

Woden Valley Community Council
Record of Meeting, Canberra Southern Cross Club
7 pm Wednesday 2 May 2018
MLAs in attendance: Chris Steele, Caroline Le Couteur

Estimated attendance: Forty Five

- 1 **Welcome: President, Fiona Carrick**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from Robert Issell, Gina Pinkas, and Robin Stanton.
- 2 **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 4 April 2018 were approved.
- 3 **Chair Report:** Fiona Carrick discussed about:
 - Population – Presented data from ACT Government 2015 – 2020 showing slow decline in population which is not matching the ABS actual 2015 – 2017 and forecasts to 2020 which show an increase. The ABS records indicate that the Woden population is actually going up. There is a need to request the ACT Government to update their forecasts.
 - Social and Economic Hub – Presented the concept Canberra has been designed with four town centres but Woden is missing a social facilities in its economic hub. Residents have to drive to other town centres to use social and higher education facilities that the Chief Minister says are just 30 minutes away. But looking at the bus timetable requires more than an hour and half by bus.

4 Presentations

Community:

- Mural on wall fronting Melrose Drive has been finalised. Fiona ran through the local heroes on the wall from the skate park to the directions to Tuggeranong and Weston Creek. A protective covering will be applied soon. Fiona's work and effort was recognised and appreciated by those attending...
- Proposed redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries – Woden has been split in half according to the Redistribution Committee proposal for:
 - an electoral division located in the northern part of the ACT which includes the Districts of Gungahlin and Hall and most of the District of Belconnen,
 - an electoral division located in the centre of the ACT over Lake Burley Griffin which includes those areas adjacent to the lake and the northern part of Woden Valley, and
 - an electoral division located in the southern part of the ACT which includes the Districts of Molonglo Valley, Weston Creek, and Tuggeranong and part of the District of Woden Valley

The geographical centre has moved 1.8kms to the north from Curtin to Yarralumla.

It is risky for Woden because the new MP may overlook the needs of the Woden community as a whole. WVCC will be lodging an objection. Submissions close 4 May 2018. (For more information go to the following link:-

<https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/act/proposed-report/files/act-proposed-redistribution-april-2018.pdf>)

- Nature in our city – Mr Molvany mentioned that the ACT Government Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services invites submissions to its inquiry into the value of the natural environment to an urbanising Canberra. They want to know how we benefit from nature in the bush and the relationship with wildlife. The invitation for submissions to the inquiry is closing on 8 June 2018. (For more information go to the following link:-

<https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-environment-and-transport-and-city-services/Nature-in-our-City>)

Development

- **Alexander and Albemarle development – Mr David Carey, Doma Group**
The Doma Group purchased the site in 2010 with initial concept of developing the site into commercial office space. But conditions in Canberra changed after 2013 so the idea developed into residential. Architects were invited from Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane and they gave concept for 600-700 apartments taking advantage of the new Master plan which permits up to 28 storeys. The existing structures are very robust with 3.4m high ceilings and narrow width provides very good light ideal to a residential conversion. Concept shown uses the two existing main structures and demolishing the ancillary buildings only to make way for courtyards and parking structures. There will be 300 car parks each structure will be two stories above the existing courtyard level. The existing buildings only have a single basement designed in the days of no parking. The car parks will be covered and linked through a bridge to the buildings. A retail outlet will be in lower part of the building. The basement will be used for storage use by the residents. There will be an opportunity for a whole lot of community facilities including gymnasium, childcare, eatery, brewery, retail and community garden. Each building includes 90 units Planning includes one and two bedrooms apartment. Retaining these buildings will save on the construction period compared to demolish and rebuild, and keeping the original structure will reduce costs. DomaGroup expects to lodge the DA in the next 6-8 weeks.
- **Curtin Master Plan – Mr Chris Johnson**
Discussed features of the Draft Master Plan submission which is open for public comment. The primary issues has been about retaining the sun and amenity in the square. In some respects, the provisions in the Master Plan do not align with the draft Precinct Code. Submissions close 6 June 2018.
- **DA for Hughes - Section 66 –Dr Molvany**
The owner of the site proposes to build storage facilities on the site. The site has been used to dump asbestos and contaminated loose builder's rubble. The community is concerned about concrete over the entire site and the impact on the environment, both flora and fauna. Submissions close 18 May 2018.
- **Inquiries into Development Application Processes – Caroline Le Couteur and Chris Steele**
The Planning Committee is having an inquiry into the whole building planning process to respond to various complaints related to building quality in Canberra. What to build and how to build. If anyone has poor experience with systematic issues like with solar access Submissions close 1 June 2018.

The building quality inquiry submissions are due to close on 6 July 2018. If anyone has any issue about defects in buildings please get in touch.

5 5 minute update from MLAs

Chris Steel – There was a community meeting at the library on 6 March about the Woden town square appearance upgrade is planned starting from August; more information can be search on ‘Woden experiment’. Determined to integrate light rail and bus routes plans will be available for comment later in the year. Light rail stop will be at bus interchange so people can change over easily. Want hear about local bus routes. There will be more buses adding to the network which also includes electric buses. Transport Canberra will be coming to talk at next meeting about new time table and routes, update on the bus station and bus depot. In response to question is Woden going to have an indoor pool, the facility at Stromlo was discussed. The community raised concerns about access to this facility. In response to questions about the CIT site, UNSW does not want to open a campus in Woden, they are interested in Reid.

Carolyn Le Couteur – There is a petition on the Legislative Assembly web site asking for Sunday and public holiday’s buses to extend after 7pm. The Anglicare study identified there is no affordable housing in Canberra or Queanbeyan for anyone on New Start. We have a real problem in Canberra with zero affordable housing growth. We have over 2,000 people sleeping on the streets every night. We are not keeping up with the supply of affordable houses. It used to be 31% its now down to an average 7% and 3% in new developments. The Greens are trying to push for allowing pets on buses and light rail.

6 Other business

The meeting finished at 9:05 pm.

The next meeting of the WVCC will be at 7 pm on 6 June 2018 at The Canberra Southern Cross Club.