

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic to the right of the text. The graphic consists of a blue square with a white outline, a green square with a white outline, and a green curved line extending to the right.

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Record of Meeting

1 July 2009

1. The Chairman, Bill O'Brien, welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Val Yates and Tom Lithgow
2. Bill Smith moved and Ruth Dobson seconded that the record of the WVCC meeting held on 3 June 2009 be accepted. The motion was carried.

Woden Green

3. Paul Carmody, Consultation Manager for the Woden Green Joint Venture, along with Guy Brady, Project Manager, Hindmarsh and Gesa Ruge, Environmental Consultant with Viridis, updated the meeting on the development application for 11 three-storey buildings (two with lifts) for Neighbourhoods 8 and 9 (N8/9) that had been lodged with ACTPLA.

Mr Carmody said N8/9 was a low scale development with 60 per cent of the area being open space. The residential mix would comprise 108 one bedroom apartments; 51 one bedroom plus study apartments; and 20 two bedroom apartments. The public had until 17 July 2009 to make representations to ACTPLA.

4. Mr Carmody said residents would have easy access to the Woden Town Centre. In response to a question about the possible provision of a pedestrian bridge from Woden Green to the Woden Plaza, Mr Carmody explained that the overpass was not the responsibility of the Joint Venture but rather the responsibility of the ACT Government.

Ray Stone, Project Director, Land Development Agency indicated the integration of Woden Green with the Woden Town Centre would be considered at Stage 4 (landscaping) of the development. He said LDA would take on board the separation of pedestrians from traffic. A major concern for the WVCC was to ensure the connectivity of the site to the town centre be enhanced.

Other issues that Mr Carmody and Guy Brady said the Joint Venture would consider included: concerns about acoustic and noise transfer; roof space for solar heating; and the need for community facilities on site to promote a sense of community amongst residents.

5. On the issue of secure parking for residents, Mr Carmody said that all parking in Woden Green would be underground. Access to parking for residents will be via ID card readers and via Intercom for visitors. Given the proximity of the Woden Green to the Woden Bus Interchange (and the behaviour problems encountered there) a high-level access security would be required for the residential blocks.

6. Mr Carmody confirmed that progress of the development would depend on the sale of apartments off plan. In response to a question about the estimated maximum population density of the Woden Green development, Mr Carmody said that it would be around 700 to 1,000.

Molonglo project

7. Ivo Matesic, Project Director, Land Development Agency updated the meeting on land that would become available in the new suburbs of Wright and Coombes towards the end of 2010 and early 2011. It was envisaged that 780 blocks would be available direct to the public in 2010-11. These would probably be small residential blocks with higher quality public space. The LDA will commence a community consultation process around October 2009.

Community support and infrastructure grant to the WVCC

8. Bill O'Brien said that after much consideration the \$20,000 grant to the Council under the Community Support and Infrastructure Grants Program for a needs assessment and feasibility study for a Woden community arts and cultural centre had been returned. Unfortunately \$20,000 was not sufficient to fund the independent study. (The Council had sought \$50,000 for this project.) Recently the ACT Government had allocated \$3.5 million to the construction of a theatre complex at the Canberra College for use by the Canberra community.

Planning report

9. The Planning Officer, Gina Pinkas, explained that the report and recommendations of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning on Draft Variation No. 288 to the Territory Plan (Lyons) had yet to be released. She also spoke about the issue of the proposed deconcessionalisation of the Trademen's (Tradies) Club lease and explained the community benefit objective for concessional leases. The change of concessional (community purpose) leases to commercial leases in the Woden Town Centre in recent years had resulted in a loss of land for community purposes.

Treasurer's report

10. The Treasurer, Martin Miller, reported that the bank balance was \$2185.25. The Council's financial statements would be audited in time for the annual general meeting in October. Gina Pinkas moved and Chris Erett seconded that a Telstra bill for \$40 be paid. Carried. The meeting decided that the issue of the Council's public liability insurance be followed up quickly.

Other business

11. The meeting noted that it was common in North American cities to have recycling bins on street corners. Suggested that the community put pressure on the ACT Government to have more recycling bins throughout Canberra.
12. The meeting noted that the cost of public transport in Canberra was higher than in the other capital cities.
13. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on 5 August 2009.