

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 24 February 2016

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.34pm. The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests

Apologies: Louise Young, Greg Gilbert, Chris Wilson, Max Kwiatkowski

18 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

ACT Police – Sergeant Harry Haines

Sergeant Haines advised that we should always report anything that we think is strange and you can remain anonymous.

Sergeant Haines spoke about the crime statistics in Weston Creek for 2014 and 2015. Some of the statistics are:

	2014	2015
Assault	70	122

Most of these were in the home. There is new legislation in the ACT in relation to domestic violence which allows the police to film a conversation with the victim and present it in court as their statement so they don't have to go through it again or face the perpetrator.

Sexual Assault	20	32 (Mostly in the home)
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Burglary	102	105
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Most of these relate to building activity and are equipment, copper cabling and tools are the biggest targets.

Theft	322	576
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A lot of the crime relates to smash and grabs from cars. The majority has been committed by one gang.

Q. Is it possible to steal an infrared electronic signature from a car remote?

A. Yes it is.

Q. There has been a spate of teenagers getting into unlocked cars. Have they been caught?

A. Yes, there was a group targeting Tuggeranong, Woden Valley and Weston Creek. Forensics have identified over 400 offences.

The statistics drop when there is an arrest.

Overall, while there has been an increase in Woden Valley and Weston Creek we are still tracking well against the average across the ACT.

Q. Do you map where and what crimes are happening?

A. Yes we do. Police are not invisible and it is hard to prove an offence when you pull people over.

If a house is burgled it is ten times more likely that those houses around it will be burgled within the next month. Offenders usually live in the area. Building sites are popular because they have attractive items to steal and no-one is around.

Q. What can you do about burnouts? How do you catch them?

A. This is a transient problem. There are several popular sites around Canberra and burnouts are usually organized on social media. If people witness it they should report it through Crimestoppers and advise the type of car, colour, number plates and whether the plates are ACT or NSW. Any of this information is useful – you don't have to have it all.

ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – Simon French and Peta Olesen

The draft ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy announced by Minister Corbell on 22 February 2016. The consultation period lasts for six weeks until 3 April 2016. Mr. French and Ms. Olesen attended this meeting to raise awareness of the strategy.

The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (a disallowable instrument) mandates:

- 40% below 1990 emissions by 2020
- 80% below 1990 emissions by 2050
- Carbon neutral by 2060
- Peaking per capita emissions by 2013
- 90% renewable electricity supply by 2020.

AP2 released in 2012 contains 18 actions. 12 of these are mitigation and four are adaptation.

What is adaptation?

- Preparing for inevitable changes in our climate
- Compels us to consider the impacts of climate change in the ways we live, work and play
- Acknowledges that basing decisions on 'business-as-usual' is no longer appropriate
- Seeks to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience.

Q. What is the difference between mitigation and adaptation?

A. Mitigation is reducing emissions over a long period of time. Adaptation is what we do in our communities to prepare for change.

What are the climate change impacts in the ACT? In conjunction with NSW:

- Maximum temperatures are projected to increase by 0.6-0.9% in the near future (2020-2039) and 1.4- 2.3% (2060-2079) in the far future
- Minimum temperatures are projected to increase by 0.4-0.7% in the near future and 1.4-2.3% in the far future
- The number of hot days will increase
- The number of cold nights will decrease
- Rainfall is projected to decrease in the spring
- Rainfall is projected to increase in summer and autumn e.g. rain will come down in one day rather than say five days
- Average fire weather is projected to increase in spring, summer and winter
- The number of severe fire weather days is projected to increase in summer and spring.

What is the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy?

Objectives:

- Reduce our vulnerability to impacts of extreme weather events
- Increase our resilience to climate change shocks and stressors.

Principles:

- No-regrets
- Intergenerational equity
- Decision lifetime consideration
- Shared responsibility.

Projections:

- Incremental change masks urgency
- Extreme events are a major concern.

The Strategy was developed by a Whole of Government approach – EnAACT. It is an outcome focused strategy with four outcomes:

- Territory-wide resilience e.g. going to the cinema on a hot day
- A city for all seasons e.g. maintaining parks, building better houses to withstand changes in temperature, solar orientation
- Opportunity for adaptation innovation e.g. attracting businesses to the ACT and they have to contribute to education, innovation etc.
- Integration e.g. make sure that something happening in one sector doesn't adversely impact others.

Q. Are small blocks hard to make efficient?

A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by resilience in the community? What are examples of innovation?

A. Resilience is how we respond to weather events. Insulation, double glazing, draught proofing, solar panels (a mitigation), storm water drains.

Q. It can cost \$50-100k for a reasonably sized house. There needs to be real incentives and to demonstrate the benefits in plain English.

A. There are some incentives available. ACT Smart Program will come and do an assessment of the whole house and find small improvements. There are some assistance programs.

