

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday, 30 July 2014

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.33pm. The Deputy Chair welcomed members and guests including Guilia Jones, Danielle Young (from Ms Jones' office), Katherine Campbell, Petra Oswald, Kristin Blume, Alison Moore (ACT Government) and Emma Kelly (Chronicle)

Apologies: Tom Anderson, Chris Wilson, Trevor Wilson, Tony Jurd, Rose Jurd, John Milne

54 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Draft Master Plan for the Weston Group Centre

Community consultation on the Draft Masterplan for the Weston Group Centre will be open for eight weeks until 10 August. There has been a lot of community consultation including stakeholder reference groups and displays up in Cooleman Court. This is the last stage of consultation. It covers 0-10 years, 10-20 years and 20-30 years hence.

The draft Masterplan has been developed in line with various ACT government strategies including:

- The ACT Planning Strategy - looking at existing town centres and hubs for infill
- Transport for Canberra – the need to integrate land use planning with transport
- Climate Change Strategy – has been considered in the draft Masterplan in built up areas.

The draft Masterplan is to go to parliament at the end of the year.

The vision for Weston is 'An attractive village in the valley with pleasant and safe surrounds to enjoy, convenient access to shops and services, a sustainable built environment and opportunities for all to socialize and participate in community life'.

The challenges are:

- limited linkages to north and south areas
- poor pedestrian connection
- poor public space amenity
- Trenerry Street vehicular access
- supermarket loading dock
- no active frontage – blank wall
- internal access and entrance to Cooleman Court
- primary vehicular access thoroughfare and intersection

- major drainage line

The opportunities are:

- Weston Creek green spine improvements
- traffic diversion to Liardet Street
- new rapid bus route (including a new stop)
- Trenerry Square upgrade
- additional car parking
- open space upgrade
- wetland/oval upgrade
- land for future development
- land for commercial core
- land for community use

Strategies – Land use

Building heights up to six storeys

- allow for growth in the centre
- integrate residential into the centre
- encourage small business in the existing service trades area
- retain community land use policy

Strategies – public realm

- connect and enhance public places
- public places include an expanded Trenerry Square, recreational spaces and the Weston Creek 'green spine'

Strategies – Transport

- additional car parking
- integrate car parking with development
- improve traffic flow at intersections
- improve connections on pedestrian and cycle network
- integrate frequent rapid transport

Draft 0-10 years

Masterplan response:

- Cooleman Court is interested in expansion
- economic studies show that there is the capacity to accommodate an additional full line supermarket in Cooleman Court
- centre to be serviced by two large car parks with a capacity of 500 vehicles

Possible Eastern extension

- no co-location of community and health areas
- takes over existing community centre and the Presbyterian Church (discussions have been held with the Presbyterian Church regarding an alternate site)
- have undercroft parking and parking up to roof depending on how much retail is allowed for

Community uses

- south side of Parkinson Street – block of land opposite south car park

Brierley Street

- to be more pedestrian friendly
- block off access to Trenerry Square
- make it a shared zone
- need to allow access for service vehicles
- some car parking
- reduce speed to 20-30kmh
- divert traffic through Liardet Street

Transport

- Parkinson Street – Woden, rapid and local buses
- 0-10 years connect to Blue City Rapid through Woden
- 10-20 years connect to Red City Rapid through Molonglo

Liardet Street

- long term car parks on both sides of the road built in 2015

Dillon Close

- parking extended to the South

Service Station

- planned release of land in Kirkpatrick Street 2015-16

Draft 10-20 years

Integrate residential areas

Q. Why are you not recommending any landscaping until 10-20 years

A. Some will be done earlier but not the Weston Creek oval

20+ years

- Redevelop the Raiders club
- allow for mixed use residential

Consultation/Feedback

- Approximately 350 people attended the two information sessions at Cooleman Court
- 10 people attended the last Stakeholder Reference Group meeting with there being four stakeholder reference group meetings in total
- 57 feedback forms were received with two thirds of these being from people over 60
- 5 individual submissions were received

Emerging Messages

Overall the views were positive

Supported aspects

- additional car parking in Liardet Street and Dillon Close
- retail expansion with more car parking and new community centre
- Brierley Street and Trenerry Square upgrade
- expanded walking network and pedestrian linkages

- rapid public transport services
- additional community uses on Parkinson Street

Q. Are some car parks being taken away?

A. Not in the first stage while the commercial area at Molonglo is still being developed - there will be additional car parks.

