

# WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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## **Minutes Monthly Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

### **Welcome**

Mr Carl welcomed the committee and residents to the first meeting of 2003. Mr Carl advised that the issues raised for inclusion on the agenda included; the future of The Canberra College site in Stirling; the bushfire recovery process; and the Chief Minister's announcement of the review into "non-urban fire affected areas". Other business would include the proposed OPTUS tower in Chapman and the upgrade to Chapman Oval, other items are welcome. Mr Carl welcomed Greg Cornwell MLA and Vicki Dunne MLA

Given the size of the audience Mr Carl gave an overview of the WCCC. The Council is a voluntary non-party political lobby group for residents. The WCCC has been going since 1991 and lobbies the Government and Ministers for facilities and services for Weston Creek residents. All residents are eligible to join and membership forms are available tonight. The Council meets 10 months a year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, not in December or January. Details of the WCCC are on our website at [www.wccc.com.au](http://www.wccc.com.au)

Mr Carl introduced the guest speakers Mr Barry Woolacott, Principal *The Canberra College*, and Mr John Stenhouse, Deputy Principal who would like to give a brief overview of the issues surrounding the Stirling site. The topic would be the main item for the next WCCC meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

### **Apologies**

Jacqui Burke MLA, Tim Janes, John Logue, Rhonda Yates- Stromlo High P&C President

### **Barry Woolacott *The Canberra College***

Mr Woolacott indicated that he was here to alert residents to the process in respect of a decision on the management of the Weston Campus of The Canberra College. The debate which will ensue has reminders of the debate to close Holder High School in 1991. The School Board took a decision to produce a position paper and consult with the community. Mr Woolacott circulated a limited number of the draft position paper (more copies are available from the College 62055777).

The Weston campus is currently underutilised with only 30 permanent students and 88 students who travel between the two campuses, this compares with 880 students at the Phillip campus. Most Canberra College students come from Tuggeranong, Woden and Queanbeyan with only a small percentage from Weston Creek.

The process will involve consulting with the community through the first half of the year on what to do with the campus. Mr Woolacott indicated he was here in his capacity as School Board member inviting residents to actively participate in the consultations. Options for the site could include it remaining as an educational facility or used for professional education development of teachers. The options considered would be submitted to the CEO of the Department of Education and Community Services for consideration by the Minister.

There are some key dates and the School Board will be meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March and he will be back to the WCCC meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The draft paper circulated has statistics which are public knowledge. Some parts of the paper will undergo enhancement as details are known.

Mr Carl asked if there were questions of Mr Woolacott

### **Q&A**

- Where does The Canberra College have facilities in Weston? The campus is in Stirling.
- Will the Brain Gym stay? - it is recommended that the Brain Gym remain
- Will the teacher training be able to operate with other users? There is the O'Connell Centre from Griffith which will move into the campus? There is also some IT hardware to be co-located? What is the progress, when will the community be informed?
- Could a public library be put in the campus as Weston Creek has nothing? This is one possibility which can be raised in the consultation process.
- Are other tenants to be invited, such as U3A? At present we are focussing on a decision and a framework for the use of the facility, we are not at present looking for tenants.

Mr Carl thanked Mr Woolacott and Mr Stenhouse and invited them to return to the next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Bushfire Recovery Effort**

Jeff Carl advised the meeting that the WCCC was a member of the Community and Expert Reference Group assisting the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce headed by Sandy Hollway. The input from residents in Weston Creek on concerns of the recovery effort was a feedback mechanism to the Reference Group.

Mr Carl indicated that 4 crews were operating in demolishing houses and the aim was 20 houses per week, although the wet weather of the previous week had slowed this target. The aim was to start in Chapman soon, Giralang, Kambah, Lyons and Duffy had already commenced. Mr Carl asked if there were any issues residents would like raised directly in the Reference Group.

