

## **Record of Meeting**

Wednesday, 5 September 2012

1. The Chair, Jenny Stewart welcomed attendees, including Caroline Le Couteur MLA, Shane Rattenbury MLA, Steve Doszpot MLA and the Brindabella candidates. She also welcomed Phil Ibbotson, the Council's new Minute Secretary.

Apologies were received from Mike Reddy and Jeremy Hanson MLA.

### **2. *Record of WVCC Meeting held 1 August 2012***

The record of the August meeting that was circulated was accepted. Moved by Henry Hatch; seconded by Martin Miller.

### **3. *The Brindabella Candidates Forum***

***Joy Burch MLA (ACT Labor)*** said achievements of the ACT Labor Government included:

- signing-up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- a strong economic structure;
- the management of growth and delivery of services—roads, increase in number of nurses, education;
- plans for establishment of a solar plant in close proximity to the city;
- the Chifley cycle paths—remediation, improved signs—and parking; and
- the establishment of the Rosemary Gascoigne Park in Hughes.

Ms Burch introduced ***Karl Maftoum (ACT Labor candidate)*** who briefing spoke of his background and interests.

***Amanda Bresnan MLA (ACT Greens)*** identified the following as matters in which the ACT Greens have played a major part:

- the upgrading of the Chifley playgrounds and facilities;
- Hughes open areas;
- master planning including for the Mawson (Southlands) group centre; and

- Kambah transport—improving provision of services and monitoring the effect of these on transport flows.

Ms Bresnan introduced *Johnathan Davis* and *Ben Murphy (ACT Greens candidates)* who spoke briefly about their respective backgrounds.

*Val Jeffery (Canberra Liberal candidate)* said he:

- was a long term resident of Tharwa;
- was involved in early history of Woden;
- wants heritage of Woden preserved;
- considers the nuts and bolts of local government are of utmost importance—roads, rates and rubbish; and
- was not impressed with the management of bushfire protection in the ACT.

*Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberal candidate)* said he was is interested in:

- developing opportunities for young people;
- the upgrading of Phillip pool and ice-skating rink;
- upgrading of the Torrens shops;
- working with Westfield Woden on the re-development of the bus interchange; and
- implementation of the Woden Town Centre Master Plan—keen to see master planning extended to other town and group centres.

*Burt Doble (Motorists Party candidate)* said he:

- considers the nuts and bolts of local government to be most important;
- wants better provision for cars—the major form of transport in the ACT; and
- wants greater emphasis on law and order and stricter penalties consistently applied.

### **Questions**

Questions raised were on a wide range of issues, including the following:

- the loss of the Canberra Southern Cross Club's bowling greens and the likely loss of the pitch and putt facility, both of which involved a change of lease purpose from recreation to commercial, thereby decreasing recreational activities for Woden citizens;
- the need for an aquatics facility and a high-standard ice-skating rink in Woden;
- the preparedness of the Emergency Services for a future firestorm;
- the effectiveness of the ACT Planning and Land Authority codes and guidelines and whether they were being manipulated;
- whether the political parties were committed to increasing the number of elected members in the Legislative Assembly;

- the need for the Woden Town Centre Master Plan to be revised and for master plans to be given some force; and
- the commitment of a newly elected government to the redevelopment of the Woden bus interchange should Westfield not proceed with the extension of Westfield Woden shopping centre.

The Council had previously provided the candidates with a list of issues they could draw on in their presentations. Written responses to these issues would be put on the WVCC website—[www.wvcc.org.au](http://www.wvcc.org.au)

#### **4. *The Mawson Stormwater Project***

Patrick Paynter, Principal Engineer/Planner in the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate presented concept plans for two sites in Mawson. The first was for a stormwater retarding (temporary flood storage) basin within Mawson playing fields upstream from Southlands shopping centre; and the other site, located downstream from Southlands, was for a combination of wetland and retarding basin along the stormwater drain near Athllon Drive. He pointed out that wetlands existed in similar locations in the ACT—O'Connor, Lyneham, Dickson and Flemington Road.

Mr Paynter said this proposal was concerned primarily with flood mitigation and to a lesser degree with water quality. Excessive flows during heavy rains would be captured in the catchment and stored temporarily at the two sites for around one to two hours, which would slow down the force and extent of flood flows by spreading it over the playing fields and wetland site. He explained these retarding basins would be formed by constructing an earthen embankment across the flow paths for major storms and by having an outlet structure that restricted the flow out of the storage area.

It was intended to build a retarding basin embankment around the playing fields and no fields would be removed as part of the project. In very heavy rain and flooding they would slow down the flow of water as it spilled onto the playing fields at the upstream site. Water would be captured in the playing fields and be transferred to Yarralumla Creek through stormwater pipelines with a dome cover on the outlet structure. This water would be travelling slower as would the water in the main channel as a result of this diversion. At all times, safety would be a prime consideration.

Plant growth and the trapping of nutrients would occur as a result of the passage of water through the wetland at the downstream site and would, incidentally, improve water quality. The wetland was not designed to be a stagnant pool.

In answer to questions, Mr Paynter confirmed that:

- the playing fields would be inundated as a result of these measures, if implemented, to decrease flooding elsewhere and will act as a form of temporary water storage;
- CSIRO had in fact done a survey of possible sites for such wetlands but the focus of this work was on harvesting stormwater for reuse in irrigation;
- the dried up pool in Eddison Park was a landscape feature, not a wetland;

- there was no commitment by the ACT Government for the construction of the project at this time. Funding for the proposal, if approved, would be from future budgets;
- at this time it was a concept plan on which feedback was being sought before proceeding to design and construction; and
- forms for feedback were available at [www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au](http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au).

5. A Molonglo Candidates Forum would be held at the next meeting of the WVCC in the Hellenic Club on Wednesday, 3 October 2012.