Q. What are the economic benefits?

A. It is difficult to value. We can't do it that far in advance.

Q. How do you make people actually make the changes?

A. We need to make it the norm e.g. double glazing. There needs to be improved building standards nationally. Design standards also need to improve.

There are conflicts within government departments:

- Six weeks is not long enough to respond to 22 actions
- The government is reducing greenspace
- There is a conflict between trees and streetscapes
 - We have eucalypts when deciduous trees are better
 - Can't put trees on nature strips
- Small blocks don't allow for trees
- Should make double glazing, solar panels and solar hot water compulsory for new houses.

ACT Asbestos Removal Taskforce – Lynette Marsh and Emily Springett

Since we visited in July 2015 there has been a lot of demolition in Chapman and Rivett. Weston Creek has had 42 demolitions with four more expected by the end of 2016. This is deliberate because houses on the fringe of bushfire areas are taking precedence. There are 188 properties in Weston Creek. 50% of the demolitions to date have been in Weston Creek. 200 houses will be demolished in 2016.

827 properties have been purchased. The ACT Asbestos Removal Taskforce (the taskforce) are looking after the security, maintenance etc. Offers in excess of \$700 million have been made. 86 houses have been demolished and 869 relocation grants have been made. Asbestos management plans are in place for those staying in their homes until 2020.

Q. What is the risk of homeless people moving in and issues such as theft etc.?

A. The taskforce looks after security. There hasn't been a large number of incidents and we work with neighbours who have a 24 hour number to call. The lawns are mowed every three weeks. There is a back to base alarm in some houses. The doors and windows are screwed closed from the inside. Items such as air conditioners have red paint on them so they cannot be resold, this reduces the amount of theft. There has been very little dumping. The houses will be fenced right up to resale.

Q. How do the neighbours know if a house is to be demolished?

A. There is a demolition schedule by suburb, there are letterbox drops in the street and contractors will talk to neighbours at least five days prior to demolition. If there are any queries you can ring **132281**. You can also ring the contractor once the notice goes up on the fence.

Q. Is the land sold as is i.e. with landscaping and freestanding garages?

A. Yes.

There are 186 clusters of two or more houses accounting for 531 properties. Weston Creek has 36 clusters.

Q. How were clusters formed?

A. Mr Fluffy gave group discounts.

There is an Impacted Property Buy Back Scheme. This is where properties may have a shared wall or something similar. Nine properties have been identified.

The resale process is starting soon:

- There is an option to rebuild on your old land. The first right of refusal is to former owners
- They are guaranteed that the reserve will be no lower than the offer price to them
- If they say no the properties go to public auction.

Where are people moving to?

- Weston Creek 15%
- Woden Valley 16%
- Inner South 6%
- North Canberra 9%
- Belconnen 22%
- Gungahlin 8%
- Tuggeranong 24%

As people relocate the government looks at what additional services are required for the area.

Q. What are the stamp duty concessions?

A. The stamp duty is calculated at sale and then held in trust for owners to use at next purchase. It can't be split or transferred.

Q. Is there a timeframe for rebuilding once the property is sold?

A. They have two years to commence. There are no amendments to the Development Application process so the normal course of action applies.

Draft Variation 343 says that blocks are RZ1 only. Blocks that are 700m² can do dual occupancy but planning permission is needed. There are more than 800 blocks in this category. RZ1 can have dual occupancy but not units. Cluster blocks cannot be consolidated to enable units to be built.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 25 November 2015

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

Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Pat McGinn Carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 25 November 2015

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

- \$13,598-58 Main Account
- \$3,520-90 Fetherston Garden Account

WCCC has received its annual grant from the ACT Government.

Business arising from the Treasurer's Report

- Nil

Other Business

Submissions WCCC committee is preparing/has prepared responses since Christmas:

- Nature Strip guidelines – out for consultation
- Review of water pricing
- Vegetation clearance distances
- City and Gateway Urban Renewal Strategy
- Cotter Road Upgrade
 - The DA went in over Christmas
 - Has been approved

- May be funded this year
- Conservation Council strategy
- 40km zones around shopping centres
- Proposed changes to Streeton Drive and Namitjira Street intersection
- DVA 346 – solar access provision
- Building regulatory review
- DHA unit development overlooking Heysen Street

Committees

- Waste Feasibility study (looking at 57 waste streams)
- Airport Consultative group

Motion: That the WCCC send a list of submissions and committees to all MLAs outlining the burden on the community since Christmas.

Moved: Pat McGinn

Seconded: Shelby Schofield

Carried

A thanks was given to Tom Anderson for his letter regarding the height of units overlooking Heysen Street.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23 March 2016 not 30 March 2016 as scheduled.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

**Next Meeting Wednesday 23 March 2016
St Jude's Primary School hall
Mulley Street, Holder**