## Q&A

- A resident of Holder advised the meeting that she noticed demolition equipment in her street and asked a driver when they were going to start – he replied 10 minutes. The resident asked that improved communications with adjacent residents was needed in respect of the demolition schedule. The resident indicated that her house was safe but all her fences/ backyard etc was destroyed. A member of the audience who identified himself from ACT Workcover indicated that the approach was unacceptable and Bovis Lend Lease were required to advise adjacent residents. The contractor may not have been from BLL.
- An attendee asked of the need to empty or at least fence swimming pools. Mr Carl responded indicating that it was the owners responsibility to fence the pool, although emptying the pool may be a waste of water. The attendee indicated that the filtration systems on two swimming pools near her were not working and mosquitoes were breeding. The ACT Workcover representative advised that it is the legal responsibility of the owner. The resident indicated that after the trauma the owners have not been back to the house in a month.
- A prospective home-buyer asked of the waiver of stamp duty. It was understood that home-owners rebuilding had the waiver. Did this cover renters who lost their rental property and who now wished to buy? Mr Carl advised he would follow up this query.
- Were there to be ACT Housing rent rebates, the same as electricity and rates? Mr Carl would make enquires
- There was a difficulty in getting quotes for damaged property which involved insurance companies. A resident advised that there was the need to get quotes to give to the insurance company, but it was taking 3 to 4 weeks to have tradesman visit to give quotes. Mr Carl advised that at the recent WCCC shopping centre visit to Holder he spoke to a builder who had undertaken 20 quotes in one day.
- A residents asked of the poor communication to those affected (but not in the category of devastated). She indicated that those who really needed help could go to the Recovery Centre, but communication with other residents was piecemeal. Mr Carl advised that the secretariat supporting the Reference Group has engaged a communication consultant to look at the approach and means of disseminating information. A community information newsletter had been produced and was being distributed however he was aware that the distribution process still needed some work.
- It was asked if the WCCC could use its reminder/electronic newsletter for distributing information. Mr Carl indicated that he was concerned in respect of use the email addresses for a purpose for which they were not given. It was suggested that hotlink(s) be used in the next WCCC electronic newsletter to guide readers to relevant information.

- A resident asked Mr Carl to pass on thanks for having the newsletter as it was very informative and provided useful phone numbers.

### **Review into “non-urban areas affected by bushfires”**

Mr Carl advised that the Chief Minister Mr Jon Stanhope MLA had announced, by media release, a review into the non-urban areas affected by bushfires. He distributed copies of the press release which included the terms of reference.

The review was looking at two parts on the non-urban area; that bounded by Uriarra Road and Coppins Crossing into Glenloch interchange and; the area from Coppins Crossing road south through the Namadgi National Park. Mr Carl indicated that the WCCC would be putting in a submission and this would include the wide range of issues raised at the WCCC shopping centre visits over the last few weekends (and into the next month). Mr Carl asked if there were issues from the audience they wished to raise.

- How would the 10-year housing moratorium be affected?
- Is Mt Stromlo reviewing their work plan and the continued suitability of the site for optical telescopes?
- What is the implication of the land being controlled by the ACT Government and that controlled by the National Capital Authority (NCA)?
- Is Narrabundah Hill included in the study?
- Is Cotter Road to the Tuggeranong Parkway in the study?
- The NCA needs to be lobbied by the WCCC not just the ACT Government.

Mr Carl advised that the WCCC would continue its consultation efforts in the preparation of the paper and have the draft on the WCCC website as was undertaken with the submission into the “Transport Futures” study.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **OPTUS tower behind Chapman**

Mr Carl advised residents of press advertisements on the possibility of an OPTUS mobile phone tower on the hill adjacent to the water storage tank behind Chapman. The intention is for the tower to be in the fenced enclosure. If people wished to comment on the proposal they can contact OPTUS direct to receive copies of the paperwork or the WCCC has one copy.

#### **Chapman Oval**

As people would be aware the Sport and Recreation Bureau is upgrading the sport and recreation facilities at Chapman Oval in response to concerns raised by the WCCC with Simon Corbell MLA on the loss of the ex-Holder High School oval. A number of local residents contacted the WCCC late last year with regard to their concerns on how the proposal was progressing. The main organisation consulted was the Weston Creek Little Athletics Association; there was no consultation with other potential users, the WCCC nor the local residents. The WCCC

facilitated a number of on-site visits and the plans have been modified to some extent to address the residents concerns. The WCCC also made a submission to the Development Application (DA) when it was open for public consultation. The DA period is closed and an outcome is awaited.

In addition the Weston Creek Junior Cricket Club asked the WCCC to lobby on their behalf for a synthetic pitch at Chapman Oval. Correspondence from Urban Services Minister Bill Wood MLA has been in the positive and a synthetic pitch will be provided before the next cricket season.

