

DRAFT Minutes

Monthly Public Meeting – 2 May 2007

Weston Creek Community Council

ATTENDING

N Tregoning
K Paulson
Alastair Dunston
C Wilson
T Wilson
R Stevens
B Campbell
R Drabsch

J Burke
S Liebke
W Groves
C van Moort
B Sutherland
E Irvine
T Dalton

(apologies for any incorrect spelling of people's names)

Apologies

H Shelton, J Fry, D McCarthy

PROCEEDINGS

Meeting open 7.45 PM

1. Minutes 28 March meeting passed.

2. Discussion – future use of closed school sites at Weston and Rivett.

Open discussion on the community's priorities for the closed school sites in preparation for Minister Hargreaves' attendance at 30 May Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) public meeting.

Background – school sites were closed in 2006. ACT government announced that the community would be consulted on the future use of the sites. The process for this consultation has not as yet been announced. The WCCC has invited Minister Hargreaves to attend a public meeting of the WCCC as the Weston Creek community expects to be able to have input into the decision.

Community priorities/questions for the Minister (Not in order of priority).

Questions

- **What is the ACT Government's process for making decisions** about the future use of the closed school sites?
- **How will the community be able to have input into the decision?**
- **Would the ovals be sold off with the schools?**

- **What is happening with the Molonglo development and is the Government taking the needs and resources in Weston Creek into account** in its planning for the area i.e. the Weston Creek school sites could be used for services which could also service the Molonglo.

Community vision for the closed school sites

Summary

- **School sites to be used in such a way as to enhance Weston Creek and meet community needs i.e. landscaped and maintained outdoor recreation areas, improved indoor recreation facilities, indoor swimming pool/hydro-therapy, range of quality aged care options, quality child care and affordable venues for not-for-profit and community organisations to meet.**
- **Any development should be based on sound social planning, which facilitates social interaction between generations, promotes a sense of community and encourages physical activity.**
- **If the land is sold for private development, provisions should be included in the sale to ensure that the development meets the above needs.**
- **One possibility might be private development of an aged care and child care facility which offers various levels of supported aged care, with surrounding public parkland and recreation area which can be accessed by all generations.**

Specific items raised at meeting

- **Community/not-for-profit organisations should continue to have access to rooms/halls at non-commercial rates** The schools are currently accessed by community groups. If the sites are privately developed, affordable access by these groups should be a condition of sale/development.
- **Sites remain open space/park/recreation areas.** The existing open space surrounding the schools is currently accessed by the community and forms green belts within Weston Creek. If the land is developed it is vital to the well-being of residents of Weston Creek that some of the site remains open recreation/park land. If the land is sold, this should be a provision of the sale/private development. Funds should be allocated to landscaping.
- **Quality accommodation for older people** which encompasses a range of needs i.e. independent living, supported care, nursing care etc.
- **Indoor pool and multi-purpose recreation center** built on one of the sites which could be accessed by all generations and a range of users i.e. hydrotherapy, swimming pool and other indoor sports.
- **Quality Child Care.** There is a lack of quality child care in the area. The school sites could be utilised to address this.

Other questions for the Minister

- What is being done to address the significant smell of sewerage in Holder/Weston Creek?
- Who should the WCCC talk to within ACT government about erecting shade cloths over a number of playgrounds in parks in Weston Creek? To date, none of the departments contacted have been able to help the WCCC with this matter.

- Please clarify the nature of the development between Warragamba Avenue and the Cotter Road. Is the *entire* area between Eucumbene Drive and Streeton Drive being developed? This land was previously tagged as open space and 100's of trees have been planted.
- What can the government do to assist small community groups? I.e. the History Group currently pays rent for access to two rooms at one of the closed school sites. Will the Group continue to have access to such spaces?
- What is being done about hazards at previously closed school sites, i.e. the dilapidated wire fence around the old Holder High? Wire from this fence currently sticks out onto the walkway along the Streeton Drive storm water drain and poses a safety risk.
- The park/open space around the old Holder Primary School is being degraded by work vehicles driving around the newly built perimeter fence. Can this site please be rehabilitated after the current building work is completed?
- Temporary (or permanent) traffic lights needed for the Coppins Crossing – William Hovel Drive intersection as traffic is banking up causing a hazard, particularly due to the increased traffic flow resulting from the work on the Gunghalin bypass.

ACTION

The above mentioned questions and priorities to be sent to Minister Hargreaves prior to the 30 May WCCC meeting, and raised with him directly at the meeting.

3. Remaining items from last public WCCC meeting

Public Transport

Concern over the lack of direct buses between Weston Creek and Civic, and Weston Creek and the Canberra Hospital, amongst other things. ACT government is currently calling for public submissions on public transport.

ACTION

- **Bob Sutherland to draft WCCC submission.**
- **People interested in being on a WCCC transport sub-committee to contact Tim Dalton (tbdalton@yahoo.com.au).**

Sewerage

The WCCC has written to the Chief Minister about the matter and is awaiting a reply. There is a significant smell of sewerage along the Cotter Road - Streeton Drive intersection, pervading into Holder and Weston Creek as far along as Hindmarsh Drive. The smell may be arising from a degraded stack.

ACTION – Follow up response from the Chief Minister

Shade Clothes

Hilary Shelton has been working on obtaining government funds for erecting shade cloths over playgrounds in Weston Creek, but to date government departments have been unable to help.

ACTION - Work ongoing. Issue to raise with Minister Hargreaves.

Street sign

Concern over legality of Video 2000 sign and one of the Church signs on Namatjira Dr.

ACTION – Tim Dalton to follow up.

Improving Trails in West on Creek

ACTION – Reece Guihot, The Canberra Off Road Cyclists (CORC) Trails Advocacy Officer to speak at the 30 June WCCC public meeting. He will speak about: CORC; its work at Stromlo Park; and working with the WCCC to develop trails in Weston Creek.

4. Other Business

Molonglo Development.

The community would like to know what is happening with the Molonglo Development.

ACTION – WCCC to seek information from Minister Barr as to what is happening.

Stromlo Village Development

The community would like to know what is happening with the land between the Cotter Road and Warragamba Avenue.

ACTION – WCCC to ask Minister Hargreaves/Minister Barr

CIT Horticulture school closure

Concern that Weston Creek residents are losing even more public space, as parts of the school is currently open to the public.

Spring Festival

ACTION – Noel Tregoning to provide an update to the WCCC on preparations for the Festival.

Next meeting

7.45 PM 30 May 2007

Weston Club

Meeting close 9.19 PM