

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday, 26 March 2014

Opening of Meeting

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

Apologies: Mal Ferguson, Pam Arkinstall

Approximately 25 attended the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Defence Housing Authority Update – Will Messiter

Mr. Messiter gave an update on the DHA development at North Weston. He apologised for the delays in the completion of the roundabout at Heysen Street. There were a number of reasons for this including existing services needing to be relocated unexpectedly and bad weather conditions including extreme heat and prolonged wet weather. The rain caused erosion problems which impacted on Fetherston Gardens and the schools. Sediment barriers, in line with EPA guidelines, were erected.

The civil works are expected to be finished at the end of April/early May. Builders are expected to start in May. Two tenders have been awarded. GE Shaw will be building 11 homes and Blackett Homes will be building 14 homes. A total of 50 DHA houses will be built. Another tender has just closed. The remaining blocks will be released to the retail market in December. These will be approximately 500m².

Q. There is a hole in the ground in Hilder Street that has been there for 9 months. When will it be filled?

A. We are waiting for ACTEW to do some work and then it will be filled. We will follow up with ACTEW.

Q. Where are the medium density sites?

A. They are on the corner of Heysen St. They will be released in December. The approval process will take about 3-4 months and then they will be sold to a third party. There is a flagpole in the ground that shows the closest that they will be built to the road. The blue flag shows how high they can go. This is part of the approved EDP.

Q. What will be sold to individuals?

A. 3 medium density sites and 23 residential blocks of 500m² or smaller. There will be a total of 50 residences between the three medium density sites.

Q. The rain events were quite normal and ought to have been anticipated. Local contractors should have known this. Was the planning inadequate? The measures taken were inadequate.

A. The measures taken were in line with EPA standards. The short, sharp weather events exceeded EPA and TAMS predictions. The contractor has had to claim on insurance.

ACTION 2014 Timetable Update – James Roncon and Ian McGlenn

The WCCC submission on ACTION 2014 included Molonglo having its own bus routes and the Xpresso buses being staggered more in the morning and the evening.

Action have been doing some strategic planning around growing the number of buses from 411 (current figure) to 420-450-500. Bids have been made to Government in the current budget process. 35% of buses are over 20 years of age. Real time passenger information is just about complete. 18% of the budget is recovered from fares.

Action has a target of 75% of buses are on time – currently the result is 70%. The service standard is 99.5% but this result has fallen away slightly.

Network 14 has just been released. The routes have been redesigned after consultation. 2300 pieces of feedback were received. The result is increased frequency and new services. There will be a change to school runs after the school holidays. There is a big advertising blitz planned.

The Cotter Road Park and ride has opened. There are dedicated services to Barton Russell and the Brindabella Business Park from Woden. There will be a run from Belconnen- Weston – Tuggeranong. The Cotter Road roadworks have included priority bus lanes at the traffic lights. Routes 25, 26 and 27 have more trips in the morning. There are additional Xpresso trips in the morning and one in the evening. They will run every 10 minutes. Route 28 has been renumbered.

Q. There are no shelters or even seats at many stops. Are there plans to change this?

A. Work is in progress but it gets back to cost. There are 3100 bus stops in the ACT.

Q. Route 28 is always the one that buses/drivers don't turn up for.

A. We are aiming for 99.5% service delivery. If a driver is ill there is a rush to find a reserve/contract driver. On 1 June the first of 77 new buses will be available.

Q. I used to go from Waramanga – Woden – City but it now takes 3 times longer on the bus than in a car. Is there any proposal to have a Park and Ride at Waramanga?

A. We are really trying to straighten the routes as much as possible – to cut out windy routes. People will have to walk a few hundred metres but buses will be more frequent. Most people are in favour.

Q. Is the new route 28 replacement taking the same route?

A. No. Now going through Molonglo.

Q. If there is no direct routes to the City during the day people won't use the buses (i.e. if they have to go through Woden).

A. There is insufficient money and insufficient buses.

Strepton Drive/Cotter Road/Dixon Drive/Unwin Place update – John Husband and Mike McGrath

The roadworks on Cotter Road and Strepton Drive have had a significant impact on the people of Weston Creek. They have endeavoured to give lots of advance notice of the changes. There are processes that are put in place to protect the travelling public and the workers.

Prior to the main traffic switch (close Dixon Drive) all the businesses and schools were contacted personally. The traffic controllers in Mulley Street have been removed because they were not required.

The work in Unwin Drive had been going well but has hit a snag. There is a 750mm water main running through Unwin Place. They knew it was there but the plans (from 1923) did not show that it had a 368mm collar around it. It cannot be removed. This means that the approved plans have to be changed. The road has to be lifted. This will cause a delay of up to eight weeks.

The roadworks are due for practical completion in August 2014.

Parking at Cooleman Court and other roads updates – Tony Gill and Ben McHugh

Mr Gill and Mr McHugh spoke about three topics – an update on parking at Cooleman Court, local area traffic management and Cotter Road Stage two.

