

Woden Valley Community Council

Record of Meeting, Southern Cross Club, Woden

Wednesday 2 August 2017

MLAs in attendance: Ms Caroline Le Couteur, Ms Julia Jones

- 1 President, **Fiona Carrick**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from **Jenny Stewart, Robert Issell, Martin Miller, Robin Stanton** and **Ben McHugh**.
- 2 Whilst the Minutes of the meeting, held on 5 July 2017, have been cleared as accurate by the President, they had yet to be uploaded for committee perusal.
- 3 The Chair, **Fiona Carrick**, presented her report. Her meeting with Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development was noted and location of the Light Rail stop south of the east-west link through Woden noted. A site meeting for **Mawson Public Housing** was discussed: plans have been changed with access from Mawson Drive. A reported 500 signatures were obtained for the **Farrer Playground** petition. **Curtin Community Panel** activities covering a range of issues to do with local development, community consultation and input were discussed in some detail. The Trash Mob clean up of **Eddison Park** occurred on 29 July. The ACT Government has made some positive suggestions regarding activation of the **Woden Town Square**.
- 4 **Community Presentations**
Vanessa Little, Director of Libraries, ACT, noted that the Heritage Collection in the Woden Library was now so large that it had to be moved; premises at 255 Canberra Avenue will be utilised. The space vacated is being refurbished for the expansion of the Woden Library, which is the busiest public library in the ACT. **Question:** Will the community meeting room in the library be reinstated? (Yes, but no night access yet). **Ms Little** noted that whilst the number of book loans was static, visitor numbers had significantly increased because of the library's involvement in modern technologies of learning, reading and interacting generally. Access for young people had been improved and some 66% of Canberrans were members of a public library. Facilities included access to all major Australian magazines using a library card, and access to the entire Sony Music playlist. Suggestions for the inclusion of other material would be welcomed. **Questions:** Public consultation about the design? (Yes, though funds are limited); Does modern media have a longer lifespan than printed word? (No. And much that is published electronically can be difficult to read or update); some newspapers, such as the *Financial Review* have a pay wall. Can this be dealt with? (Don't know but will follow up; some newspapers refuse to deal with public libraries).
Ken Marshall (standing in for Ben McHugh) from Roads ACT spoke about the Launceston St and Irving St intersection, for which a feasibility study had been done. Options are being looked at and the preferred outcome. Roads ACT has this intersection on its long term planning. **Questions:** Lights, lights and more traffic

lights? (Yes, but they are synchronised); Will the traffic bank up onto Melrose Drive? (Looking at the most efficient option); Will buses have priority? (Yes, design is in process); Public consultation in the design? (Yes); will the intersection be 'future proofed', especially for slip lanes and bicycles? (A matter for detailed design, which will include 'Active Travel' objectives); Cycle networks to be considered? (Yes); Timeline? (Business case for design and construction will be included in the budget for the 2018-19 financial year); is there a plan to have a second exit on the other side of the Phillip Oval? (Not sure); (Will this plan be viable for more than 10 years? (Hard to say)); Danger crossing road north near bus stop? (Will take as input); Is there an infrastructure issue with the Hindmarsh Dr and Melrose Dr intersection, should there be a slip lane on Melrose Drive to turn left onto Hindmarsh Drive)? (There are competing objectives involved: safety versus efficiency. Will take this on board as design input); Redesign width of median strip on the south side? (Though it doesn't change the capacity of the intersection, it is one of a number of options); Melrose Dr and Caruthers St: an issue for people crossing and for cyclists accessing cycle path? (Will take on notice); what is happening about duplicating the single lane on Athllon Drive from Hindmarsh to the roundabout? (This has not attracted 'statistical attention', but traffic numbers are not far from being considered congested. Due to WVCC interest, will take a closer look); Ms Caroline Le Couteur asked about the safety of crossing Athllon Drive at the bus stops at Phillip. (Will follow up); Access to Phillip difficult from Pearce - noted; Does 'Active Travel' do the submission for the cycling network? (Will confirm).

