

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday, 26 August, 2015

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.35pm.

The Deputy Chair welcomed members and guests including Shane Rattenbury

Apologies: Tom Anderson

18 people attended the meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 29 July, 2015

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

Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Chris Wilson Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 29 July, 2015

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

Main Account \$4,641.26
Fetherston Gardens \$16,806-29

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be received.

Moved: Chris Wilson Seconded: Shelby Schofield Motion carried

General Business

Bonfire 15 August 2015

- over 1000 people attended
- there were fire twirlers, music, food vendors and activities
- we received good feedback

Submissions done this month

- Basin Priority Project
- Draft Territory Plan Variation 343

Meeting with Katy Gallagher

- The Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary met with Katy Gallagher in her new role as Senator
- We discussed issues relevant to Weston Creek
- Senator Gallagher was impressed with the idea of the bonfire

Meeting venue change

- The meeting will be changed, as a trial for three months, to St Jude's School hall, Mulley Street Holder
- There are access and parking issues at the Raiders Club
- There is also a problem with the member's draws and raffle draws interrupting the meeting

Social Media

- WCCC has a Facebook account
- WCCC will shortly have a twitter account

Q. The sports and recreation hall is losing business. There is no parking at the Indoor Cricket Centre. When will this be changed? Who can I talk to about it?

A. There is extra parking at Dillon Close and Liardet Street. The Weston Creek Masterplan has suggested that there may be some multi storey car parking in the future but there are no guarantees. There is very little spare land but if you have some ideas we can advocate on your behalf. We can assist you to put in a submission to various Ministers.

PRESENTATION – Shane Rattenbury
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Minister for Justice

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Transport Reform

Shopping Centre Upgrades

- There have been upgrades to Waramanga and Chapman shops
- An upgrade is planned for Rivett shops in 2015-16
- The upgrades include revised paths, improved lighting, ramps, paving and shrubbery □
They do not include upgrades to the shops.

Budget

- The increase in the number of parking spaces has been finished
- The Weston Masterplan ○ Funding has been approved for an upgrade to Trenerry Square and Brierley Street.

- This is in the design stage with planning underway.
- It will include new trees, be more pedestrian friendly and will have more active areas

Q. Will the number of carparks be reduced?

A. Not at this stage.

Age friendly improvements

- The ACT has signed up to an age friendly program. This will see the following being undertaken:
 - Footpath and road crossing improvements
 - Removal of trip hazards
 - Traffic calming devices installed
 - Realignment of ramps
 - Rest points in the middle of the road
 - Verge maintenance

Action buses

- Data is 'tweaked' every six months
- My Way data and driver data is used
- Improvements to the timetable are expected in October
- Real time data shows
 - Service reliability is at 99.5% - the best in Australia
 - On time running (one minute early to four minutes late) is at 79%, up from 73% and above target.
- Surveys show that 76% of people, who use Action buses, are satisfied with the service – up from 65% last year.
- In Weston Creek
 - 725 and 726 morning Xpressos are departing later
 - There is an additional morning 726 to the city
 - There are improved connections to the Parliamentary Triangle from Woden
 - There has been a large growth in patronage. Xpresso passengers have risen from 1400 to 3000 per month.
- In Molonglo
 - There has been a good steady growth in patronage
 - Buses are going in early so people get good travel habits
 - From October there will be more buses.

Q. There needs to be a change to the timetable at Woden College. There is a half hour wait for a bus to Weston Creek. Has anyone asked the college what time they finish?

A. No-one has mentioned this before. I will follow up.

□ The October 2015 changes will see:

- A bus passing the Park and Ride every 10 minutes from 7:21am to 8:31am
- A 15 minute journey time to the city.

Q. Can we have a sign at the Park and Ride on Cotter Road? At present there isn't one.

A. I will follow it up.

Q. We live at Waramanga and there used to be buses at Waramanga, Fisher and other areas close by where we live. Now there is only one bus and it is a long walk. Why?

A. There have been compromises in bus timetabling. People don't want buses meandering through the suburbs. Some people are now further away from buses. This allows for more buses at other times and in other areas leading to increased services and increased coverage.

- There is a free flexible bus service available:

- It is for seniors and people with a disability ○ It will pick up at home and take people shops, hospitals etc.
- It will be via a wheelchair accessible mini van ○ Bookings must be made in advance
- It operates from 9.30am to 2.00pm
- It uses the buses that are used for the school bus runs ○ There have been more than 7200 services ○ The phone number is **6205 3555**.

Sport and Recreation

- The Arawang netball courts have been upgraded
- Four new cricket bay nets have been provided at Waramanga

Works in Woden and Molonglo Valley

- Woden athletics park
- Philip oval has been upgraded
- new soccer facility at Melrose High
- a proposal to increase the size of the Woden cemetery
- improved walking and cycling access to Woden Town Centre
- Molonglo River recreation facility including a walkway, bridge, seating and fencing to keep dogs out of the environmentally sensitive areas
- Woden bus interchange upgrade including demolishing and revamping the area near the shops. \$3.25m has been allocated in the 2015-16 budget for the next stage

Q. Is there parking at the Molonglo River recreation facility?

A. There are indented bays on the roadside

Q. How long until the bus interchange s finished?

A. The first stage will be this financial year but not sure when.

Q. Have they taken into account the wind problem around Woden?

A. I assume so but not sure. Economic Development Directorate is looking after it.

ACT Water Catchment Management Basin Priority Project

- WCCC had a presentation at the last meeting

Q. The Weston Oval is classified as being disused and is being considered for a storm water treatment wetland/bio retention system. We are using the oval including for our recent bonfire.

A. If feedback is that people want to keep the oval then it may stay. But it may become a wetland. We are seeking feedback early.

Q. There is not much that has been done to improve water quality in Weston Creek.

A. In 2010 the Commissioner for Environment had a look at water quality issues. The Commonwealth allocated \$85m to a project that didn't go ahead. The Commissioner was asked, by Shane Rattenbury, to repurpose the money which has now been allocated to the Basin Priority Project.

Q. There are two retention ponds and gross pollutant traps at Weston ponds that are concrete. Why is so much concrete still being used?

A. It is disappointing that so much concrete is still being used.

Cat containment

Q. Is all of Coombs a cat containment area?

A. Yes. All new suburbs near bush will be cat containment areas. Boundaries will be set early. We are looking at all of Canberra. We are looking at retro fitting some areas but you need to give people some time to get organised. There is a ten year lead in time during which time most cats die. New kittens get used to being inside.

Q. Is there anything new on verge management?

A. TAMS has been asked for details on the rules about nature strips. I (Shane Rattenbury) would like to see them used to grow food but there may be height restrictions. The alternative view is that they be left for pedestrian access.

Waste Policies

Q. Will we get a green waste pickup?

A. we have a very effective system now using trash packs. The service would cost \$8-12m for the ACT government to do. What services would need to be dropped for this. Currently approximately 90% of waste goes to recycling. We are looking at what infrastructure needs to be built in the future including for green waste.

Q. Will there be a new campaign on what can be recycled?

A. There was something about six months ago where the advice was changed in relation to lids. They need to be removed because the machines think the objects are full if they have the lids on and they go to landfill.

Q. Can we have a large rubbish pickup? They have them elsewhere.

A. This reduces the rate of recycling. It would cost about \$10m pa. There is a free system for pensioners. There are professional services available that cost about \$100 and it is user pays so it wouldn't have to go onto the rates. If things are dumped let ACCESS know.

Parking Policies

Q. In Liardet Street a Park and Ride permit zone has been put in from 7.30 to 10.00am. It has taken out about 12 car parks. What is this?

A. It is an incentive to use buses. The spaces can be used by anyone after 10.00am. Perhaps the signage could be improved.

Q. 86 new car spaces were promised. We got 72 and 12 have been taken away for the Park and Ride. How many parallel parks were taken away to get the nose in car parks? A. I will follow up.

Q. Could we fast track the multi-storey car park before Mirvac expands Cooleman Court?

A. No. There are more cars per person in Canberra than ten years ago. Multi storey car parks will almost certainly be paid parking. This will change what people do. They will go to Kambah Village or Woden.

Q. Can you put in a loading zone at the Indoor Cricket Centre?

A. I will look into it.

Q. How does the Park and Ride work?

For the permit zone at Cooleman Court you need to get a permit through the ACTION website. The Park and Ride at Cotter Road is free.

Buses

Q. Are you looking at having Xpresso buses all day into the City?

A. We would need more buses. There are now three buses a day each way that go from Belconnen to Tuggeranong through the Park and Ride at Weston. They link with peak period buses.

A. How much does a bus cost? A.

\$550k.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 30 September 2015
St Jude's School
Mulley Street Holder