

Record of Meeting

3 June 2009

1. The Chairman, Bill O'Brien, welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Michael Reddy, Val Yates, Jenny Stewart, Tom Lithgow, Steve Doszpot, Greg Rutledge and Michael Taylor.
2. The record of the WVCC meeting held on 6 May 2009 was accepted without change.

Woden Green

3. Paul Carmody, Consultation Manager for the Woden Green Joint Venture (Hindmarsh and the ACT Land Development Agency) updated the meeting on the Woden Green development on the corner of Hindmarsh Drive and Callum Street, Philip. Mr Carmody said the Estate comprises twelve neighbourhoods—ten zoned 'Medium Density Residential'; and two zoned 'Commercial'. The Estate Development Plan had been approved by ACTPLA in October 2008. The financial crisis has meant work on the approved eleven storey commercial building has been put on hold. He said a development application for 11 three-storey buildings (two with lifts) for Neighbourhoods 8 and 9 would be submitted soon. The residential mix would comprise 108 one bedroom apartments; 51 one bedroom plus study apartments; and 20 two bedroom apartments.
4. Mr Carmody outlined a number of environmentally sustainable initiatives, including: heat pump technology; achievement of 79% solar access; a solid façade providing thermal mass for building climate control; drought tolerant landscaping and rainwater harvesting for reuse through irrigation. He acknowledged criticism of the joint venture in removing around 200 trees from the site without prior community consultation. He explained that no significant trees had been removed—most were pines and poplars and considered a pest. The joint venture was proposing to have an onsite nursery to establish trees for the development. Reinstatement of the pedestrian and existing cycle path was expected by the end of July.

5. A number of people at the meeting said they were not happy that 'Green' was part of the development's name. Mr Carmody said there was no intention at this stage to change what was just a marketing name for the precinct. In response to a question on the naturalisation of Yarralumla Creek Mr Carmody said it had been a priority but it was an issue for the ACT Government and not the joint venture. He added that what will be done is going to be reliant on what can be done.

Chifley community park

6. Fay Hug from Parks, Conservation and Lands, Territory and Municipal Services said people wanted the community park in Chifley to be for exercise and walking and with play equipment and community art. As the site is very open, extensive tree planting was envisaged with a mix of deciduous trees and evergreens. Concerns were expressed about insufficient parking and the need for activities for teenagers. The meeting noted that Ms Hug would update the WVCC again when the plans were finalised.

Mental health units

7. Chris Purdon from Purdon Associates explained they had been engaged by ACT Health to look at possible sites at the Canberra Hospital for a young persons (aged 13 to 25 years) mental health unit. The 20 bed single storey facility (comprising separate sections for adolescents and young adults) needed to be in a pleasant location and have a sense of connection with the community. The alternative sites at the Canberra Hospital were: the existing northern carpark and helipad; a site adjacent to the intersection of Hindmarsh Drive and Yamba Drive; a site adjacent to Palmer Street; and in Gaunt Place which would require the relocation of the Resident Inpatient Independent Living Unit.

8. Ms Purdon explained they were also looking at three alternative sites for a 15 bed Secure Adult Mental Health Inpatient Unit. This was not a correctional facility but would require separation from urban areas. The site of the former Quamby Detention Centre in Symonston and two sites in Mitchell were being considered for this facility.

9. Community feedback was being sought. Site selection questionnaires could be found at www.health.act.gov.au/c and written submissions could be emailed to: yourhealthourpriority@act.gov.au — (Deadline: 17 July 2009).

Woden Tradesmen's Club development: removing the concessional status of the lease

10. Katherine Hicks from CBRE said the need to change the lease's concessional status to remove the requirement for government consent has triggered an environmental impact statement and the need for community consultations. Many at the meeting did not agree with her that removing the concessional status was not likely to have an impact on the local community. Gina Pinkas pointed out that the gradual removal of the concessional status of leases in the Woden Town Centre precinct meant the ACT Government loses its ability to retain community use of the site.

Public consultations would be held at the Tradesmen's Club on 17 June 2009 at 6-8 pm.

Group insurance

11. Bill O'Brien said a number of committee members had attended a meeting with the ACT Government over a proposal for group insurance for community councils. The ACT Government would advise the community councils further on this in due course.

Woden Valley community festival

12. David Menzel said the Woden Valley Community Festival, a joint exercise between the WVCC and the Woden Community Service would be held between 10 am and 4 pm on Saturday, 31 October at Eddison Park. The theme of the festival was Healthy Communities—Positive Wellbeing—Sustainable Living.

Planning report

13. The Planning Officer, Gina Pinkas, explained that the report and recommendations of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and TAMs on Draft Variation No. 288 to the Territory Plan (Lyons) had yet to be released. The WVCC has opposed the draft variation, which will allow a ten-storey tower block to be built on the corner of Launceston Street and Melrose Drive, and six storeys across the (former Burnie Court) site. Even if the Standing Committee recommended the draft variation not be approved, the Planning Minister could still recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it be approved, although the Assembly could vote to disallow the variation.

Treasurer's report

14. The meeting noted that the Treasurer, Martin Miller, wished to relinquish the position after the financial statements had been audited. The bank balance is \$3,909.08.

15. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on 1 July 2009.