

Record of Meeting

Wednesday, 6 February 2013

Welcome and Apologies

1. President Jenny Stewart opened the meeting and advised that apologies had been received from Shirley Lithgow, Mick Gentleman MLA and Andrew Wall MLA.

Record of WVCC Meeting held 5 December 2012

2. The record of the 5 December 2012 meeting was accepted with minor amendments from Mike Reddy.
3. Mike Reddy advised that a representative from Woden Police would attend WVCC meetings four times a year to present on Woden policing issues.

Pitch and Putt and North Phillip Future

4. Luc Luciano representing the committee of the Southern Cross Club (SCC) Pitch and Putt said that the SCC had closed the Pitch and Putt with effect from 31 January. The Pitch and Putt committee had made a number of recommendations to the SCC to retain the facility with a fee increase the only proposal accepted by the Club. A resolution at the SCC AGM to retain the Pitch and Putt was vetoed by the SCC executive on procedural grounds. The SCC had announced that the Pitch and Putt had lost \$350,000 over the last two years and that constructing a gymnasium on the site would attract more members. Mr Luciano said that the accounts were “opaque” with the majority of any loss due to changing the fairway grass to couch grass. It was noted that six recreation clubs in Woden had been taken over by bigger clubs, generally with the loss of the original sporting facility.
5. The concessional lease for the Pitch and Putt had been converted to a commercial lease and the purpose clause had been changed. The current value of the Pitch and Putt block of land was in the order of \$12m to \$15m. It was agreed that the WVCC would write to the SCC president requesting a review of the decision to close the Pitch and Putt and also write to the Minister, Simon Corbell, expressing disappointment at the closure decision and stating that the Minister should have intervened in the decision as Woden was losing another community asset. It was noted that the SCC acts like a commercial body and should be treated as such.

Mr Luciano said that it was still possible to build a gymnasium and retain the Pitch and Putt.

Redevelopment of the Lyons Shops

6. Ross Norwood, as the architect for the proposed redevelopment of the Lyons shops, said that the existing buildings would be removed and replaced with a two storey plus mezzanine structure. The ground floor would contain shops, the first floor office space and the mezzanine level storage with the structure on the same scale as adjacent buildings. The DA had been lodged with a mid-year start to the development and completion expected in 12 months. Parking problems were the subject of a number of questions with concerns over the overflow from the Woden Town Centre. Advice from a traffic engineer was that there was sufficient parking included in the proposal for local needs.

Developments re Woden Bus Interchange

7. Rod Baxter, senior project manager, Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government said that the ACT Government was considering redevelopment applications for the Woden Town Centre. The Government would be working with Westfield over the next six months to finalise proposals for the redevelopment of the bus interchange. The redevelopment would include improved lighting and additional car parking. Subject to agreement the redevelopment would be completed in 2015. Mr Baxter said that Westfield had been occupied with developments in Belconnen. He noted that the Woden master plan was not legislated and that it established general principles only. Design features of the proposal were also raised, including real time bus information. Jenny Stewart commented that the proposed Westfield expansion deviated from the master plan and that part of the public realm was being sacrificed to Westfield. Rod Baxter said the brief for the bus station included provision for light rail along Callum Street. The redeveloped bus station would include bays for 12 buses heading north and 12 buses going south plus capacity for expansion.

Canberra Airport

8. Jenny Stewart reported on the airport development inspection undertaken by interested community councils.

Woden Master Plan

9. Jamie Allnutt from the ACT Government Environment and Sustainability Directorate said that the Woden master plan was being revisited and that stakeholders would shortly be consulted.