Community Development

Ian Mackay, CEO of the Canberra Southern Cross Club provided an update on the Health and Wellness Centre (called Stellar), due to open in March 2018. The Centre, in five levels, is located on the corner of Launceston St and Yamba Dr. The Club's aim is both to expand amenity and to reduce the current reliance on gaming income (44%). In addition to a ground floor café, there will be a pool (swimming lessons, rehab, laps – heated pool 17 meters), a 90-place child-minding facility (Kids Club lessee). Second floor a women's-only fitness studio, Third and fourth floor allied health professionals. Opening March 2018. Services can be used by the hospital which is 600 metres away. Partnerships with nearby educational and sporting institutions are being pursued. **Questions:** Access? (A new road off Launceston St); Will pedestrian bridge be moved? (Not known at this stage until the use of the rest of the site is determined); Pedestrian access? (Yes); Bicycle access? (Will take on notice) ;). Can we have another go at the golf course? (Need to stay viable); Why are we reliant on the private sector to provide community facilities for health and well-being? (We are reducing community facilities, including Arabanoo Park); is there outdoor seating in the sun? (No, but there are bi-fold doors); Cycle access across the road that does not give the cycleway priority (Noted); Canberra College partners that will have certain rights; Green credentials? (Solar panels on the roof, lots of natural light and designs to minimise heating and cooling costs).

Pieter Van der Walt, from Canberra Town Planning provided an outline of a multi-unit development proposal on Block 19 Section 156 in Phillip on the corner of Hindmarsh Dr and Callam St. Community consultation has started for this development of 41 Townhouses and Dwellings of two and three bedroom capacity up to three storeys. Access from the Easty St roundabout. Tandem at grade parking, no basement parking. Landscaping plan, communal areas **Questions:** Outdoor drying area for clothes? (Yes); Why east-west and not north-south orientation? (East west solar access on both east and west sides); The community was adamant that the units should face north; Why are the units not higher as zoning allows for it, If we are going to have densification for light rail this is the site for as the road is overshadowed? It does not have the adverse impacts like the tall buildings on the town square (Commercial decision for developer, will take feedback back to developer); Tandem parking allowed? (Yes); Shadow diagrams for impact on north south and east west developments? (Not yet developed); Will you vary the Crown Lease? (Crown Lease will be drawn to reflect the proposal); receiving feedback for 6 to 12 weeks; how are you obtaining community consultation? (Letter boxing, primarily); other feedback options? (email: elizabeth@canplan.com.au); what was the feedback from the consultation the previous evening? (Concerns about the speeds of vehicles); some of the landscaping blocks vision on to Easty St.

Presentation on behalf of Catholic Social Services Australia. The proposed removal of concessional status from Crown Lease on Block 2, Section 61, Curtin, was discussed. A history of the building, now more than 50 years old, was outlined. Originally a convent, in its current condition it is becoming expensive to maintain. Options include: removal of the building, conversion to a care facility, or some other community-oriented use that is allowed in community facility zoned land. There will be consultation on what the site will be used for. **Questions:** The proposal is just to remove the concession? (Yes); How far will you letter drop? All of South Curtin? (Will consult with schools); could be useful to get feedback from surrounding suburbs eg Hughes, Lyons.

5 Updates from MLAs

Ms Julia Jones noted that some 500 Farrer residents have petitioned for a playground facility near the Farrer shops; this will go to the Assembly. She complimented President **Fiona Carrick** on her work for the Council, especially regarding the removal of graffiti, and will try to help. Noted the state of the Town Centre. Developments relating to the Hospital, the Detention Centre and the Woden Library were noted. **Question:** There is now a City Renewal Authority, but who is looking after the Woden Town Centre? (A real issue. The City Renewal Authority and the rest of Canberra is being handled by a Suburban Land Authority?)

Ms Caroline Le Couteur said that Weston Creek is getting green grass in the renewal area. Woden was not developing as a Town Centre; it was really a 'Group Centre'. A development proposal for the Federal Golf Club was mentioned and issues to do with independent retirement living facilities, located in Kurrajong, but

servicing Woden, were noted. ‘Loop holes’ in laws relating to access to EFPOS and withdrawal of money from ATM machines in Canberra clubs were also drawn to attention. Also, the Cemetery Trust was developing a long-term plan for burials and for Woden Cemetery. **Questions:** Tenure of burial sites? (What are the expectations? Consultation with the community is required); what is the approval process? (Under the Parliamentary agreement everything goes to the Planning Committee); what about the Mawson Precinct Code? (It hasn’t been referred to the Planning committee)

6 There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9:44pm. The next meeting of the WVCC will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday 7 September in the Southern Cross Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides,
Minutes Secretary
20 August, 2017