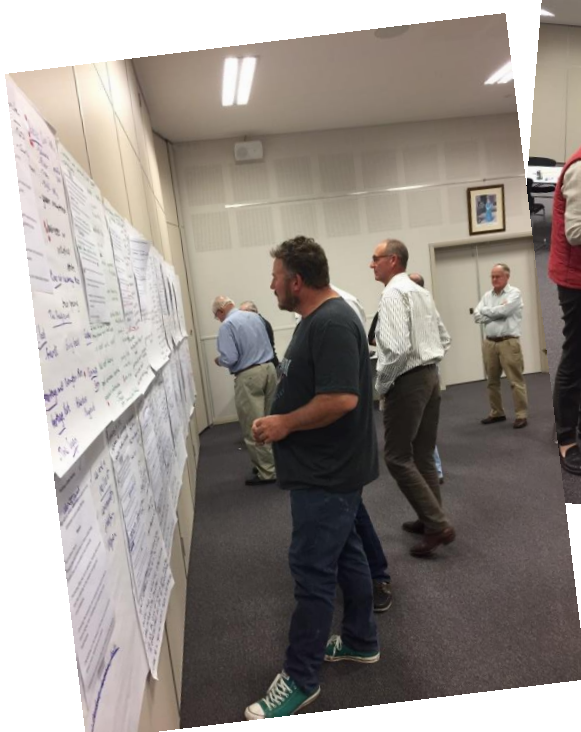
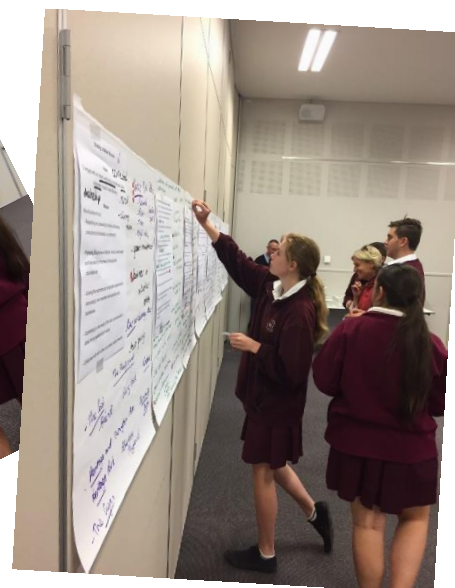
The coming of the railway to Blayney in 1876, encouraged further development of the region with the towns of Newbridge and Millthorpe flourishing. The 1870s to 1880s saw great development in Blayney and it was during this time that many of the significant buildings, which still stand today, were built.

# Building a Better Blayney

## Community Engagement Strategy





Residents were invited to come along and share their great project, ideas or a new event to bring visitors and attract residents to the town of Blayney. On Wednesday 8 November 2017 two sessions were provided for residents and school children to participate in a planning workshop to contribute to the Blayney Community Plan.

Council staff and Councillors providing logistics support to document the list of projects and ideas for the future of Blayney.



# Building a Better Blayney

## The profile of Blayney

 <p><b>PEOPLE</b></p>	There are 3,492 people in Blayney, which represents 47% of the overall population of Blayney Shire Local Government Area. Of these 86% were born in Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 4% of the population.	
	0 – 19 years of age	960 (24.64%)
	20 – 39 years of age	1179 (30.26 %)
	40 – 59 years of age	909 (23.33%)
	60 – 79 years of age	660 (16.94%)
	80 years or older	188 (4.83%)
 <p><b>FAMILIES</b></p>	Of the families in Blayney, 41% were couple families with children, 38% were couples without children, and 21% were one parent families.	
 <p><b>EDUCATION</b></p>	In Blayney 43% were in primary school, 37% in secondary and 20% in a tertiary or technical institution.	
 <p><b>INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT</b></p>	Of the residents in Blayney, 36% were employed full time, 19% employed part time, 3% employed outside the shire, 5% were unemployed and 38% were not in the workforce	
	Managers	17.66%
	Technicians and Trade Workers	14.16%
	Labourers	13.62%
	Professionals	13.12%
	Clerical and Administrative	11.42%
	Machinery Operators and Drivers	10.63%
	Community and Personal Services	9.9%
	Sales Workers	7.25%

Source: Remplan (ABS Census, 2016)

