

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic of a building or bridge structure above a green swoosh that tapers to the right.

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Record of Meeting

4 July 2007

Chair David Menzel welcomed attendees and noted that apologies had been received from Mick Gentleman, Bill and Thea Smith, Karin McDonald, Richard Mulcahy and Jacqui Burke.

2. Mr Menzel said that the focus of the meeting would be on land use policies relating to the Woden town centre and the impact of draft variation 259, in particular the change of use of north Woden from the current Entertainment, Accommodation and Leisure (EA&L) zone to more high-rise development.

The government was also proposing to sell off car parks for development with developers being required to replace lost car parking spaces plus the car spaces required for their development. This was an ad hoc approach to the car parking requirements of the Woden town Centre as the WVCC had previously recommended a large structured car park and an additional car park at the Phillip business district. Mr Menzel said that the government had recognised some of the WVCC concerns about commercial development on the inter town public transport route. He noted that there was considerable community concern about large scale commercial development in Woden and the impact this would have on public amenities.

The Woden town centre had started with government offices followed by commercial development. Community facilities were represented by the library, Woden Valley Community Services, the Woden town square was also regarded as a community facility. The community sector had been stagnant for 35 years while there had been significant development in the commercial, housing and office sector. The community plan had been written and forgotten and had not received the same attention as the commercial aspects of the Woden town plan. The WVCC contended that changing the Woden north sector from EA&L was a backward step and that the commercial sector had an advantage as it brought more money into government coffers. There was an ongoing need for a Woden Valley arts/cultural centre, which would continue to be unrealised.

Westfield which had bought Woden Plaza was not as keen on progressing redevelopment of the Woden bus interchange as the previous owner Lend Lease.

3. The public were unaware of the extent of the change proposed for the area around Phillip oval. Mr Menzel said that the WVCC did not wish to halt all development but that the debate needed to be opened up to the general public to ensure that the Woden community was aware of the extent of change proposed. Phillip pool was not necessarily in the best location but there was a need to retain a public pool in the vicinity. The new Molonglo development would have Woden as its town centre.
4. Chris Erett advised the meeting of the proposed changes to electoral boundaries noting that the major parties favoured 7 member electorates as 5 member electorates favoured the smaller parties.
5. Mike Reddy spoke of the need to encourage the ACT government to come into line with the NSW government on subsidising solar hot water systems.
6. The WVCC was concerned about the use of the closed school sites and a meeting would be sought with Minister Hargreaves to press community concerns.
7. Funding was available from the ACT government for assistance with professional submissions on community facilities and it was agreed that \$100,000 would be sought for WVCC use on submissions including professional surveys.
8. The Albert Hall remained a topic of interest with draft amendments to the National Capital plan again making retention of the hall and precinct as an historic building and zone not guaranteed.