

**Record of Meeting in Hellenic Club
Wednesday 3 June 2015**

- 1 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, welcomed attendees. There were no apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting of 6 May 2015 were approved.
- 3 Woden Valley Station Sergeant **Harry Hains** provided a detailed and engrossing report on current Policing programs. The Station, which is very busy, employs some 65 Police plus Detectives. It was noted that in some matters, such as motor vehicle accidents, there had been a noticeable decline whereas in others, such as domestic violence, there had been an increase in reported incidents. Whilst this could be attributed to changes in community attitudes (with people more prepared to talk) and better reporting, domestic violence formed an important focus of police work. Listening for and reporting abuse was encouraged. Support services are available for victims, and a remediation program for perpetrators, in place now for some two years, and run for, but not by, police, had seen a significant reduction in repeat offences. A business administration certificate training program, aimed at women in abusive relationships, was described and the benefits detailed (kids could see their mothers achieving something; assistance was given to the women in obtaining jobs). A marked increase in theft from cars was noted on the south side of the ACT and a rise in the sale and use of the drug “ice” was observed throughout the Territory. **Questions** from the floor included work commitments: did they justify the staffing levels? “Certainly” said the Sergeant, who then provided detail of the onerous, dangerous and multifaceted nature of police work. Another question concerned the impact of provisions in the ACT Budget on police operations. **Sergeant Hains** stressed that nothing in the recent Budget would negatively affect continuity of staff or associated policing programs.
- 4 Consideration of the exposure draft of the **National Capital Plan Review** was deferred.
- 5 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, provided a comprehensive summary of the implications of the ACT Budget for the Woden Valley. Pie chart and other diagrams were used to show proposed expenditures and variations (mostly rises) in a number of fees and charges; an average rate rise of 9%, was noted.

As well, areas of concern to Woden Valley residents that were mentioned in the budget were abstracted for their detail. These included Melrose High School, Phillip Oval improvements, the Bus interchange, traffic light installation at intersections, the urban renewal program as it affect traders in Phillip, Woden Town Centre and bicycle and pedestrian network improvements, the Schools for the Future Programs (including Melrose HS and the Mt Stromlo HS), the Woden CIT (to close mid to late 2016), urban services (mowing, weed and graffiti removal, tree maintenance and lake cleaning) and infrastructure improvements at both Canberra and Calvary Hospitals (and additional beds in both general and acute-need areas).

Several issues *not funded* in the budget included the proposed Community Centre, Aquatic facilities in Phillip, the complete upgrade of the Woden Bus Depot as well as proposed duplication of Atthlon Drive.

A proposal by **Mike Reddy** that the **Committee should write to the ACT Government** about the likely distress to traders in Phillip from the Government's plans for paid parking in the area was **accepted to be actioned**.

- 6 There was no presentation by a local member.
- 7 Committee Member **Jenny Stewart** presented her report on the Woden Valley Cemetery. It was noted that the current proposal to extend it was little more than a short-term fix to a long-term problem. It was suggested that the Government should scope and fund a new cemetery and crematorium on the Long Gully site.
- 8 The meeting closed at 9:02pm. The next meeting of the WVCC will be on Wednesday 1 July 2015 at 7:30pm in the Hellenic Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides

Minutes Secretary