Any development on current car parking areas would need to replace the lost spaces. There will be disruption, however, during the 10-20 and 20-30 year developments whilst the building is going on. The actual numbers long term are not known but there will be a net gain.

Issues

- timing of retail expansion, community centre renewal and oval upgrade
- parking provision in general
- disability parking and parking for the elderly
- community centre and noise related issues for the adjacent residences
- mixed views on building heights
- frequency of bus services and travel time
- community services to be more multigenerational
- traffic safety on Liardet and McNally Streets

Next Steps

- consultation will be from 27 June to 10 August 2014
- final Masterplan is anticipated by the end of 2014
- draft precinct codes are anticipated by the end of 2014. (The Masterplan is a high level document. It recommends precinct codes which are part of the Territory Plan. Heights of buildings are set and the Masterplan goes back out for consultation).

Q. Dillon Close is where the tennis courts are. what parking will there be for tennis players?

A. There will be long term parking and short term parking for tennis players. Consultation has been held with the Tennis Court Executive.

Q. Have you taken underground parking to experienced developers? Most say that it won't make any money.

A. We have spoken to developers and looked at costings. It is cheaper to build podium parking but it can be made to work.

Q. There has been a push for a pool and a library in Weston Creek but they are not on the plan.

A. An aquatic centre will be built at South Molonglo. We had discussions with the library people who said that they only put them into Town Centres not Group Centres. You may be able to have a travelling library and a reading room but this would be owned by the community centre.

Guilia Jones advised that she asked Shane Rattenbury about the library closure at Weston Creek at Estimates. He advised that there has been more money allocated for libraries coming to the home.

Q. Who have you spoken to at the Presbyterian Church? No-one has the right to make a decision except the congregation and no one has approached us. The value of the site is \$1.5 million. You need to come to the congregation with hard ideas. Relocation is a dead

issue.

A. We have spoken to Mrs Bartholomew, Mr Doug Leany and Mr John Quantill. We also received a written submission from the Presbyterian Church.

Q. The access to Streeton Drive with traffic lights is good but this will increase the traffic around McDonalds which would become a dangerous area.

A. We will talk to TAMS who did the traffic planning

Q. It is dangerous turning from Mulley Street to Streeton Drive. Can something be done?

A. We will take note.

Q. Bikes are now allowed to use the pedestrian crossing on Brierley Street to Trenerry Square and it is dangerous. What will you do?

A. The pedestrian crossing will be wider and the traffic will be slower.

Q. Are there any other proposed sites for the relocation of the community centre?

A. The only site considered is the southern side of Parkinson Street.

Q. Why isn't the community centre in the Shopping Centre?

A. It has been placed close to transport.

Q. Why are four storeys planned?

A. It is good for residential units, suits the climate change agenda. Some people are in favour, some not. You will not get consensus on the idea.

Q. Are there any toilets on the plan?

A. This needs to be brought up with TAMS.

Q. Is light rail on the plan?

A. The corridors for light rail will be in the Light Rail Masterplan. The initial findings of the Light Rail Masterplan will be out in November/December 2014.

Pat McGinn, Deputy Chair Weston Creek Community Council advised that at the last Combined Community Councils meeting that all community councils thought that light rail should go to Weston Creek next.

Q. Is there going to be a pedestrian crossing from Dillon Close?

A. This is being considered as part of the parking plan. It will probably be a pedestrian crossing.

Q. Will the planned parking spaces include paid parking?

A. Not that we are aware of.

Q. Do you know how much long term parking is being used as short term parking?

A. No. The issue is normally short term parking being used as long term parking.

Q. Why is there not a multi storey car park?

A. To maintain the amenity of the area. A multi storey car park would disrupt car parking for 18 months while it was being built.

Q. What impact will paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle have on the parking issue at Cooleman Court?

A. We don't know.

Pat McGinn, Deputy Chair, advised that the Weston Creek Community Council is pushing for more buses. Passengers can use the Park and Ride at Kirkpatrick Street. There will be a new route from Belconnen-Cooleman Court-Tuggeranong.

Q. Where will the Park and Ride be?

A. The precinct is not intended as a Park and Ride route.

Q. Are you expecting the population to increase so considerably that we need such a big development?

A. The customers will draw from a wider area than Weston Creek. Studies have shown that the area can support a third supermarket.

