

Record of Meeting

7 July 2010

1. Ms Gina Pinkas, WVCC Planning Officer, chaired the meeting and welcomed guest speakers and attendees. Apologies were received from: Vice Chair Dr Jenny Stewart; Secretary Shirley Lithgow, Committee Members Henry Hatch and Mike Reddy; Caroline Le Couteur MLA; Andrew Barr MLA; Tom Lithgow. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 June 2010 were confirmed.

Policing in Woden

2. Sgt Steve White, Acting Officer-in-Charge, Woden Police Station together with Acting Superintendent Rod Anderson informed the Council on Policing matters in Woden.

They advised that there had been a decrease in burglaries, property damage and motor vehicle theft in recent months. This may be due to seasonal factors and the incarceration of recidivist offenders that Police focus their efforts on.

Sgt White advised that the Woden patrol area extended from Oaks Estate to Weston Creek (including South Canberra) and is the largest patrol zone in the ACT which impacts on the total number of crime statistics in this area. The crime numbers per head of population are fairly level across the ACT.

Other initiatives have included Bike Patrols in car parks and the bus interchanges; Beat Patrol on Friday and Saturday nights targeting liquor licensing issues and alcohol related violence; Eyes on the Street, a program similar to Neighbourhood Watch but for businesses; and Jewellery Watch targeting selling of stolen property (including to gold buyers kiosks).

On 13 July, as part of their program of interacting with 'at risk youth', police will be going bowling with young people from the Woden Youth Centre.

Police will be conducting Operation Safe Plate (securing number plates) on Sunday 26 September at Westfield Woden. This program assists in reducing the theft of number plates that are subsequently used in crimes such as fuel theft (drive offs) from petrol stations.

A question was raised regarding the correlation between crime and lack of street lighting in suburban areas. The officers felt that there was no indication of this and if anything the reverse was true.

In responding to a question on the level of traffic patrols, the officers advised that there has not been any reduction in recent years and there have been new initiatives such as RAPID which is used to check registration and in some cases licencing, across a high volume of traffic.

Woden Community Service

3. Mr Chris Redmond, Director of the Woden Community Service spoke on a range of issues pertaining to the Woden Community Service, including their facilities, potential land swaps, Café Ink and community programs.

Chris advised that there is developer interest in amalgamating most of the Corinna Street blocks between Brewer Street and the intersection with Melrose Drive. The developers are seeking to enter into an agreement with the ACT Government for a land swap that would include construction of new buildings for both the Woden Community Service and the Woden Seniors club.

The Woden Community Service has experienced problems with the current buildings and requires upgraded facilities. They have moved some functions into the Weston Creek Community Hub following the closure of the Weston Creek Community Service in 2002/2003.

Woden Community Festival

4. Mr David Menzel, WVCC representative on the Woden Festival Management Committee and Mr Ben Trudinger, who is employed by the Woden Community Service as Events Manager, gave a presentation on the annual Woden Community Festival that is hosted by WCS and the WVCC.

Ben has a wealth of experience from directing a number of well-known Melbourne festivals over the past 5 years.

The organisers are looking to build the festival, highlighting community groups. The festival is supported by a grant from the ACT Government and through sponsorships such as that received from the Hindmarsh group.

This year's festival is to be held in Eddison Park on Saturday, 6 November 2010.

Planning Report

5. Gina Pinkas advised the meeting that on 9 June 2010, ACAT upheld ACTPLA's refusal of the DA for the construction of 17 units at 31 to 35 Eggleston Crescent, Chifley. The decision is a very useful one as it gives a lot of weight to RZ2 zone objective b) that requires such developments to fit in with the character of the neighbourhood, and it dispels the notion that developers can build as many units as they like in such areas providing they comply with the plot ratio requirement, an argument put forcefully and often by the developers but rejected by ACAT. The decision can be found on the ACAT website

This month WVCC has submitted comments to ACTPLA on:

- i. Draft variation 302—Community Facility Zone, Replacement of Zone Objectives, Development Table and Development Code.
- ii. The Development Application for the Alexander and Albermarle buildings

Draft variations on ACTPLA's website include No. 303—Residential Zones Development Codes and Lease Variation General Code. The draft can be found on the ACTPLA website. Deadline for comments is: 23 August 2010.

There are DAs for:

- i. Signage for the Community Facility in Chifley (formerly the Melrose Primary School)—comments 9 July; and
- ii. Multi-unit developments in Chifley in Eggleston Cres, Pell Street and Maclauren Cres—comments due 9 July; and in Pearce in Beddlecombe Street—comments due 26 July.

Members were encouraged to make individual submissions.

General Business

6.
 - i. WVCC contributed to the ABC Stateline program on multi-unit development and residents' concerns that will be on the ABC within the next couple of weeks on Friday evening at 7.30 pm.
 - ii. The Greens' Planning and Development (Notifications and Review) Amendment Bill was not supported by the ALP and the Liberals when debated in the Legislative Assembly recently. The recent Combined Community Councils meeting had passed a motion supporting the Bill.
 - iii. It is likely another Combined Community Councils meeting will be held in the near future.
7. Next meeting of the WVCC—Wednesday, 4 August 2010 at the Hellenic Club.