Prior to the 2012 ACT election, Labor made a commitment to provide 80 additional car parking spaces at Cooleman Court. The plan is to change Cooleman Court parking to two hour parking and move the all-day parking further away. Additional places will be created in Dillon Close. There needs to be a safe route across Namatjira Drive, probably a pedestrian crossing. People take the shortest route so will not use the underpass. Liardet Street will convert to 90 degree parking. The road is wide enough so it will not be hard to do. The road will still be wide enough for the buses. This will be an overall increase of 80 spaces.

Q. Are there any new spaces for people who use Park and Ride?

A. All new spaces will be all day parking.

Q. When will it be done?

A. The third quarter of 2014-15 if money comes in the budget. The design is completed.

Q. Will the money be in the Budget?

A. It is a priority project but it cannot be guaranteed.

There are four sites for Local Area Traffic Management – Streeton Drive near Hindmarsh Drive, Darwinia Terrace, Streeton Drive near Namatjira Drive and Bunbury Street. This will involve line marking, narrowing of lanes and pedestrian refuges. The contract has been signed and traffic plans are currently being prepared. It is expected to be completed by mid-June.

Cotter Road Stage One has taken 14 months. There is a much better flow of traffic and bus lanes have been added. Stage Two is the continuation of the duplication from Kirkpatrick Street to Tuggeranong Parkway to Yarralumla Creek. This is currently being designed and will need approval. The plan is to build a new carriageway on the northern side. There will be 25 trees removed. This will not affect the equestrians and a noise wall will be put in for the horses. There is no commitment to increasing Adelaide Avenue entrance until the Yarralumla Brickworks development is approved.

Q. When will there be a flyover from Cotter Road to Yamba Drive?

A. It is in plans.

Q. Can the name be changed to Weston Creek Drive?

A. You need to write to the Place Name Change in the Economic and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Q. Are you going to keep the natural waterway? It is quite eroded.

A. Yes – the road will go over the existing waterway.

Q. When will it be finished?

A. Not sure when it is starting but hopefully by 2017.

Q. What are the bridgeworks currently being undertaken on Streeton Drive?

A. Strengthening the bridge for the extra traffic.

Q. Will Mulley Street be resurfaced after having the extra traffic on it?

A. This will be checked after the roadworks are finished.

Q. Many signs are behind trees and other signs.

A. If we are given specific details we will follow up.

Holder Block 21 Section 45 proposal – Christine Luchetti and Bonnie Jackson (Economic Development Directorate)

A proposal has been put forward to rezone Holder Block 21 Section 45 from urban open space to community use. This block is near the old Holder High School. This arose from the Montessori School requesting more land. This area was changed from community usage to urban open space some years ago.

It is hard to find land for community facilities in the ACT. At present there are only 60 blocks left for churches, schools, community centres etc.

When there is a change from urban open space to other zoning there has to be community consultation. This is the start of that process. People may like some of the proposed change but not all of it. There has been some comment that the tennis courts are an eyesore and some concerns about the impact on the gymnasium.

Q. Are you aware of the water main?

A. Yes

Q. The storm water drain should be widened on the plan.

A. It is included in the development.

Q. Why can't you reinstate the tennis courts? They would be used.

A. Make a comment to the consultation.

Q. Why are you doing this for the Montessori School when they are having substantial financial issues? You should talk to the Education Department. (Should we put this in)?

A. We will if changes to the Territory Plan are going to be approved.

Q. If there is a change to community use we could end up with an old people's open or something similar and no open land.

A. Some submissions have come in on the website.

Q. Holder has been letterboxed but Weston should be as well.

A. We will do this.

Q. In new developments isn't land put aside for this type of thing?

A. Normally put aside for schools and shopping centres.

Comments:

If part of it is left open people will support it.

There is great apprehension about this. Over the years there have been many changes to zoning in Weston Creek and there is less open space. The Bahia Centre and the Sikh Activity Centre were told that the land around them would never be rezoned to housing and now it has. On the Archery Club side of the storm water drain there is land put aside for future development. We wouldn't like to lose both sides.

There will be drop in meetings at the Grant Cameron buildings on 2nd April from 11.00am-1.00pm and from 4.30pm – 6.30pm. It was suggested that notices be put in Cooleman Court, the Southside Chronicle and the Canberra Times.

If there are enough comments against the development it will not proceed. The closing date for comments is 16th April, 2014.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 26 February 2014

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

Moved: Chris Wilson Seconded: Rosemary Drabsch Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 26 February 2014

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

- Balance in the account is \$16157.

General Business

- There are changes to Coppins Crossing road in April. John Gorton Drive will have to be used.
- The Weston Community Hub Hall will now be managed by the WCC Association.
- The draft Masterplan was due for release in 2012. It is still being drafted.
- A series of Strategic Bushfire Management Plan public meetings are to be held.

Other Business

- Fetherston Gardens will be closed in April and May to enable an automatic watering system to be installed. The working bees can still go ahead.
- WCCC has lobbied Shane Rattenbury to have both proposed car parks for Cooleman Court (Dillon Close and Liardet Street) to be approved.
- The roadworks being managed by the EDD are running close to schedule
- The WCCC submission regarding Action Buses has had some success

The meeting closed at 10.02pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 30 April, 2014 7.30 pm
Weston Community Hub Hall (in the Old Weston
Primary School)