Blayney data includes Blayney Township and locality of Kings Plains

# Building a Better Blayney

## Strengths, weakness, opportunities & threats

### We wish to build on and take advantage of our **Strengths**

- Blayney is an attractive country town located within easy drive to the larger urban centres of Orange and Bathurst with significant industries providing a wide range of job and business opportunities.
- We have great facilities which are the envy of many towns of similar size including Heritage Park, CentrePoint and the Community Centre.
- We have access to wonderful schools, medical and essential services, transport, retail and recreational facilities.
- Our proud sporting achievements continue with each generation with strong sporting club involvement and facilities.
- We enjoy a cool climate experiencing the differences in colour of the four seasons in a rural landscape bordered by the Belubula River and rolling hills.
- Blayney locals have a can do attitude and will rally for anyone in need or support a project that the community values as a high priority
- The people are welcoming, inclusive, friendly and very proud of their town.
- A growing calendar of local cultural events which are increasingly attractive to residents and visitors alike.
- Availability of fully serviced industrial land accessible to rail transport, utilities (electricity and natural gas), CTLX and highway infrastructure with room to grow.
- We have a reputation for highly productive safe agricultural production.
- Our surrounding villages are iconic with a wealth of colonial and Aboriginal heritage

### We need to address our **Weaknesses**

- Our shopping precinct needs to be enhanced visually to make it more attractive. We need to attract more retail and dining businesses that open over weekends and support them to succeed.
- Heavy vehicles in the main street is not conducive to a shopping precinct and the lack of truck facilities such food and rest areas is limiting the capacity for business to benefit from our highway appeal.

## Building a Better Blayney

- Our sporting facilities are aged and lacking in infrastructure to cater for the demand for women's sports with grounds to attract regional programs
- We need to harness the energy and encourage participation of residents to volunteer and work together as many people are unaware of what is happening and how they may contribute.
- The potential of the beautiful Belubula River is being affected by the poor condition of the river, invasive weed species and surrounds.
- Some of the infrastructure such as roads and footpaths need to be improved, the paving in the main street is deteriorating and many shop fronts, particularly those absentee owners are not very attractive.
- Our Health Service has reached capacity and the proximity to Bathurst and Orange means there are less outreach services and low priority for investment by NSW Health
- Our residential land availability is limited and constrained by the river and industrial estate and of the available land, developers are unwilling to make that financial commitment to build new housing.
- Our tourism and retail sector is at the emerging stage and have not worked collaboratively in the past for promotion and marketing.

### **We want to ensure that we create Opportunities and make them a reality**

- Capitalise on the climate and promote the area for the changing seasons, gardens and fresh farm produce.
- Build on events such as the B2B, Bathurst Races, FOOD Week and Orange Wine Festival and offer new events to attract visitors and promote the town.
- Develop a plan to grow the town – to develop appealing housing land blocks for market to attract more families.
- We need to promote Blayney as a great place to work or raise a family with good schools and easy access to universities and job opportunities.
- Encourage and support local businesses to work together to capitalise on the visitor economy and collaborate with our village neighbours.

## Building a Better Blayney

- By improving recreational parks, installing outdoor gym equipment and connecting parks and sportsgrounds with shared paths we will increase the opportunity for residents to enjoy an active lifestyle
- Construction of a heavy vehicle alternative route to the north of Blayney to link Orange Road to the Mid-Western Highway will remove noisy large transport from the residential and main street in addition to increasing attractiveness of the Industrial Estate
- We have industrial land available for development for expansion of existing or introduction of new businesses and manufacturing enterprises.

### **We must tackle the Threats together and as a united community**

- The impact of mining whilst of significant economic driver creates an expectation of high wages for other business and trades.
- We have a number of large industries that should they leave, downsize or close there could be an impact on local employment.
- Any loss of essential services or reduced access to Public Transport would impact on our transport and socially disadvantaged population.
- The former Abattoir site is a potential liability to the Industrial Area growth which will require significant investment to rehabilitate for another purpose.