#### ACT Budget Submission 2003-2004

Mr Carl advised the meeting that the WCCC was developing a submission for the ACT Government 2003-2004 Budget. A number of ideas and suggestions had been gained from residents in WCCC meetings over the previous 12 months as well as ideas from residents at the shopping centre visits. Mr Carl encouraged the audience to phone 6288 8975 or send an email to [info@wccc.com.au](mailto:info@wccc.com.au) with suggestions to include in the submission. The material was due by 6 March 2003.

#### Community Education Facility

Barbara Brinton, the WCCC nominee on the ACT Council of Adult Education encouraged residents who had ideas on the use of the Stirling site of *The Canberra College* for adult education to send their suggestions to the WCCC email address. These could be used in responding to the review spoken of by Barry Woolacott.

#### Transport Reform Advisory Group (TRAG)

Bob Sutherland advised the meeting that he was the community representative on the TRAG and was nominated by the WCCC and is on the Group under the auspices of the WCCC. He is a community representative, not just a WCCC representative. There is a need to have the sponsoring organisation (the WCCC) re-affirm his continued involvement on TRAG.

Mr Carl asked the meeting to re-endorse Mr Sutherland's role on TRAG – the meeting responded in the positive to Mr Sutherland's continued role to put forward ideas and issues raised by the WCCC and the broader community as well as feed back issues which the WCCC needed to be aware of and respond to.

#### Consultation Processes

Ms Pat McGinn, Deputy Chair WCCC, advised the meeting that the WCCC was undertaking a significant range of community consultation efforts involving a number of the Executive to varying degrees. The ACT Government is creating a deluge of consultations with community organisations. Mr Carl provided an overview of the consultations.

The complete Canberra planning process is under review and this consultation birthed three separate consultation processes. The **Canberra Spatial Plan** takes a broad view of what we as a community expect from planning. It will take account of transport, population growth, employment location, land availability, retail and leisure activity, ecological constraints and environmental impact. It will be an equal partner, along with strategies for economic, social and environmental imperatives, in a broader strategic framework, to be known as The Canberra Plan.

The **Canberra Economic** White Paper explores the economic impacts of our planning system whilst also including any costs associated the social and environmental factors of having a dispersed city with a relatively low population density. The **Socio-Economic White** paper will be looking at issues associated with social equity within our community including access to housing, public transport, education and health facilities.

In addition on-going consultations include the **Garden City** variation (also known as DVP 200). This is a protracted and drawn out consultation which was initiated in under the previous Government. The variation unifies into a single document all aspects involved in the design, siting and construction of residences in Canberra. This variation has undergone about 3 major re-writes, the most recent being in December 2002.

As was already mentioned the WCCC is preparing a submission to Treasurer Ted Quinlan MLA in regard to the consultations on the **2003-2004 ACT Government Budget**. The submission is focussing on issues and improvements for the residents of Weston Creek. The WCCC is being mindful of the economic impact that the recent fires have had on the Government's financial reserves.

The **Public Transport Futures Feasibility Study** is also undergoing a separate community consultation process as part of the Canberra Spatial Plan. This process grew out of the proposed Civic to Gungahlin Tram. The WCCC has provided two background policy papers to this study which are titled "An open letter to all residents of Canberra regarding the proposed Gungahlin to Civic Tramway" and "An open letter to all residents of Canberra regarding the future of public transport". Copies of both of these papers are available from the website ([www.wccc.com.au](http://www.wccc.com.au)).

The WCCC is also preparing a submission on the **Review of Non-Urban areas affected by bushfires** recently announced by the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope. Consultation is rife, but the WCCC is interested in hearing from residents who wish to find out more on the consultations, or who want to contribute to the debates. Ideas and suggestions can be sent to [info@wccc.com.au](mailto:info@wccc.com.au) or 6288 8975.

#### Neighbourhood Planning Groups

Mr Carl indicated that Neighbourhood Planning Group(s) were set to be imposed on residents of Weston Creek before July 2003. It is not known how many of these are intended to be set up in Weston Creek, if it were 1 it would be the whole district, if 2 then split along Hindmarsh Drive; if 3 any combination of suburbs. The neighbourhood planning groups have elected members (another election) and look after the planning in their suburb. Mr Carl said that it would be very interesting if a resident / developer wish to undertake a proposal and this was not agreed to by a Neighbourhood Planning Group – what was their legal status and what powers would be vested in them by the Planning Minister ? – we wait and see.

Mr Carl called for any other business, as there was none forthcoming Mr Carl closed the meeting and thanked residents and guest speakers for their attendance.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003 *The Canberra College* – Stirling site.