

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting, Southern Cross Club, Woden,
Wednesday 3 August 2016

- 1 The Deputy President and acting chair, **Mike Reddy**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from **Martin Miller**, **Greg Routledge** and **Caroline Le Couteur**.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting for 6 July 2016 were approved.
- 3 **Rob Purdon**, from Purdon Planning, provided an outline of the proposed expansion of the National Capital Private Hospital. An additional 23-bed ward is proposed to be built on top of the newly-completed east wing. A development application will soon be lodged. Illustrations of the proposed 1075 m² structure were shown. Benefits (more medical services, facilities and employment) and impacts (visual, traffic, parking and construction work) of the expansion were described in detail. Construction is expected to begin in the new year.
Questions included: Was this particular expansion envisaged when the East Wing was built? (No, but the wing was built to take another floor); Can the existing building take the extra weight? (Yes, and without interfering with the floors below or the patients occupying them); **Jenny Stewart** asked: Where is the medium term planning? This has been a construction site for years. (Construction will have minimal impact, will be easily built and be of benefit to Canberra and the region); What was the last addition to the East Wing? (Additional beds, mostly devoted to cardiac and oncology. **Elizabeth Porritt**, General Manager of the Hospital, noted that the new 23 bed facilities will cater for intensive care associated with cardiology and coronary surgery); **Chris Erett** asked about parking. (The new ward will not generate demand for much extra space; the existing carpark can cope and there will be space beneath the building); Problems walking from carpark to hospital? (A drop-off point is provided).
- 4 **Sgt. Harry Hains**, OIC AFP, Woden, provided an update on developments affecting Woden Valley policing. Increased population and commercial developments have impacted on the need for police services. Security in both Woden and other stations has been upgraded and police now routinely wear ballistic and stab-resistant vests. Burglaries, it was noted, often target new constructions for high-value items like copper pipe and power tools. Also, domestic violence has increased significantly and people seem more willing to report it.
Questions included: **Jenny Stewart**: Should all suspicious incidents be reported? (Yes, all such information is integrated into an intelligence overview); **Mike Reddy** drew attention to the theft of sculpture at the Hughes Shops and the theft of a fountain at Yarralumla. (Such sculptures, often worth thousands, are usually sold for their scrap value); Percentage of crime that is drug-related? (High; most burglaries and thefts are drug-related); Should drugs be legalised? (Difficult to answer. Depends on the drug, on its acceptance in the community in which it is used and other factors: a political issue); What is the level of illegal firearms in the community? (Difficult to say: many firearms are in fact stolen from licensed owners. Also, 3D printing of firearms is of concern. However, it was noted that crime in general has been trending down in the last ten years); **Mike Reddy** noted, with approval, the police use of unmarked utilities on the roads. Sgt Hains was thanked for his informative presentation.
- 5 **Jenny Edwards**, from Light House Architecture and Science, gave an interesting overview of the construction and maintenance of sustainable and affordable housing in Canberra. It was emphasised that sustainability and affordability are not mutually exclusive. Twelve factors for consideration in designing new or renovating old houses were outlined. Through excellent design, it is possible to produce houses with high functionality and no dead space.
Questions included: Triple glazing: was it justified? (No; performance does not “stack up”. It was noted that insulation ideally proceeded from the top [ceiling] down [to floor] and that air

locking was very important. Indeed, there was really no point to insulation if a house had 20-30% air leakage. PVC and timber framed windows were now preferred to aluminium framed windows, since aluminium conducts heat. Modern house design was about having flexibility and incorporating technologies that can offset the rising costs of energy, water and other services); **Mike Reddy** noted that both people, as well as houses, now needed to be “smart”. (Agreed; issues of solar access and shading were then explored); **Chris Erett** asked why so many houses had flat roofs? (Sometimes dictated by small block footprint; also, an aesthetic choice); Any prospect of Government mandating six star ratings? (It is easy to achieve and “industry is moving with this”); **Jenny Stewart** noted that the big challenge was temperature variation. (Agreed and it can be minimised. Eight star rating, though difficult, was achievable if the insulation was good and there were no air leaks); the use of central heating near windows with curtains was raised. (Not good; heating should be kept away from windows); The orientation of apartments east-west was raised. (Orientation can be balanced out over all apartments in a development complex); **Chris Erett** asked about the value of retrofitting older houses. (Often done, but overcapitalisation can be an issue). **Ms Edwards** was thanked for her very informative presentation.

- 6 In general business and other business, **Eric Glass** provided a detailed update on the Goodwin Homes Development. It was noted that the Tribunal hearing of objections from nearby residents on the grounds of excessive height and overshadowing had been finalised on 1 April; a decision was now long overdue. The meeting concluded at 9:34pm. Next meeting of the WVCC will be on Wednesday 7 September 2016 in the Southern Cross Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides
Minutes Secretary

14 August 2016