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New committee to organise Irish Festival

The proposal for Orange to host an Irish festival takes its next step this month, with the calling of a community meeting to form an organising committee.

Orange City Council's meeting last month voted to establish a community based committee for the creation of an Irish festival.

Anyone interested in being on the committee is invited to attend a meeting to be held in the Council Chambers in Byng Street at 6pm on Tuesday 27 November.

Orange Mayor Reg Kidd said the suggestion of adding an Irish-themed event to Orange's suite of festivals was worth exploring.

"Events like Orange Wine Festival and FOOD Week are well supported by the community both in patronage and behind the scenes and they are examples of events that celebrate the strengths of our local community and attract visitors from across the country. If the same community support is forthcoming for an Irish festival then success is a real possibility," Cr Reg Kidd said.

"There are spaces in Orange's annual calendar where a new festival could be held, and now's the opportunity for local residents to have their say."

Councillor Kevin Duffy said the idea for the new festival had come from the community.

"I was pleased to float this idea following a suggestion from the community," Cr Duffy said.

"The Irish heritage in Australia includes rich traditions of food and music and there's so much to celebrate."

"In other towns, an Irish Festival has been about music concerts, street parades, dancing and traditional Irish food. It will be up to a local community committee to see what would work here and how it would all come together."

Allan Reeder

Communications Officer

0400 052 452