You can get the population forecasts from Economic Planning Directorate.

Q. Where the community centre is has consideration been given to only having two storeys because of the residences behind?

A. Can have up to four storeys but can only have two storeys unless more than 30 metres from a residential area.

Q. What provision has been made for bike access?

A. We have mapped out cycle areas around the centre. Some of these are shared with cars and pedestrians.

Q. The current children's play area is being covered.

A. It will be moved to where there is more open space.

Q. Will it be fenced (because of water course)?

A. There is normally no water in the water course but it has flooded in the past. We have had flood planning done.

Q. Brierley Street and Trenerry Square are showing as four storeys. Will the existing buildings be knocked down?

A. This will happen over the next 20-30 years. They are owned by a variety of owners so they will decide. The Masterplan allows permission for it to happen but implementation will be outside of the Masterplan.

Yarralumla Brickworks development

Maria Fatseas from the Yarralumla Residents Association gave a short presentation on the proposed development at the Yarralumla Brickworks site.

1600 dwellings of up to eight storeys high are planned for where Cotter Road meets Adelaide Avenue.

Traffic from Weston Creek will no longer have access along Dudley Street but will have to exit the Cotter Road earlier and enter via the new Brickworks road which will be shared with the Governor General. The alternative is to use Hopetoun Circuit which could also be the major entrance for persons travelling south as the bridge over Adelaide Avenue at Novar Street will become very congested. Until 2030 there will only be traffic lights to control traffic flow. Originally, an overpass was going to be part of the development but this has been deferred. This will be an issue for Weston Creek and Molonglo residents as more people move into the new suburbs. Yarralumla and Deakin will also be impacted.

No real community facilities are being planned for the site so residents will need to go to Cooleman Court or Woden to do their shopping.

A previous proposal was to complete a full scale restoration of the site. However the current proposal is to 'make safe' the brickworks at a cost of \$1.5m with no funds allocated for any restoration or indeed any remedial work.

Ms Fatseas has brought along a petition for concerned residents to sign. Yarralumla Residents Association is hoping to hand it over on Monday 4 August with tabling in Parliament on Wednesday 6 August.

WCCC will put in a submission noting our concerns about the lack of a complementary traffic plan and the lack of facilities for residents.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 25 June 2014

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting of 25 June 2014 be approved as circulated.

Moved: Rosemary Drabsch

Seconded: Simon Harder Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 25 June 2014

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

- \$10,478 in the bank account.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be approved.

Moved: Mal Ferguson

Seconded: Max Kwiatkowski

Motion Carried

General Business

August Meeting

Jeremy Hanson will be speaking at the August meeting. If anyone has any topics that they want covered let the Committee know and we will let him know.

The August meeting will also be the Annual General Meeting so please consider nominating for the committee.

Other Business

Omnibus Territory Plan Variation

Variations to Territory Plans are normally done one block at a time. This Variation covers 17 blocks two of which are in our area.

- Stirling – next to where the BUPA aged care facility is being built. The land is being changed to commercial. the WCCC doesn't consider this to be an issue.
- Eucambene/Cotter Road – this is ion the area previously referred to as Deeks Forest Park. The plan is to put in a caravan park, motel and retail. WCCC is having a meeting with EPD (what is full name) get more information. Please put any opinions you might have on the WCCC website.

Light Rail Master Plan

The Masterplan is moving along quite rapidly. WCCC is attending as many meetings as possible to ensure that we have up to date information.

Updated information can be found on the Capital Metro website.

Water Management Plan

The ACT Water Management Plan is being released on Monday 1 August 2014. WCCC will attend the launch. Weston Creek will be affected by the Plan.

Medicare Local

There are proposed changes to the Medicare Local services. ACT Medicare Local is the ACT's chief primary health organisation. It was established in 2011.

The federal government did a review of Medicare Local's structure, operations and functions as well as options for future directions.

The Review recommended replacing Medicare Locals with a smaller number of Primary Health Organisations and not funding a national body. These new organisations will be called Primary Health Networks (PHNs). This will take effect from 1 July 2015.

ACT Medicare Local is keen to workshop the proposed changes with community Councils.

Guilia Jones

Ms Jones advised that she had followed up on the pool of stagnant water at the end of Hindmarsh Drive mentioned at the February meeting. A drain has now been put in and it

has been fenced.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

**Next Meeting Wednesday 27 August, 2014
Weston Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston**