

Your local voice

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■ ■ ■ community
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Minutes of the General Meeting, Wednesday, 26 March 2008, 7.45pm

Tim Dalton opened the meeting at 7.45. He welcomed representatives of Mirvac, Mr Charles Bartlett (Senior Retail Development Manager), Mr Cameron Vella (Retail Development Manager), and Ms Hilary Jacobs (Manager, Cooleman Court).

1. Presentation

Mr Cameron Vella gave a presentation about Mirvac's plans for redeveloping Cooleman Court.

Main Changes

- There will be a two-storey atrium built at the southern end, between Sakeena's and the news agency, with a traveller to take customers up to the first floor, where it is expected Aldi's will be located.
- A smaller traveller will also be built near the open space in the middle, outside what is now the health food shop and Michel's.
- An elevator will be installed near the foot of the present ramp opposite Michel's.
- New lighting and flooring will be installed, the air conditioning and air circulation will be improved.
- The new restroom facilities will be upgraded.

The Development Application (DA) was approved in November 2007.

The builder will be **City Commercial Projects**.

Mirvac did market research in Weston Creek, and had a workshop with the local retailers. They plan to increase the number of fresh food shops and add another supermarket (Aldi's).

Timeframe

- Construction will start April 2008.
- South mall will open in February 2009.
- Project completion in June 2009.

Other matters

- Trading will continue throughout the development.
- Some retailers will move location within Cooleman Court.
- **Retailers who will leave are: Freddy Frapples, Go-Lo, Best Buy Meats, Op Shop, Jerseys for Work and Play**
- Retailers have been kept fully informed about the development process and staging of the project.
- Cooleman Court management will use newsletters, notice boards to keep customers informed.

4 Key Stages

Stage 1: April - June 2008

Retailers who are leaving will close early April.

Work will start at the southern end of Cooleman Court, affecting Sakeena's and the old Westpac Bank and the newsagent, whose doorway will open from the carpark end of the shop.

Work will also begin to upgrade the loading dock behind Best Buy Meats.

Stage 2: June - November 2008

Major works will occur, especially in the South Mall, where two travellators will be installed.

The ramp that goes up to the first floor will be demolished, and all the shop fronts nearby. There will still be a walkway in the South Mall, which will be clearly marked by temporary boarding.

In the Centre Court, the small travellator and elevator will be installed.

The Best Buy meats area will be used by the builder.

Mr Chops and Harvey World Travel will be closed for a while to refurbish.

Stage 3: November 2008 - January 2009

Work will commence in the area around Susan Grae. A parents' room will be installed.

Stage 4: January - June 2009

Completion of work in Centre Court and North Mall. North Mall will become the fresh food precinct.

Questions

WCCC members put a number of questions to Mr Vella and Mr Bartlett.

Q.1: Please clarify which businesses will be leaving.

A: **Freddy Frapples, Go-Lo, Best Buy Meats, Op Shop, Jerseys for Work and Play**

Q2: What is Mirvac doing to improve parking facilities?

A: The DA accepted that the parking area as is will be adequate.

Q3: What about trees in the carpark, the clothing bins? What will be done to redesign the entry and exit to the carparks, as the current configuration is not good?

A: Mirvac is only concerned with the area inside Cooleman Court. It does not have any control or responsibility over the surrounds.

Q4: Where will the loading bays for Aldi's be located?

A: Aldi's will load from the work area at the back of Cooleman Court where the present loading bay is located.

Q5: What about Sakeena's? Where will they be able to put tables?

A: Sakeena's will not be able to have tables inside in the area between it and the newsagent as at present, but they will be able to use the pavement outside, beside the carpark.

Q6: What other malls around Canberra has Mirvac refurbished?

A: None.

Q7: How many of the ALP's candidates are here tonight?

A: None

After questions had finished, Tim Dalton thanked the Mirvac representatives. He then opened the General Meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jacqui Burke, MLA, Wendy Groves, Eddie Irvine.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting (27/02/2008) were accepted as presented (minutes are on the website and written copies were circulated at the meeting). (Moved: John Burke/Chris Wilson)

4. Treasurer's Report

John Burke gave a brief report on the state of WCCC's finances. WCCC has received a grant of approximately \$5000 from ACTPLA, so he has purchased a projector (\$1150) and website software (DreamWeaver, \$399), as foreshadowed.

5. General Business

5.1 Future Speakers

Tim Dalton announced that Dr Jim Gould, CSIRO, would be the speaker at the meeting on 23 April. he said that WCCC would invite political candidates to speak to WCCC meetings throughout the year, as it is an election year.

5.2 Submissions

Tim Dalton said there had been a fairly negative response from ACTPLA to our submissions, which is not a good sign. ACTPLA had suggested that they have a meeting with the WCCC on North Weston and Molonglo developments. WCCC will need some support on the submissions if we are to have any effect on the final plans for these developments. He noted that under current plans for North Weston, the Orana School and the Bahai and Sikh communities will lose their green environment because houses will be built all around them. There will also be traffic problems, partly due to limited access from Heyson St into the new development, and partly because of poor access into Weston Creek from the Cotter Road.

- It was suggested that WCCC should make ACTPLA's response, or lack of response, public knowledge, and use the press if necessary.
- One member asked what will happen to the kangaroos on North Weston ridge.
- The RSPCA is reported to be moving to Symonston.

6. Other Business

6.1 Skateboard park

Sue McMaster said she had spoken with Jacqui Burke at the last meeting. Since then she has also spoken with Sgt Frank Jamieson of Woden Police. The police did some undercover surveillance over Easter, turned the lights off early, and the result was that the park became much quieter.

6.2 Caretaker's Cottage near old sewerage works

Peter Farrell, the present tenant of the cottage, said that the Heritage Council has accepted the cottage for nomination and will assess its heritage value.

6.3 Cooleman Court development

It was agreed that WCCC will follow up with Mirvac, and with displaced retailers.

The meeting was closed at 9.30.