

Record of Meeting

Wednesday, 4 July 2012

1. The Chair, Mike Reddy welcomed attendees to the meeting, including Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

Apologies were received from: Dr Jenny Stewart, Shirley Lithgow, Greg Rutledge and Bill O'Brien.

2. **Record of WVCC Meeting held on 6 June 2012**

The record of the WVCC meeting held on 6 June 2012, as circulated, was accepted. Moved by Chris Erett; seconded by Henry Hatch.

3. **Woden Bus Interchange and Westfield Woden Shopping Centre**

Chris Erett and Henry Hatch, representatives of the newly formed WVCC working group on the bus interchange redevelopment, reported on the initial meeting with Rod Baxter (Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Works, Economic Development Directorate) that took place on 29 June 2012.

At that meeting, Mr Baxter advised that a significant amount of planning work had been carried out on the design of a new interchange, following the development of the Woden Town Centre Master Plan in 2004. The WVCC representatives made the point that work on a new Woden bus interchange had been delayed to enable lessons to be learnt from the redevelopment of the Belconnen bus interchange that took place in conjunction with the expansion of the Westfield Belconnen shopping centre in 2010.

The Chair then led a discussion on options for the Woden bus interchange following-on from Mr Baxter's presentation on concept plans at the WVCC June meeting, with the following issues raised:

- the existing interchange had been in place for 40 years, so this indicated that a redeveloped interchange would have to meet the needs of the community for a similar timeframe and as such it was imperative for the redevelopment to 'get it right';

- the planning for bus operations and pedestrian movements needed to ensure accessibility for the mobility impaired and the comfort of all users. The concept plans indicated that crossing of bus lanes, without weather protection, would be required for some bus users e.g. transfers from local services to the north bound rapid services, which was a concern;
- a question was asked, why the redevelopment of the bus interchange was dependant on Westfield's plans for the expansion of Woden shopping centre; and
- a suggestion was made that the planners should think beyond the current bus system and should look at other bus stations in operation around the world for examples of 'best practice'.

These views would feed into the WVCC working group's discussions with Rod Baxter.

4. **General Business**

i. Combined Community Councils' Meeting

Chris Erett reported on the outcomes of the Combined Community Councils' meeting held on 16 June 2012. At the meeting, there were discussions on the governance and resourcing arrangements for the combined councils.

In addition, Jane Goffman, PlanWise ACT, spoke to the meeting about planning issues, including how Draft Variation No 306 to the Territory Plan would impact on the suburbs of Canberra.

ii. Community Gardens in the ACT—Discussion Paper

The Chair led a discussion on the establishment of new community gardens in the ACT that was the subject of an ACT Government discussion paper, with the following issues raised:

- the resources required for organising community garden groups;
- the fees charged for garden plots may not be sufficient to cover the cost of excess water;
- there was an opportunity for a community garden to be co-located with the recently established Chifley Wellbeing Hub, which is close to an old creek bed that may be a source of water; and

- consideration should be given to locating community gardens in proximity with other community facilities such as Men's Sheds and Children's Playgrounds that would provide passive security.

iii. Addressing wood-heater pollution in the ACT

The Chair reminded the meeting the deadline for comments on the ACT Greens' discussion paper on proposals to tighten emissions and introduce new efficiency standards for future wood burning heaters in residential areas of the ACT, was 17 August 2012.

iv. Draft Aquatic Plan

Martin Miller reported that the ACT Government, which was intending to present information on the ACT Draft Aquatic Plan, had advised that it had postponed this until the commencement of a formal consultation process.

5. Planning Report

i. Development Applications

The Chair reported that there were no current development applications of significance to WVCC.

ii. Public Hearing on DV 306 to the Territory Plan

The Chair advised that the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services was currently holding public hearings on Draft Variation No 306 to the Territory Plan and that Jenny Stewart would be appearing on behalf of the WVCC on 11 July 2012. Representatives from most of the other community councils would also be appearing on that day.

Caroline Le Couteur, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee, said the committee members were not professional planners and that the public hearings helped explain complex issues.

6. Treasurer's Report

Henry Hatch presented a written statement of income and expenses current to 3 July 2012. WVCC's bank balance is \$21,397.40.

7. Other Business

The meeting was informed of the upcoming, election-focussed, public meetings that would be held in September and October and asked

attendees to provide feedback on any concerns or issues they would like raised with the Legislative Assembly candidates.

8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of WVCC will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 1 August 2012 in the Hellenic Club, Woden.