

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday, 27 November 2013

1. Opening of Meeting

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

Apologies: John Milne, Pam Arkinston, Lance Williamson

Approximately 25 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

1. South Canberra VET Education Delivery – Feasibility Study – Purdon Associates Pty Ltd

A feasibility study has been undertaken on Vocational; Education Training (VET) in South Canberra on behalf of the Canberra Institute of Technology. It covered Weston, Woden and Tuggeranong. The purpose was to determine:

- how VET delivery can be more efficient and effective;
- how to address issues of equality and accessibility; and
- the possibility of selling assets to fund other areas of education.

The Woden site is too large. It was the old Woden High School and was designed for high school education not VET. Four options have been developed:

1. Do nothing
2. Relocate some facilities to Tuggeranong and Bruce. Three facilities and three buildings would be kept at Woden and the rest would be redeveloped. This is the preferred short term option;
3. Relocate everything to Tuggeranong, Bruce and Reid and redevelop the whole site for other things. The learning centre and community campus could co-locate in the Woden Community Hub. This is the preferred medium term option.
4. Declare site surplus and allocate to other uses.

There is a need to establish an appropriate facility in Tuggeranong. There has also been discussion about establishing campuses in Woden Town Centre and Molonglo (the site has not yet been chosen).

The preferred locations for VET facilities are in town centres because they are:

- Close to bus routes;
- Close to employment nodes: and
- Close to other services and shops.

Funding is being sought for Tuggeranong in the next budget round. The proposal is that the site be 2000m² (twice the size of what was originally planned) and for the facility to open in 2016.

A number of questions were asked.

Q. Do you have demographics on where students live? How many students will have extra costs? Why go to Bruce?

A. There are many students on the Northside because of population growth.

Q. How many courses are undersubscribed?

A. The capacity / type of facilities is the issue rather than the number of students.

A number of questions were taken on notice.

Q. Is Bruce full?

Q. Are courses only being offered in one campus?

Q. The City Plan says to close Reid. Were you aware?

Q. Has a cost analysis been done on the upgrading of campuses?

Q. Have the demographics on Woden considered the number of new apartments being erected in Woden?

Q. Have you looked at the age demographics?

Q. Has the CIT done surveys on what the current students think?

A number of issues were raised. These include:

Community Hub:

- The presentation didn't mention the possibility of the VET facility.
- Will VET fit into the Community Hub?
- How will the students feel about the learning centre being dropped into another facility?
- The Community Hub may not be fit for purpose as most training is for employment not hobbies.

Location of learning centres:

- Has a study been done of where the students are from?
- The southside facilities all appear to be going north.
- There has been no mention of Weston.

- By 2020 the population of Weston / Molonglo will be bigger than Woden.
- There are widespread concerns about the Bruce campus.

2. Sergeant Harry Haines and Detective Sergeant Shane Scott

Sergeant Haines and Detective Sergeant Scott spoke about the current police campaigns about drugs and illicit weapons and other matters.

General

The ACT is a safe community. There has been a steady decrease in crime across the board in the last five years. This is due to:

- Good policing
- The opening of the Alexander McConachie Centre
- The decrease in public tolerance of crime resulting in more reporting of crime and suspicious activity
- The contribution of Crime Stoppers. All information received is registered and put in a complex web of resources. They can be contacted on 1800 333 000 or online.

ACT Policing Website

Drugs

There is a strong link between drugs and illicit weapons.

Most drug busts are based on information provided by the public. There is a \$1000 reward. Things to look out for are:

- Visitors for short periods of time – 3-4 minutes
- Over the top security
- Cars meeting in strange places
- Vacant houses that have people coming or going once or twice a day. This could indicate the presence of hydroponic cannabis which is a fire risk with carcinogenic chemicals and uses illegal power OR meth labs which are bad for the environment and cause contamination for many, many years.

Illicit Weapons

The gun buyback in 1996 reduced the crime incidence particularly in relation to domestic violence.

There is a growing trend for weapons to move from Sydney to the ACT.

There is a \$5000 reward for information leading to the arrest or removal of illicit firearms.

A Glock 17 or 19 semi-automatic can be purchased illegally for \$800 or on the black market for \$3000.

Safety House

There are no Safety Houses in operation now. These were set up when children didn't have mobile phones. They hadn't been used for 4-5 years when they were closed.

Safety House was a private organisation not part of the Police.

Safety Places are being set up in clubs, 24 hour service stations etc

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch still exists. The use of it varies but it is very active in some areas of Canberra.

Like Safety House is an incorporated body and is not part of the Police.

Questions

Q. Rebel motorcycle gang has been seen in Canberra. Are they local?

A. They have been in the ACT for a long time. They are the oldest motorcycle club here. They are closely monitored as part of the Australia wide crackdown on outlaw motorcycle gangs.

