

## WODEN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Record of Meeting 3 April 2013

Hellenic Club, Woden

1. Deputy-Chair Mike Reddy opened the meeting and advised that apologies had been received from Greg Rutledge and Giulia Jones. Minutes of the 6 March meeting were confirmed.
2. Sergeant Mark Steele from the Woden Valley Police addressed the meeting and advised that a trial roster had been introduced involving 35 police officers engaged in pro-active policing to target known offenders. He said the police crime statistic website was being regularly updated and that burglaries in Woden were down 23% on the previous year, robberies had increased from a very low base. Forensics were attending crime scenes and using the rapid lab process were providing prompt scientific advice which had previously taken some weeks. Woden Police had held meetings with ACTION Buses to target inappropriate behaviour at the Woden Interchange. A youth liaison team had been established to target fights and property damage in the Interchange particularly on Friday nights. Sergeant Steele noted that there were complaints from time to time about offences being committed in Woden suburbs which had not been reported to the Police. He said that offences should be reported to the Police to enable them to react and to build up a data base of regular offences.
3. Rod Baxter, Senior Project Manager, from the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate addressed the draft Callum Street development plan. He said the aim was to have an accessible, attractive, pedestrian oriented town centre. Callum Street was devoid of public life with no facilities for pedestrians. The bus interchange had a significant impact on Callum Street and planning was in train to improve bus movements and the bus layover. He noted that the current plan dated from the 1960s with the emphasis on vehicular transport. He said that there had been significant improvements in the public realm in Belconnen in a partnership between the ACT Government and Westfield and they hoped to replicate this in Woden town centre. The bus interchange would be a catalyst for redevelopment with more logical bus lanes and a simpler structure for Callum Street. The redevelopment would also be future proofed to cover the eventuality of the introduction of light rail. Pedestrian connections would also be improved. There would be a temporary bus station required for approximately 18 months incorporating staff stopover areas. Some buildings in the Churches centre would be removed and the development would include awnings and improved lighting.
4. George Arena, the Westfield ACT assets manager said that Woden Town Centre was a joint ownership between Westfield and General Property Trust and that they were working with the ACT Government to improve bus access and the expansion of the

town centre. The proposal was to demolish the Neptune Street car park with a loss of the current 660 car spaces and to replace it with approximately 1,300 car spaces. There were three partners in the Woden Town Centre with General Property Trust owning 50% with the rest held by Westfield and the ACT Government. As well as the need for the redevelopment to provide a commercial return in addition to achieving Woden community outcomes. He noted that Myer was intending to open in the town centre which would attract other complementary retail outlets. He said the design stage would be completed in approximately eight weeks and the development application would then be submitted. The current proposal was for vehicular traffic to remain on Neptune Street with basement and rooftop parking to be incorporated in the new development. He said that the town centre currently had several shop vacancies and that there was a need to improve the ambience to attract new tenants.

5. Rod Baxter said that additional car parking would be provided during the construction phase and that the ACT government was looking at access around the eastern side of Phillip oval to ease traffic flows and to include a possible light rail line. He said that the Woden master plan needed to take account of evolving requirements as master plans quickly became outdated and could not accommodate new initiatives. Cycle paths were an issue which had not been included in earlier planning documents. There would be a two and a half year process to complete the planning process and commence and complete construction. He noted that Westfield and Government plans were dependent on each other and that consultation was required with 43 stakeholders for the Government with Westfield needing to consult at least this number. He asked for comments to be forwarded to him at the Economic Development Directorate.
6. Rebecca Stockley from Knight Frank Town Planning, said that Block 15 Section 3 Phillip had been the subject of a number of previous DAs. Proposals made in 2008 and 2010 had not been proceeded with and the current proposal was to develop Block 15 only. The DA would seek approval for two towers on a five storey podium. A 24 storey residential tower would contain 184 apartments and a separate ten storey office tower would contain both retail and commercial units. The complex would also include two basement levels of parking. All apartments would be sited to receive a minimum of three hours sunlight per day. The DA would be lodged in the next few weeks. Ms Stockley said apartment buildings were being constructed all over Canberra with the demand being driven by affordability and couples seeking to downsize.
7. The Hellenic Club was booked out for the scheduled 1 May 2013 WVCC meeting and the meeting would now be held at the Hellenic Club on Thursday 2 May.