# Building a Better Blayney

## Blayney Projects

Each Project or Objective has been grouped into an overarching Strategy and listed in order of collective priority as determined by the community forum held in November 2017. The strategies are categorised under the themes of:

- Public Infrastructure and Services
- Local Governance and Finance
- The Local and Visitor Economy
- Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture
- Our Natural Environment

Themes	Strategy
<b>Public Infrastructure and Services</b>	Work with Council to plan for ongoing works and capital projects that will improve Blayney streetscape
<b>Local Governance and Finance</b>	<p>Improve the standard of and access to state and federal services</p> <p>Establish the Blayney Town Association as the lead organisation to represent the interests of business, community, arts and culture</p>
<b>The Local and Visitor Economy</b>	<p>Increase the population base of Blayney and provide an opportunity for families to build new houses in Blayney</p> <p>Coordinate a series of events and activities that attracts visitors to Blayney</p> <p>Improve the look and feel of the main street and shopping precincts to attract new businesses and encourage visitors to stop</p> <p>Improve access for business growth and economic development opportunities to the region</p>
<b>Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture</b>	<p>Upgrade Blayney Sporting and Recreational assets to provide modern and accessible facilities that will support and encourage young people to be active and healthy and promoting active lifestyles and sporting participation for all residents</p> <p>Support and engage with our hidden arts and cultural talents</p>
<b>Our Natural Environment</b>	Capitalise on the beauty and of the Belubula River and preserve it as a place for residents and visitors to enjoy and value

## Building a Better Blayney

Theme: Public Infrastructure and Services	Partners
<b>Strategy: Work with Council to plan for ongoing works and capital projects that will improve Blayney streetscape</b>	
Develop and implement an infrastructure maintenance program to ensure good quality kerb and guttering and footpaths; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pavers on Adelaide Street including the linking Post Office, Hotel and Oliver's building</li> <li>- Paving maintenance program</li> </ul>	BSC
Improve some of the public facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public toilet block at Dakers Oval</li> <li>- Fencing at Dakers Oval</li> </ul>	BSC
Promote and install more rubbish disposal and collection points for waste transfer and recycling and investigate recycling container vending machine for Blayney	BSC

Theme: Local Governance and Finance	Partners
<b>Strategy: Improve the standard of and access to state and federal services</b>	
Work with Council to lobby state and federal government for expanded and improved aged care facilities	BTA BSC
Continue to lobby for retention and innovative ways to deliver transport and other essential services	
Improve after school care options	BSC
<b>Strategy: Establish the Blayney Town Association as the lead organisation to represent the interests of business, community, arts and culture</b>	
Raise the profile of the BTA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase membership of local businesses</li> <li>• Invite young people to join a Youth Committee</li> <li>• Promote a shop local campaign</li> <li>• Develop and rewards shop local program</li> </ul>	BTA
Work with Blayney Shire Council to implement the Village Enhancement Plan projects for Blayney	BSC

## Building a Better Blayney

Theme: The Local and Visitor Economy		Partners
<b>Strategy: Increase the population base of Blayney and provide an opportunity for families to build new houses in Blayney</b>		
Adopt a Development Control Plan for Blayney and review the Residential Land Strategy and LEP		BSC
<b>Strategy: Coordinate a series of events and activities that attracts visitors to Blayney</b>		
<p>Investigate opportunities for a range of events such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Music festival</li> <li>- Expand on Blayney Farmers Markets (music, variety of producers, children's activities)</li> <li>- Recreational fly fishing events</li> <li>- Garage Sale Trail</li> </ul> <p>Leverage off other major events such as B2B, Bathurst races, FOOD Week, Orange Wine Festival, Carcoar Cup, Millthorpe markets and Garden ramble etc.</p>		BTA
<b>Strategy: Improve the look and feel of the main street and shopping precincts to attract new businesses and encourage visitors to stop</b>		
<p>Finalise the Blayney 2020 Masterplan and consider offering/providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shop front façade improvement program</li> <li>- Heavy vehicle bypass / alternate route</li> <li>- More pedestrian crossings</li> <li>- More trees and shade areas</li> <li>- Create a pedestrian walkway linking Farm Lane to Adelaide Street</li> <li>- Develop an Adopt a Flower Bed Program</li> </ul>		BSC BTA
<b>Strategy: Improve access for business growth and economic development opportunities to the region</b>		
Provide free Wi-Fi in the main street area and rest areas and parks and promote this to visitors as a way to encourage them to stop		BSC

## Building a Better Blayney

Theme: The Local and Visitor Economy	Partners
Improve signage including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directions from Adelaide street to Bernardi's shopping complex</li> <li>- Maps of the area for visitors</li> </ul>	BSC
Promote industrial land for sale and development	BSC
Continue to lobby for reopening of the Blayney Demondrille Railway Line	BSC

