

Your local voice



www.wccc.com.au
info@wccc.com.au
PO Box 3701
Weston Creek ACT 2611
Telephone (02) 6288 8975

Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 26 April 2017

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.35pm. The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests

Apologies: Jeremy Hanson, Rosemary Drabsch, Max Kwiatkowski

35 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Murrumbidgee MLA's – five minutes

Giulia Jones

- Public housing
 - She was pleased to see that Housing Minister Yvette Berry was coming and that David Collett from the ACT Public Housing Renewal Taskforce was at the meeting.
 - The consultation about the public housing had not been great.
 - Minister Berry has advised that there may be some flexibility.
- Traffic
 - There has been some concerns raised about the entry and exit off Streeon Drive at Mulley Street.
 - It is difficult to get out of Mulley Street as it is difficult to see if people are merging or turning right.

Q. Why is a walk-in clinic announced for Weston Creek going into Molonglo?

A. It always was going into Molonglo. We need to be open to this as it may lead to us getting more facilities.

Caroline Le Couteur

- Public housing
 - This is a big issue but as Yvette Berry and David Collett are here I won't say anymore.
- Chair of Planning Committee
 - Looking at Billboards – hopefully this will be finalised quickly.
 - Housing – we will be looking at all forms of housing. How we provide housing in Canberra is an issue. If you have anything you want to say put in a submission.

Q. Are you going to look at foreign investment and empty houses?

A. We can't control that but if you are concerned about it put in a submission.

Q. We need public parks and green space.

A. Please put in a submission.

- Justice Reinvestment Program
 - Partly Indigenous
 - Looking at stopping people getting into the criminal justice system
 - Need to address underlying issues.

Q. Is the Committee looking at issues with planning especially Technical Amendments?

A. Not currently but there is no reason why you couldn't write and say we should look at this.

Deputy Chief Minister Yvette Berry

- Thank you for letting me invite myself to the meeting.
- I grew up in public housing in Holt.
- I worked with people with little or no income.
- I am passionate about public housing.
- David Collett has been meeting with the individual action groups and we are making headway with community groups.
- We have been listening to the criticisms about the consultation and in hindsight we could have done it better.
- The government is clear about its commitment to public housing.
- 388 dwellings have already been gained.
- The government is buying off plans, new buildings and existing buildings.
- Common ground has been found in Gungahlin. There was consultation with the community, church groups, the Gungahlin Community Council and individuals to help people with public housing. This was successful.
- The amount of land in the ACT is finite. People are concerned about urban sprawl.
- We need to use Community Facility Zoned [CFZ] land in the best way possible and leave some free. Governments need to be conscious of this.
- I am also Sport and Recreation Minister so I want people to be active.
- We need to promote active lifestyles so we need to keep some facilities.
- Have a look at the Ginninderra development in West Belconnen.
- In the future:
 - David Collett and the ACT Public Housing Renewal Taskforce will be updating the website regularly.
 - I encourage people to have a look at the website.
 - We have had the following engagement
 - Chapman – 78 people
 - Holder – 93 people
 - Wright – 66 people
 - Both David Collett and I have been talking to individuals as well
 - You get more information from the website
 - I encourage you to go to future consultation sessions.
 - There are no dates for the DAs as yet. They are all at different stages.

Q. There are problems with municipal services in the Molonglo Valley. There is no street sweeping, this is causing a rubbish problem and rubbish is going into the Molonglo River. Residents are picking up papers. There is a beautiful school. Molonglo should be covered by Territory and Community Services. I have been told there is no money for street sweeping.

A. I will raise it with Minister Fitzharris and then will look at it under my new portfolio in July –

suburban development. Meegan Fitzharris' and my office are working on it but it can be better coordinated. If you get in touch with my office I will talk to the LDA.

Q. Housing associations such as Community Housing Canberra have a better handle on building communities than Housing ACT.

A. Thank you.

Q. You are most welcome here. In your capacity as Minister, what consideration has been given to bushfire problems and the lack of facilities in Chapman? (Warwick Costin)

A. I know the Chapman residents are concerned about this. Much of the public housing in Canberra is in similar types of areas i.e. bushfire abatement zones.

Q. I also welcome you. The Darwinia Park Action Group would like to meet with you. I have door knocked approximately 300 people. 96% of people answered. 93% were strongly opposed, 3.0% were indifferent and 0.8% were in favour. 140 people live in Kattner Street and Percy Crescent. In 2003 people drove over that site to escape the bushfire. 50 houses were destroyed. Putting the most vulnerable people in society there is dangerous. (Chris Braddick).

A. Thank you for that.

Q. We have been told that Holder Oval is safe but Technical Amendments (TA) have been done on the sly. How can we be sure that it won't happen again? (Bec from Holder).

A. TAs are not intended to be sly. There is no intention to pass TAs around ovals across the ACT. Future governments may have a different view.

