

# Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic of a building or bridge structure above a green swoosh that extends to the right.

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## Record of Meeting

6 June 2007

Chair David Menzel welcomed attendees and noted that apologies had been received from Mike Reddy, MLA Deb Foskey and Jenny Stewart.

2. Mr Menzel introduced Colin Stewart of Colin Stewart Architects and Claire Middleton from Parsons Brinckerhoff Consultants who were to address the meeting on the redevelopment of Phillip Oval. Rick Rand, manager Sport and Recreation Facilities represented the ACT Government Department of Territory and Municipal Services.

Ms Middleton said PB Consultants had been contracted by the ACT Government to undertake a master plan study of Phillip Oval and the surrounding precinct, to determine who are the stakeholders and what are the hopes and aspirations of the Canberra community for the oval. Colin Stewart Architects had been engaged to redesign the oval allowing for future increase in capacity.

3. Mr Stewart said that his firm was running the project but that most of the work was being done by other companies. Cardno-Young Engineers had been engaged to redesign the oval which would entail resurfacing the oval and the construction of a small grandstand subject to sufficient funds remaining from the oval resurfacing. The oval redesign was required to allow for expansion of seating capacity in the long term. A contract had already been let for the reconfiguration of the carpark adjacent to the oval. He also noted a long term intention to extend Irving Street around behind the oval to meet Launceston Street. Consideration was also being given to the sale of some sites on Launceston Street between the oval and the squash courts for commercial use. The plan was to be submitted at the end of June which would include lighting towers. The oval would be constructed to Australian standards for Australian rules football and cricket use plus a requirement to be adaptable for a rugby pitch. Mr Stewart said that it was hoped to get the contract signed in July with the successful tenderer to commence in August. The construction period would mean that the oval would not be available for use until the summer of 2008 and not available for football until 2009.

Rick Rand said that water restrictions would impact on use and viability of the oval but that it was not possible to predict how level four restrictions would affect the oval. The oval would be of a match standard and not available for training. The oval soil installed in the mid 1960's is unsuitable for a modern oval surface and will be replaced.

Mr Menzel commented that there had been plans to buy the oval and use it for commercial purposes which was not supported by the ACT Government. He said the WVCC strongly supported the retention of community assets which could now and in the future be a significant asset for the Woden and ACT community.

4. Rod Baxter of ACTPLA said that a pedestrian crossing was to be installed in Irving street to allow for easier access to the pool complex from the car park. He said that regulations prevented the installation of pedestrian crossings on six lane roads which precluded a pedestrian crossing on Launceston Street near the Irving Street intersection.

5. David Menzel reported on the Woden Valley Community forum which had preceded the WVCC meeting. The meeting had canvassed issues of concern to the Woden community and had been well attended by representatives from a number of Woden valley organisations. A number of groups had commented on the problems with the bus interchange and the lack of a community meeting facility. It was agreed that meetings would be held at three monthly intervals to determine progress on issues of concern.

6. Martin Miller reported on a meeting in the Pearce Community Centre of a Seachange group with a focus on environmental matters. The use of recycled water was discussed and the need to reduce the environmental footprint of suburbs.

7. David Menzel reported on the submission the WVCC had made on the draft restructured territory plan and advised that a number of organisations had been consulted on the changes. He noted that there had been relatively limited time frame for submissions on what was a major review and that consultation had been relatively curtailed.

8. Chris Erett said that he had attended a robust meeting at the Albert Hall on proposed NCA development proposals for the area around the Hall. The meeting had called for a joint Commonwealth and ACT Government group to examine all issues concerning the Hall and the surrounding areas. He noted that the NCA representative had emphasised that the development application was at a draft stage only and was open for further discussion and input from interested parties.

9. David Menzel advised the meeting of concerns over a number of applications for multi unit developments in Lyons, Chifley, Mawson and Hughes on amalgamated suburban blocks. He encouraged interested parties to form local suburban groups to make submissions to the planning authorities.

10. MLA Karin McDonald reported to the meeting on the recent ACT Budget and its impact on the Woden Valley. Ms McDonald also noted that an electoral redistribution had resulted in Farrer being removed from the Brindabella electorate. A major electoral redistribution was due before the 2012 election. It was important that the premise of one vote one value be adhered to.

11. Louise Evans offered to assist with the WVCC website which needed updating. Ms Evans said that the government was undertaking extensive consultation on uses for the closed schools sites as these sites were a community asset and should be retained for community use where a need can be demonstrated.

Martin Miller said that he had attended the Weston Creek Community Council meeting attended by John Hargreaves, the responsible minister. Mr Hargreaves had proposed four options for the use of the sites.

- a) keep total facility for community use
- b) keep the buildings for community use but sell the grounds for development
- c) demolish the buildings and redevelop the sites
- d) keep some of the buildings only for community use.

Mr Hargreaves said that decisions on the use of the sites would not be made without community input. The meeting agreed to invite Mr Hargreaves to the next meeting to discuss the closed school sites issue.

12. Minutes of the March and May meetings were accepted and the next meeting is to be held on 4 July in the Aegean Room of the Hellenic Club.