

## DRAFT Minutes

### Monthly Public Meeting – 27 June 2007

#### Weston Creek Community Council

#### ATTENDING

R Drabsch	A Carter
E Irvine	D Denehy
J Murphy	R McRae
R Jurd	R Guihot
B Sutherland	D Dunston
W Groves	N Tregoning
C Van Moort	J Burke
T Dalton	N Colbert
N Velesc-Humphreys	H Hughes
S Liebke	B Campbell

#### APOLOGIES

Hilary Shelton	Jackie Burke
Karl Gordon	Paul Anderson
Richard Mulcahy	Kylie Paulson

*(apologies for incorrect spelling of any names)*

#### PROCEEDINGS

##### Meeting open 7.53 PM

#### 1. Introduced Reece Guilhot, Canberra Off-Road Cyclists (CORC) Trails Advocacy Officer.

At the beginning of the year the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) identified trails as one of its priority areas, in particular the development of off-road trails to link Weston Creek suburbs to the surrounding nature reserves and Stromlo Park (the cycling, walking, horse riding and running park based around Mount Stromlo).

The WCCC approached CORC for advice given its success in establishing Stromlo Park and experience building multi-use trails around Canberra. Reece, CORC's Trail Advocacy Officer, offered to come to speak to the WCCC and suggested forming an alliance in order to gain government support and build multi-use trails around Weston Creek.

Reece has a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. He has organized the development and maintenance of sustainable off road trails around Canberra and has attended a Conference in Canada last year which focused on trails.

#### 2. Multi-use Trails

**Reece Guilhot, Canberra Off-Road Cyclists (CORC)**

*See presentation attached.*

Reece gave an inspiring presentation on what can be achieved when volunteer groups work together to build multi-use trails. He spoke about:

- CORC's work,
- the science of building sustainable, off-road, multi-use trails,
- upcoming local, national and international mountain biking events coming to Weston Creek and the opportunity this presents Weston Creek, and
- how CORC and the WCCC can work together.

### *Questions*

**Questions: How do we ensure that the Molonglo Development is incorporated in plans for Weston Creek?**

Response: Get in early. CORC has already lodged submissions supporting linking trails.

**Questions: Will Stromlo Park be closed during the 2009 World Mountain biking Championships.**

Response: Part of it will be, but CORC aims to keep a number of trails open so that visitors and locals can cycle and well as watch.

**Question: What is the ratio of cyclists to walkers on Mount Stromolo? Does this cause a problem?**

Response: Mount Stromolo has different segments which have different 'recommended uses' i.e. primarily for cyclists, horse riders, or runners. However the trails are open for multi-use and the signs show who has right of way. Horses have right of way over cyclists and walkers, and walkers have right of way over cyclists.

**Question: Mount Stromlo is an amazing resource and the trails CORC has built are impressive. This should be marketed more.**

Response: Agree, CORC would like to market more, but as with all volunteer clubs, resources are limited.

**ACTION: WCCC passed a resolution to work with CORC to develop a draft plan for off-road trails in Weston Creek. The plan is to: be presented to the public at a later date; used to gain government and community support for the trails; and thereafter be used as a work plan for building trails.**

## **3. Other Business**

### **Sewage**

The Chronicle ran an article about the smell in Weston Creek. The Chief Minister's Office responded to the WCCC letter (see attached). The Chief Minister acknowledged the problem and that the technology exists to address the significant smell, however his letter did not stipulate when the issue would be addressed.

In telephone conversations between the WCCC and ACTEW AGL, ACTEW:

- agreed that the problem is significant,
- is aware of the problem and has had several complaints over a number of years,
- stated that ACTEW AGL is beholden to a 'code' of service delivery set by the government, which stipulates that they must 'minimise' sewage odour'. NSW and

Victorian codes stipulate the precise amount of acceptable chemicals permissible in the air, and

- the technology exists to address the situation however there are no plans until 2009 to address the smell.

The WCCC finds the time line for addressing the smell **unacceptable** on the grounds that:

- the smell is significant;
- the smell does not meet the 'code' governing ACTEW AGL service delivery;
- Weston Creek residents and property owners pay taxes/rates and can expect a service equivalent to other suburbs and one that meets the 'code';
- at times the odour may be a health hazard; and
- the smell may harm business opportunities, particularly given the number of upcoming sporting events planned for the area.

**ACTION: The WCCC to write to the Chief Minister and request that the sewage smell be addressed immediately, or at least be addressed within this term of government.**

#### **4. Thank you to Bob Sutherland**

Bob Sutherland will be retiring from his involvement with the Council. The Council and public present thanked Bob for his hard work over the years and his achievements.

#### **5. Development concerns**

##### **Duffy Petrol Station**

Community members raised their concern about the number and quality of the town house/units being planned at the site of the Duffy Petrol Station. This is an ongoing concern. One of the concerns is that the planned townhouses/units are out of keeping with the other homes in the area and in particular that too many units/town houses are planned for the site thereby affecting the quality of life of those already living in the area.

##### **Coane St development**

Community members raised their concern about the Coane St development which will involve 14 town houses being built over 3 blocks. One of the concerns is the high number of town houses planned.

Community members are aware of the A10 classification which allows for townhouse/unit development but the main concern is that the high number of units and townhouses are excessive and out of keeping with the rest of the homes in the area, amongst other issues.

##### **Rivett Petrol Station**

WCCC to write to the government about community concern about the length of time it is taking to start re-developing this site, which in the meantime is causing the area to look derelict.

##### **Next meeting**

**7.45 PM 25 July 2007**

**Weston Club**

Meeting close 9.24 PM