Theme: Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture	Partners
<b>Strategy: Upgrade Blayney Sporting and Recreational assets to provide modern and accessible facilities that will support and encourage young people to be active and healthy and promoting active lifestyles and sporting participation for all residents</b>	
Re-establish CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre as a centre for health and fitness, and undertake the swimming pool upgrades and structural improvements so that facility is to be more attractive for family and sporting clubs to host events and activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Gymnastics club</li> <li>- Upgrade the swimming pool to include disabled access ramp, fountains, play park</li> <li>- Wider variety of fun activities</li> <li>- Indoor playground</li> <li>- BBQ's and canteen/food preparation area</li> </ul> Council should on an annual basis review entry fees and membership	BSC

## Building a Better Blayney

Theme: Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture	Partners
<p>As part of the Blayney Active Movement strategy develop new facilities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bike racks and stands at sporting ovals</li> <li>- Water bubblers at sporting ovals and along walkways</li> <li>- Cycleway</li> <li>- Footpaths at least on one side of all the streets</li> </ul>	BSC
<p>Install Outdoor Gym/Activity Stations in groups along shared paths connecting Heritage Park, CentrePoint, King George Oval and Dakers Oval</p>	BSC
<p>Continue to develop Heritage Park area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Skate Park with a graffiti wall, bubbler and shade</li> <li>- Building an amphitheatre for outdoor plays/music events</li> <li>- More shaded areas</li> <li>- Improve the public toilets</li> <li>- Improve disabled facilities</li> <li>- Provide more waste bins</li> <li>- Build more parking behind Tennis Courts</li> </ul>	BSC
<p>Investigate opportunities to develop shovel ready projects and implement the Blayney Sporting and Recreation Masterplan to improve facilities at our major sporting precincts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrastructure to increase female sport participation</li> <li>- Equestrian and Livestock Centre at the Blayney Showground</li> <li>- Cricket practice nets and Toilets at Dakers Oval</li> <li>- Oval resurface and irrigation project at Napier Oval</li> </ul>	BSC BTA
<b>Strategy: Support and engage with our hidden arts and cultural talents</b>	
<p>Build a new Cultural Centre bringing together arts/cultural facilities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Library</li> <li>- Museum</li> <li>- Art gallery/craft shop</li> </ul>	BSC BTA

## Building a Better Blayney

Theme: Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture	Partners
Make use of the Church Hill lookout and establish a tourist attraction by beautifying the area and installing a Blayney Stone	BSC Rotary
Investigate options for the utilisation of the Railway Station buildings for an Arts Centre or community Art Gallery	BTA

Theme: Our Natural Environment	Partners
<b>Strategy: Capitalise on the beauty and of the Belubula River and preserve it as a place for residents and visitors to enjoy and value</b>	
Clean up the river including removing noxious willow species and creating wildlife habitats	Landcare BSC
Continue with native planting and river health programs	
Address the leaching and contamination issues from the former Abattoir	BSC
Construct a shared path along the Belubula River from Dakers Oval to Heritage Park including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Picnic areas</li> <li>- River bank walks</li> <li>- Toilet block at Dakers Oval</li> <li>- Gym Stations</li> </ul>	BSC

LEGEND	
BSC	Blayney Shire Council
BTA	Blayney Town Association
PA&H	Blayney PA&H

## Appendices

1. Workshop Invitation
2. Workshop Program

## **Building a Better Blayney**

# *Building a Better Blayney*

It's time to check in to review the Blayney Town Community Plan Building a Better Blayney 2016-2026

**Date: Wednesday 8 November**

**2 Sessions available**

**Time: 10am – 12pm and 6pm – 8pm**

**Venue: Blayney Shire Community Centre**

Blayney Shire Council in conjunction with the Blayney Town Association invite you to come along and share your thoughts whilst we revisit the vision and projects for Blayney.

We will review the Blayney Town Community Plan created last year so that community projects feed into the new Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan to be developed in 2018.

A prosperous and healthy village, businesses and community is dependent on everyone working together.

Everyone is welcome. A light supper, tea and coffee provided.

# *Building a Better Blayney*

An initiative supported by Blayney Shire Council and the Blayney Town Association



# **Building a Better Blayney**

## **Program**

1. **Building a Better Blayney?**
  - Thumbs Up or Thumb Down?
2. **Vision and Mission**
  - Do they still sound OK and on track?
3. **Strengths**
4. **Weaknesses**
5. **Threats**
6. **Opportunities**
  - Are these sounding OK? Yes/No? More or Less?
7. **Projects**
  - What can we tick off as completed?
  - What can we remove because we don't see it as a priority anymore?
  - What can we add?
  - What do we need to change or tweak?
8. **Dotocracy**
  - Now take 10 dots and make your mark!