

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting, Orpheus Room, Hellenic Club
7:30 pm on Wednesday 3 December 2014

- 1 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, welcomed attendees. There were no apologies.
- 2 The minutes of the WVCC Meeting on Wednesday 5 November 2014 were approved.
- 3 **Clair Goodman, Rebecca Stockley and Alastair McCullum**, for the Goodwin Group, provided a presentation on the redevelopment of the Farrer Aged Care Facilities. Established in 1954 and one of Canberra's largest, the facility is showing its age and requires an upgrade. Plans of existing arrangements were shown and contrasted with illustrations of the proposed improvements: Independent Living Units, currently numbering some 73, will be increased to around 150-160; Age Care Units, (63 to about 120) all supplemented with a four-storey apartment building. Details of the user-friendly design (better address to the street, imaginative use of available space, energy and water-efficiency measures, an estimated 91% northerly aspect to the accommodation) and other service improvements were given. An estimated five years would be required for completion.
- 4 Project Manager **Mark Blake** and **Philip Greenwood** outlined a proposed development for the Leukaemia Foundation in Garran by the John James Foundation. Current arrangements, which include the leasing of a house in Isaacs, are not considered satisfactory for either staff or patients. The proposed site in Garran was selected as being close to the hospital; thorough site assessment (including traffic noise, parking facilities, flood mitigation) and other environmental issues (such as walking trails and existing flora and fauna) were canvassed. The development application was lodged in December, 2014. If, as expected, approval is given by April 2015, the project will be completed in July 2016.
- 5 **Vaughan Cox**, a "Mr Fluffy" home owner, presented a detailed précis of current developments, though he did emphasise that whilst his survey was informed by his own dealings on this issue, he did not claim to represent all "Mr Fluffy" owners. This valuable outline of the problems associated with the approximately 1021 affected houses in the ACT, touched on issues such as market values of houses for owners voluntarily "opting in" to accept ACT Government offers, independent valuations, costs such as relocation, stamp duties, block clearances, legal fees and the apparent closure of buyback offers by 30 June, 2015. Spirited discussion ensured that these and related issues were openly aired.
- 6 **Local Member Spot: Nicole Lawder, MLA**, noted that the Appropriation Bill authorising funding associated with the "Mr Fluffy" scheme would be passed on 4 December, 2014. Issues drawn to her attention concerning this matter included the effects on elderly "Mr Fluffy" owners, disabled owners, owners with home-based businesses, retired owners living on pensions as well as timing of reimbursements.
- 7 **Dr Jenny Stewart's** report on the Planning and Development Forum was held over.
- 8 There being no other business,

- 9 The meeting closed so that drinks, finger food and conversation could wrap up another year of the Council's community consultations.
- 10 The next meeting of the WVCC is scheduled for Wednesday 4 February in the Hellenic Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides, Minutes Secretary, 18 January 2015