Q. A TA changed supportive housing to social housing. This shouldn't have been a TA.

A. You will get more information from the Taskforce on the website. Go to one of the consultation sessions.

Q. Why wasn't Weston Creek given the same consultations as Gungahlin and Red Hill?

A. I have heard the criticism and this will be addressed in future consultations.

Q. Thanks for coming to talk to us. Some good points have been made. What you say and what you do are different. There was a security guard at the Holder meeting which was odd. There is little information out about the design other than photos of a Chisholm house. It is hard to get a feel for the design from that. Some just showed windows, fences etc. and it is hard to get an idea. The Holder Action Group is very supportive of single storey supported housing – not multi storey. (Andrew from Holder).

A. Thank you. That is good feedback. Some people will give good feedback and others are never happy. We will provide more examples of the design.

Q. Given the amount of problems with the Public Housing Taskforce consultations is it inappropriate to ask David Collett to resign. We need someone who is willing to work with us. The consultation process is outdated. (Simone Hunter).

A. This is not a consideration of the government. It is a Cabinet decision made after discussions with many people including public housing tenants.

Q. What if the person in charge is not listening – then consultation is a waste of time and money. There is already enough trauma in the area with bushfires and Mr Fluffy.

A. I understand the concerns about consultation.

Q. Minister you have spoken about flexibility around design and numbers. What is the genuine lowest number you can do on sites (to make people feel comfortable)? (Giulia Jones).

A. We are still getting information from people including residents about this. I can't give numbers tonight. If the numbers are too small it leads to isolation and if it is too large it

becomes cumbersome.

Q. Weston Creek/Molonglo have the largest number of dwellings on sites except for Taylor.

A. We are still looking at this including amenities, roads etc.

Q. People have a mistrust about tenants looking after dwellings. If people don't look after them they should be asked to leave. There are no facilities in Weston Creek for vulnerable people.

A. We can have more discussions about facilities. Most public housing tenants have the same aspirations as other people. They come from many different backgrounds. Most people look after the houses. They have the same rights as private rental tenants.

Q. Someone mentioned that it might become a ghetto. In McTaggart Street Coombs there is not enough storage. There is no room for anything. (Lyn)

A. I haven't heard from any residents at Coombs but if you know someone ask them to call my office.

Q. Hoons are a problem at Holder Oval. The police have no presence in Weston Creek. When you ring they ask the residents to get the number plate. What is the threshold population to get police, ambulance etc? There does not appear to be any planning around this. I have concerns about safety. We need CCTV and lights. (Andrew from Holder).

A. I can't provide details about the police but the police have told us to keep a record and report it. It is laborious but a strategy can be developed from the data. It worked in West Belconnen.

Giulia Jones [Shadow Minister for Police] commented that it is difficult to get the police to Weston Creek. It is case of money versus danger that exists. We need to do a cost benefit analysis - how much it will cost and what rush is there

Q. We have looked at the distances of services such as schools, clubs, police, pharmacies, shops etc. from the Darwinia Park site. The distances are 2-7 times further away from amenities than what they are from housing on Northbourne Avenue. (Chris Braddick).

A. Public housing tenants are not drug gangs. In relation to amenities we talk carefully with public housing tenants about what they need/want and where they want to go. This is taken into account.

Tom Anderson - We need to encourage everyone to put concerns/comments on the website and attend consultations. He thanked the Deputy Chief Minister for her attendance and for listening to the questions from the community and providing answers where possible.

Waramanga shops playground - Elizabeth Hoyt

Tom Anderson - this is a good proposal. He had been interviewed by 2CC and recommended that people listen to the podcast of the interview.

Elizabeth Hoyt

- I am a Waragamba resident
- I have collected 300 signatures in just one week on petitions left in shops.
- I have made a video (played at meeting).
- I have had 160 views in two days.
- It is available on the WCCC website and on You Tube
- Why is this issue so important?
 - It is good for local businesses
 - It brings vibrancy to the community

- Other local shops have a playground e.g. Chifley, Duffy, Fisher
- Playgrounds at schools are now gated.
- It is good for cognitive and social development.
- Weston Creek is below the ACT average in physical development and the ACT is getting worse compared to other jurisdictions.
- It is good in reducing childhood obesity
- It should reduce the graffiti on the walls, crime and vandalism
- Weston Creek is always missing out. If it is Woden/Weston Creek it always goes to Woden. If it is Weston Creek/Molonglo it always goes to Molonglo.
- The demographics in Waramanga is changing as is Weston Creek. More children are coming in.
- I am asking for your suggestions/comments

Comments

- It needs toilet facilities
- We need the space used for the residents
- It would be great for families and businesses

- There are playgrounds in Waramanga but
 - They are aging assets
 - There is no parking
 - They are not easily accessible
 - They are not conveniently located
 - They can only be used by immediate residents
- The proposal is for something similar to Fetherston Gardens and Chifley Play Space
- We are seeking something for all residents:
 - Barbecue and seating
 - Shaded cover
 - Toilet block
 - Maybe an Indigenous themed playground which may help leverage additional funding
- I have been talking with
 - Chris Steel
 - Caroline le Couteur
 - Access Canberra
- I have written to
 - Andrew Barr
 - Yvette Berry
 - Meegan Fitzharris,
 - Rachel Stephen-Smith
 - Mick Gentleman
- I haven't received written responses but I have had responses at official level.
- 3 people from the ACT government did a site visit and said it was a great site but that there was no funding.
- What can we do about funding?
 - We need \$150,000 to do a small playground and \$250,000 to do something like the one at Chifley shops.
 - We spoke to "Dial before you Dig" and there are no problems.
 - There is no money and the priorities are maintaining the older playgrounds.
 - If we can get funding from other sources they will prioritise Waramanga.

- The ACT government may match funding but there is no guarantee
- There are community grants and federal grants but they are normally for \$1,000-5,000
- Giulia Jones
 - Speak To Boundless. They are advocating for fenced parks
 - I can help you with their contact details
 - They have done the groundwork.
- Funding sources
 - There is a large amount of funding in Indigenous Arts
 - Bank grants
 - Corporate sponsors
 - Crowd funding
 - Look for locals such a Luton's Real Estate

Comments

- You have done an excellent job
- It is great to see someone from the community leading something

Q. Do you have a copy of the petition here?

A. Yes but it will be on the WCCC website. Please sign it.

Q. What about people funding it themselves?

A. The government said no.

Q. Corporate sponsors will want a tax receipt, want tax deductibility and need a proper structure.

A. Boundless can do this. (Caroline le Couteur and Giulia Jones).

Q. I was skeptical about this until gave your presentation especially with the indigenous involvement. There needs to be more parking.

A. There is parking at the back.

Giulia Jones

- Boundless – once it is set up then there will be a café nearby which is good for mums groups.

Q. Is insurance an issue? You may be able to get someone to sponsor this.

A. That is a good idea.

Asbestos Taskforce

The presenter is sick but a presentation has been provided.

Tom Anderson

- There are many blocks coming up for auction in April and May.
- The vast majority are allowing two dwellings to be built on them.
- Some blocks have had prices included. These are reserve prices.

Q. Are they looking at in ground asbestos? There has been plenty of asbestos dumped over

the years.

A. They have done some testing.

Q. Do you have any ideas on the prices on the blocks sold?

A. I have no idea. It may be on All Homes.

If you have any other questions put them on the website or go to the taskforce separately.

Q. Has there been any changes to the planning regulations?

A. Caroline le Couteur – the only change is that dual occupancy is allowed on blocks of 700m² rather than 800m².

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 29 March 2017

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous meeting be amended to read:

‘The ACT Public Housing Renewal Taskforce advised that they would discuss attending another meeting as soon as it can be reconvened’.

Moved: Pat McGinn Seconded: Shelby Schofield Carried

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved as amended.

Moved: Pat McGinn Seconded: Shelby Schofield Carried

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 29 March 2017

- Nil

Treasurer’s Report

- \$12,244.13 Main Account
- \$3,029.10 Fetherston Garden Account

Motion: That the Treasurer’s report be approved.

Moved: Chris Wilson Seconded: Shelby Schofield Carried.

Business arising from the Treasurer’s Report

- Nil

Other Business

Roadworks

- The road leading to the RSPCA is being strengthened prior to the building of the second service station.
- Cotter Road – stay within the 60kmh speed limit. 82 people were booked in one day. The roadworks will be ongoing for approximately 12 months
- Hindmarsh Drive – these are due for completion June/July 2017.

Public housing

- Tom Anderson and Pat McGinn met with David Collett on Monday 24 April 2017.
- It was a good meeting and we are waiting on a written response to the questions posed.

Light rail

- The light rail people have phoned tonight and asked to consult with us on Stage Two.

This will be at the May public meeting

- Defence Housing will present on a their proposal for Coombs

Tom Anderson thanked Pat McGinn for the work she did while he was away.

Q. We have been sent an email about the work being done on Trenerry Square. What is the final design?

A. We have asked them to come and present. The tender went out on Monday 24 April 2017 and closes on 18 May 2017. They don't want to present to us until the tenders are in and they know what they can afford.

Q. Are they closing Brierley Street from Luton's Real Estate to the Café?

A. Yes. About six car parks will be lost.

Giulia Jones

Q. Can you have a presentation about when the shops are going into Molonglo? Or ask if the Community Council can be informed if not me.

A. They start to build shops when the population is about 15,000. They should do it before then. Denman Prospect is hoping to build shops in Stage One.

Brad – local resident and McDonald's franchise owner.

- The petrol station site is having the road strengthened to bring it up to specs. Then the site works will be done. This should be done by the end of the year.
- The DA is going in next month. It will be a Caltex and probably an Oporto
- The second stage may include a McDonald's.
- We employ approximately 350 people in Canberra.

Q. What is happening with McDonald's at Coleman Court?

A. We have removed the median strip in the drive through, we have put in digital menus and we are upgrading the playground.

Q. What is happening with the AFP site? Will it be a nursing home?

A. It has already been zoned for medium density housing. It is not zoned for a nursing home. A DA was lodged to demolish the buildings but it had a technical problem and it has to be resubmitted.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday 31 May 2017
Raiders Club
Liardet Street Weston