

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting, Hellenic Club, Woden,
Wednesday 6 April 2016

- 1 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from Fiona Carrick, Bill O'Brien, Sophie Clements and Archana Boniface.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting for 2 March 2016 were approved.
- 3 **Anthony Burton**, Health Manager for the ACT Division of the Heart Foundation, gave a presentation on "Walkability" in Canberra. Since the built environment can contribute to an individual's propensity to be physically active and result in improved health outcomes, design principles for this environment are important and were noted. These include: active transport, aesthetics, mixed land use, parks and open spaces, safety and surveillance, social inclusion and supportive infrastructure, among others. Slide illustrations showed how "desire lines" (where people actually walked) could differ from "official paths" (where urban planners wanted people to walk) and the reasons for these differences, including street trees, signs of various kinds and other clutter and street "furniture" which dissuaded people from walking or cycling in designated paths.
Illustrated examples from overseas of clear footpaths constructed separately from cycle ways and from roadways were shown. **Chris Errett** suggested that an image of the Vancouver example should be sent to the ACT Government and **Mike Reddy** noted that "attitudinal change" to the use of public transport in conjunction with the use of well-planned cycle paths would be helpful.
- 4 **Martin Miller**, President of the Woden Valley Community Council and an advocate for cycle-friendly cities, presented an interesting historical survey of cycling and cycle paths in Canberra. Photographs, statistics and historical film clips were used to give an appreciation of cycling in Canberra from 1926, when the first cycling club was formed, through 1975 with the foundation of Pedal Power and 1991, when the wearing of cycling helmets was mandated in the ACT, up to the present. It was noted that, although Canberra was a good city to cycle in, there were infrastructure improvements that could be made. These include the installation of protected cycle paths separate from arterial roads in the ACT; extension of lower speed limits in the Woden Town Centre and trade services areas; better east/west connectivity through the Woden Town Centre; good quality and wide pedestrian and cycling routes to the hospital; trial of "protected intersections" for cyclists and pedestrians (which could include the removal of "slip lanes"); priority crossing for cyclists and pedestrians (which could include "countdown timers") at traffic lights.
Selections of some of the best overseas design for cycle and pedestrians paths were shown from the Netherlands, Denmark and England. This was an impressive, well-illustrated and cogently argued survey.
- 5 As **Sophie Clements**, from TAMS, was unable to attend, her presentation was deferred.
- 6 Although **Bill O'Brien**, the Treasurer, was not present, permission was granted to read into the Minutes his email advice that the current bank balance was \$35,232,06.

- 7 Under general business, **Jenny Stewart** noted that a draft variation to the Territory Plan now allows more overshadowing of dwellings than was previously possible. Also, and as a supplement to the Treasurer's Report, several projects that might warrant Woden Valley Community Council support were canvassed.
- 8 The meeting finished at 9:25pm. Next meeting of the WVCC will be on 4 May in the Hellenic Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides

Minutes Secretary,

17 April 2016