Q. To what extent is organised crime involved with the outlaw motorcycle gangs? Is there enough money to investigate?

A. It is hard to say. You can draw links but the activities are buried deeply in a maze of companies/businesses.

Extra funding is available from the Commonwealth for large investigations of this type.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Moved: Chris Wilson Seconded: Mal Ferguson Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 30 October 2013

- Report on Seniors.
- Weston/Woden Centre Plan.
The presentation by Chris Purdon (see above) covered this.
Weston Creek is not a real option for the Centre.
- Maintenance of Playgrounds – Lodged with Fix My Street
Will check within 10 days to see if fixed
- Service Station sites – A letter was sent to Simon Corbell seeking an update. Mr Corbell's office responded on 4December advising that:
Rivett: may be sold and if so will take some time but there may be some maintenance soon of the site.
Chapman: waiting for some further environmental approvals before any further work - the DA was approved in June
Duffy: building is well advanced

Treasurer's Report

WCCC has \$5,386-32 in the bank.

Bills to be paid: Nil

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Simon Hearder; Seconded: Mal Ferguson. Motion carried.

General Business

1. Roadworks

A letter was sent out advising that one lane of Streeton Drive from Heysen St to Fitzpatrick Street would be closed until July. The road closures actually include Dixon Drive and extended further up Streeton to past Mullay St.

The Chair contacted Tony Gill of ACT Roads expressing concerns about the:

- the difficulty in turning left from Cotter Road onto Streeton Drive;
- the poorly marked and designed right turn lane into Heysen Street; and
- the difficulties in Mullay Street around St Jude's school.

Concerns were raised at the meeting about the design of the temporary lanes.

It was also suggested that to get onto the Parkway it is easier and quicker to go up Hindmarsh Drive and then onto the Parkway.

It was also suggested that the police should police the 40kmh zone.

The light board advising the Dixon road closure spelt Dixon as Dickson.

Over Christmas the lane closures will remain in place.

ACT Roads undertook to get back to the WCCC about the change of lanes at the Hindmarsh Drive/Namatjira Street intersection. This is to be followed up.

WCCC is seeking an update on the traffic calming devices proposed for Chapman.

2. Draft Masterplan for the Weston Group Centre

There will be no update on the draft Masterplan for the Weston Group Centre. It is expected in the New Year.

3. Draft City Plan – Submission

The WCCC lodged a submission on the draft City Plan on 26 November 2013. The submission supported the concept but disagreed with some aspects. These are:

- Constitution Avenue
 - the stadium concept is not considered appropriate
 - the plans for Constitution Avenue don't link with other aspects of the City Plan
- West Basin
 - WCCC doesn't agree with development in this area. The green space should be kept
- Light Rail
 - This is considered not to be a sensible use of money. It will cost \$600 million and other projects will not be funded because of the cost.
 - Upgrading the bus network is considered to be a better use of funds
- Parking in the City
 - There are 21,000 cars going into the City each day but there are only 10,500 spaces. 71% of cars have only one occupant.
 - There is no provision for a quality Express Park and Ride facility or proper parking on the periphery of the City.

4. Proposed Solar Farm for Uriarra Village

The people of Uriarra have approached the WCCC for advice and assistance in relation to the proposed solar farm for Uriarra Village. It is to be situated directly across the road from the Village.

The block of land is 300 hectares but only 400 hectares will be used for the farm. The residents asked that the position be changed but Minister Corbell refused to change the approval. (WCCC is unsure of the topography of the land).

The concern is that residents were not consulted prior to approval.

The Chair is to follow up the concerns on behalf of the residents of Uriarra Village.

5. Cemetery Trust

A new cemetery is proposed for Tuggeranong at Mugga Lane and Long Gully roads where the gas power plant was proposed.

6. Care Centre in Holder

The Centre will have 120 places. The YMCA won a competitive tender to run it. It should open in May 2014.

7. Combined Councils Meeting 9 November 2013

Some concerns were raised about the impact on small projects because of the large costly projects that are proposed such as light rail.

There was also a concern raised about the loss of open spaces.

8. Old Weston Primary School

There was discussion about the use of the hall. Apparently it can be booked through the Community Services Directorate. Chair to follow up with who manages it.

A suggestion was raised that WCCC put the use of the hall on the website to generate interest.

9. Fetherston Gardens

A general update was given on Fetherston Gardens.

There is an issue about water. There is water there but TAMS are not able to do all of the watering themselves. The water tank is installed and partially covered up but there are no roofs on the DHA site as yet so no water has runoff. The runoff from the DHA site is causing problems and TAMS is supposed to be doing something about it.

At the recent meeting with the Chief Minister it was suggested that it would be more productive to have an automated watering system put in than to have TAMS watering manually.

10. DHA issues

There is an issue regarding the vibrating rollers and the noise. It is difficult to find who to liaise with as the person changes regularly. The developer is supposed to advise residents when rollers are being used.

Concerns were also raised about the removal of trees along Heysen Street. The presentation at a WCCC general meeting said that they would be kept. This has not proven to be the case.

When talking to the construction workers about various issues residents were advised to talk to the Site Manager which proved to be quite effective.

A suggestion was made that WCCC talk to the Department of the Environment if the developer did not prove helpful.

11. Planning and Development Forum

The Forum is looking at regulations in relation to runoff from building sites. The Deputy Chair is to follow up at the next meeting of the Planning and Development Forum on Tuesday 3 December 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 26 February, 2014
Weston Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston