

Your local voice



www.wccc.com.au
info@wccc.com.au

PO Box 3701
Weston Creek ACT 2611
Telephone (02) 6288 8975

Minutes of the General Meeting Wednesday, 13 November 2008, 7.45pm

1. Opening of Meeting

John Burke opened the meeting at 7.55, and welcomed all participants. 23 persons were present.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Presentation from Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

Refurbishment of former Weston and Rivett school sites

Two officials from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS) spoke about the ACT Government's plans for refurbishing the former school sites at Weston and Rivett.

DHCS has a budget appropriation of \$24 million for the whole refurbishment program. This budget is divided to cover three aspects:

- community parks;
- demolition;
- refurbishment of buildings

Noah's Ark will remain at Rivett school, but will move into a different wing. DHCS would like to have Noah's Ark settled into the new accommodation by the end of January, for the start of the new school term, to minimise disruption for users. This means that it is likely the refurbishment work will start in December 2008.

Hindmarsh is the developer, and has already prepared a site management plan. Hindmarsh will set up a site office on the first floor of Weston school, and will work from there for their activities all over Canberra.

In principle, they will try to have buildings upgraded to comply with the current Building Code of Australia.

Tenants: 98 percent of groups that applied have been allocated space. The officials are not aware of any Weston Creek group that applied that has not been allocated space. DHCS is not able to

provide a list of tenants at present, for privacy reasons. They will provide a timeline when matters have proceeded further, and should have a good idea by late February or early March. DHCS could give us a generic description of how many groups will get a place and what services they will provide.

DHCS is aware of the WCCC submission on development of new community facilities opposite Cooleman Court.

DHCS does not expect to have surplus space, and therefore does not expect that any commercial ventures will be given space.

Kid Start at Rivett shops wants to relocate, and is planning to move to Wanniasa. One member of the audience suggested that Kid Start could be a good enterprise to be given space at Rivett school.

CROWK (Concerned Residents of West Kambah) have been more involved in the consultation process than groups from Weston Creek.

It was suggested that if the Weston school hall were to be refurbished as a large space for people to hire, the Weston Creek Community Association might be able to run bookings for the hall, as they have considerable experience doing this for the Community Centre already. WCCA also runs a child care centre.

In response to a question, the DHCS representative said that it is most unlikely that Weston school would be demolished and a new community centre built from scratch.

For anyone who is interested, the procurement website is: <http://www.procurement.act.gov.au>.

A question was asked about whether DHCS plans to spend any money on the Grant Cameron Centre at former Holder High School. The DHCS representative said that this was the responsibility of the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS), but that he would be happy to ask TAMS about this and get back to WCCC.

It was suggested that we could set up a meeting next year at which DHCS and TAMS would make joint presentations about the landscaping master plan and further plans for refurbishment. WCCC is willing to organise this for February 2009. If anyone has specific questions they want answered, they should let the WCCC chairman know before that meeting.

Members of the audience felt that the various government agencies need to consider Weston Creek as a whole, and not just act without reference to what other agencies are doing.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.