

Woden Valley Community Council
Record of Meeting, Canberra Southern Cross Club
7 pm Wednesday 1 August 2018
MLAs in attendance: Caroline Le Couteur
Estimated attendance: Seventy

- 1 **Welcome: President, Fiona Carrick**, welcomed and thanked attendees.
- 2 **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 4 July Not Discussed.
- 3 **Chair Report:** The theme tonight is about renewal with presentations about a housing development in Lyons, the Woden Town Square, bike paths, the bus depot and ending with a panel discussion. The rapid bus network submissions close on 12 August. There are issues about the loss of Espresso services that presently take you straight to Belconnen and to Tuggeranong and changes to the school runs. The changes propose more use of rapids with the Blue rapid terminating in Civic requiring more changes to reach destinations north of the City. The Better Suburbs forum will look at roads, public spaces, street lights, nature strips, parking, shopping centres, water quality, trees and footpaths. The Parliament Inquiry into the Development Application process is closing this Friday. Submissions for the Community Contribution Scheme closes on 30th of August. Submissions for the reconsideration of the previous DA for Curtin closes on 17 August. There are two petitions being handed around this evening. One is advocating for a direct alignment for light rail as per the original light rail network. The other is about the proposed WOVA development on the Tradies site and is seeking to change the position of the tall building to reduce the morning overshadowing of Bellerive on Melrose Drive. The best way to know what is going on is to be on our email list.
- 4 **Presentations - 'Woden's Renewal'**
 - **Lyons housing development – Mr Peter Johns and Jo– Housing ACT:** Housing ACT is starting community engagement about the proposed development in Ulverstone Street (Nos. 23, 25, 27 & 29) Lyons. We have four public housing sites proposed for housing older Aboriginal and Torrens Strait islander people in up to six dwellings. This is the successor to **Maringanya** in Kambah which opened in November 2016. The Government has committed \$250,000 for the design work for the next complex. The design will meet the cultural requirements of people who will live there. The elective body looked at a number of possible sites around Canberra and decided this site is preferred because it is close to the town centre shops, public transport and health facilities. There will be a mix of two and three bedroom units throughout the complex. We have been talking with the present tenants and they are cooperative and willing to move. An information session will be at Lyons shops on 11 August and comments can be made on the Your Say web site until 12 October 2018. We hope to lodge the DA in October and commence construction early in the New Year with completion at the end of 2019.

Questions

- Would you please explain culturally appropriate accommodation? – around open communal space, keep trees and landscape, aging in place and providing space for family (3 bedrooms) to be able to visit.
- Who determines who will live there? - ACT Housing from existing processes
- Will they have support systems? – yes, health, Westfield shops, public transport
- The Elected Body? – elected by the local indigenous community – 7 members, 3 year terms, provide advice to the ACT Government
- **Bus Depot re-development – Mr Jeremy Smith, TCCS:** There is overcrowding at the Tuggeranong and Belconnen depots and a growing bus fleet across Canberra. The old bus depot is presently in the demolition phase which will be completed in August or September.

People mentioned about noises which are normal and construction won't be noisy. There are four main reasons why we doing this. Reducing time buses on the road do not need to bring them from Tuggeranong that will reduce our fuel usages and wear and tear of buses. Drivers don't have to on the road as much and should improve customer satisfaction. There will be 80 more buses added to the fleet next year which cannot be handled at Tuggeranong or Belconnen anymore. Servicing the buses can be done every day and quicker here in Woden.

Questions

- Will any of the existing facility be reused? - Exploring using some of the bus shelters on the northern site, most of the site demolished
 - Will there be a maintenance workshop? – eventually, starting with a limited facility
 - How many jobs? – yes, they will use the shops around Phillip
 - How many electric buses? – trial of electric buses finishes end 2019 then decisions will be made
 - Will they have advertising? – yes, at some point
 - Is the number of buses increasing? – yes
 - Access? – Parramatta St however they are undertaking traffic modelling
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- **Bike paths – Ms Diane Hill, TCCS:** We have money for the next couple of years to build active travel in Woden. We have active travel funding in 18 - 19 year \$4.7 million to Woden Town Centre and money going to other town centres as well. We can follow through with some recommendation in Master Plan prepared for Woden in 2015. It's about making Woden the centre of the Woden Valley making the community and business more accessible. Making better cycle way and walking system to continue the route through around the town centre. Walking and cycle path making it comfortable to the people by planting trees and providing quality spaces for the people and making safe entry and exit drive ways. Last year we provided walking links to the hospital, Easty St, built connections along Matilda Street section on north Corinna Street which were a priority. Melrose Drive shared path may be the first to put in place (2.5m wide on the west side). We are doing quite a bit of planning looking at a cost effective way for getting people onto bikes and active travel. We will start design work, prepare sketch plans then we will consult with the community and stakeholders like Pedal Power, make adjustment to the plans then seek approval.

Questions

- Where is the Melrose Drive upgrade? - 2.5m shared path on the western side on the verge
 - Will they be two way paths? – yes
 - How do you fit a 2.5m path on Corinna St? - it will need to be planned and tested with the community
 - Will they be separated paths? – yes, in the town centre
 - There are also dog walkers on the path.
 - Could the precinct code take account of the room required for the cycle paths because WOVA did not leave enough room for the cycle path
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- **Woden Experiment, Town Square renewal - Ms Ella Doney, TCCS:** The Woden experiment is taking the idea from the Garema Street furniture installed in 2016. There was a 200% to 300% increase in activity in that space. This is a six months experiment for Woden. The basic elements will be placing furniture and plants to support a range of activities in the town square. The plants will be for the short and longer term. The draft design is in preparation at the moment. Some of the objectives have come out of the workshop to bring the square to life, to encourage community ownership and a destination to be in. The four zones were described. We are aiming to establish it by November and it will be then in place for six months. I am interested to get feedback and ideas. We can be contacted on Facebook or through Access Canberra.

Hugh Mackay – you can't influence people by persuasion it is better done by experience

Questions

- Is it budget constraints that makes it short term? – it is an experiment and parts of it could be long term
 - Will it clash with the construction of Grand Central? – need to manage the risk
 - Will there be pop up cafes? - yes
 - Will there be toilets? – we will look at these things
 - How much access to sun in the winter and how much protection in the summer? – this needs to be worked on
 - Was there any discussion of a water feature? – misting maybe
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- **Woden Bus interchange upgrade – Ms Pam Nelson, Project Director Light Rail Stage 2 TCCS:** We want to start conversation with everybody about new opportunities to redesign the bus interchange and rejuvenate the area. We are seeking ideas and feedback and have a page on the Have Your Say web site. In terms of timing concept design expected by end of this year with intention to come back to explain the outcome to the community in the New Year.

Questions

- What has the Belconnen bus interchange got that makes it successful? – current interchange not inviting

5 Panel discussion about Woden's renewal - Mr Jeremy Smith, Ms Ella Doney and Ms Pam Nelson: Answered questions from the floor.

- The precinct plan being undertaken by Hindmarsh and Canberra Town Plan was discussed.
 - Pieter Van Der Walt discusses the planning and how it hangs to together

6 5 minute update from MLAs

7 Other business

The meeting finished at 9:07pm.

The next meeting of the WVCC will be at 7 pm on 5 September 2018 at The Canberra Southern Cross Club.

For more detail and questions and answers please visit our website wvcc.org.au for recording.