

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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Minutes May Monthly Meeting 7.45pm 26th May 2004

Welcome

Ms Pat McGinn, Interim Chairperson, welcomed the Committee, residents and guest speakers to the meeting. Ms Barbara Brinton is Minutes Secretary.

Ms McGinn briefly outlined WCCC current business which includes:

- Consideration of the implications for Weston Creek of the special legislation passed this week by the Government to ensure the construction of the Gungahlin Drive Extension.
- Preparation of a submission to a government policy inquiry into the release of land for the accommodation of aged persons.
- The WCCC's response to the 2004-2005 ACT budget.
- Actions on the clean up of graffiti.

Our guest speaker is Mr Tony Gill from Roads ACT. Roads ACT manages the local and main public road system in the ACT and creates new works.

Apologies

Ted Quinlan, Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer. Joe Baker, former ACT Commissioner for the Environment, Margo McGinnis, Alan Henderson, Juanita Kerec, Bob Sutherland.

Activities by WCCC Committee

WCCC Executive:

- Met with architects at Mirinjani to discuss additional parking.
- Followed up on Graffiti concerns at Brierly/Trennery Sts.
- Attended a meeting of Community Councils Forum with Chief Minister's Dept
- WCCC attended the launch by the Chief Minister of the Social Compact.
- WCCC was represented at the launch by the Chief Minister of the Woden Senior Citizen's Club strategic Plan.

Roads ACT

Mr Gill outlined the responsibilities of Roads ACT providing statistics of interest : in Weston Creek, there are: 107 km of roads, 59 bridges, 158 km of public paths, 4078 street lights, 4 traffic lights, 255 km of storm water pipes, 2,500 traffic signs.

The three highest accident locations in Weston Creek (1999-2003) are:

1. Cotter Road/Tuggeranong Park West (rates #17 in ACT accident list)
2. Cotter Road/Streeton Drive intersection (#41)
3. Hindmarsh Drive/Palmer St (#48).

Locations highest on the list are funded first.

Maintenance and inspection rates were provided:

Paths 3-5years,

Bridges 1-3years

Streetlights and storm water: maintained by ACTEWAGL.

Lights reported have lamps replaced within 7 days and storm water repaired when reported.

Contacts: www.roads.act.gov.au tel: 6207 2500 roads@act.gov.au

Questions and Comments from the Meeting

Note: not all speakers identified themselves. For consistency these minutes record only the questions and answers. Two officers from Roads ACT assisted Mr Gill in his responses.

Q: Does Roads ACT monitor the polluting effects of storm water runoff?

A: Yes. There are two systems: minor (pipes) and major (roads, lane ways and ovals). Weston Creek has no Lakes or Ponds as in other areas but this may change when housing is constructed in Molonglo. Duffy Oval for example is designed as a storm water runoff collection point, there is a gross pollutant trap beneath Cotter Road to screen out heavy pollutants. Water quality is checked by Environment ACT at many sites.

Q: The corner of Streeton Drive/Cotter Road is already of concern, what will happen if the "Broadacre Estate" is developed for education or religious use?

A: Roads ACT accepts conclusions in the GDH report (see previous WCCC minutes and links on web site) that traffic will remain within 'normal community use' and that 'minor treatments' will be adequate. Traffic lights would interrupt the continuous flow of traffic. Recognition that the Dixon Drive and Unwin Place exits create problems for motorists.

Q (several speakers on same topic): In previous years, there were two free moving lanes swinging from Cotter Road into Streeton Drive. One is not enough, a 'raceway' is created between the roundabout and the Streeton Drive entry as Cotter Road traffic battles to be in the left lane.

A: Other options are regarded as not as safe, particularly for large commercial vehicles and for vehicles coming from the Cotter Road and turning right into Streeton Drive.

Q: Could there be a third lane on Cotter Road and arrows on the lanes?

A: Roads ACT will consider all options mentioned and return its conclusions to the WCCC.

Q: What will be the impact on Cotter Road and Streeton Drive of the future development of the Stromlo village and recreation areas?

A: Cotter Road will need to be reviewed.

Q: Why can't lights in Canberra be synchronised, especially on Hindmarsh Drive?

A: They are synchronised. The same control system (SCAT) as used in Sydney

Q: Why isn't traffic FLOW a priority in Roads ACT planning?

A: The SCAT (Synchronised Computer-Activated Traffic System) operates from Macarthur House in Lyneham.

Q: Why is there not another access point for the Broadacre Estate (corner Cotter/Streeton, see previous minutes).?

A: Will take this on notice, Roads ACT has not been involved to any extent yet.

Q: Children accessing Orana school as pedestrians or cyclists find crossing Streeton Drive or Heysen Street unsafe.

A: Question on notice as above.

Q Underpasses in Weston Creek sometimes have an open section at major (e.g. Hindmarsh Drive) and arterial roads. To increase the available light in these underpasses and to minimise vandalism, could lighting on tall poles be placed over these openings to light them at night to deter vandalism?

A: Will look at this proposal.

Q: Some underpasses have poor drainage e.g. in Dixon Drive.

A: They are part of the storm water system.

Q: (several questions on this point): Parking at Bangalay Crescent since the Weston Creek Children's Centre moved to the Primary School is very dangerous. Cars parked on both sides create narrow lanes, garbage trucks cannot collect bins, residents cannot exit their driveways safely and sometimes not at all. Clients with small children cannot easily access Noah's Ark Toy Library; some of these clients are disabled. Discussions are being held with the Department of Education. The WC Children's Centre will be there for two years.

A: Question noted.

Q: Lighting on arterial roads especially the Cotter Road between Curtin and the Parkway intersection lights is inadequate, particularly for motorcycle riders.

A: This can included in any upgrade to Cotter Road.

Q: Car-parking at Arawang net ball courts is still inadequate, when will the proposed survey take place? It is now the busy season there.

A: Roads ACT will contact WCCC to arrange this survey soon.

Q: Are the on-road cycle ways recently created actually used? They narrow roads and lanes to dangerous levels.

A: It is Roads ACT's responsibility to implement the ACT Government's policy of promoting and increasing the level of cycling. Feedback from cyclists is positive.

Q: There are still gaps in the cycling network for example Streeton Drive to Woden.

A: Roads ACT is working with Pedal power and the community to identify gaps.

Q: The intersection of Adelaide Avenue with Weston Creek is a traffic hazard, especially for cyclists.

A: This is a high priority, where the Cotter Rd merges with Adelaide Ave needs work.

Q: Now that the (ex Stirling/Canberra College) Teacher professional development centre is located on Fremantle Drive there is increased traffic, especially when seminars attract hundreds of attendees. The right hand turn from Fremantle to Streeton to Coolamen Court is very difficult.

A: We will look at this.

Q: Traffic calming devices increase the frequency of accidents even if they decrease the intensity. The narrow lanes resulting from cycle ways seem to increase danger.

A: Roads ACT implements at least Australian standards.

Q: The removal of the merging lane from Yarra Glen to Adelaide Avenue since the introduction of the cycle lane has created very narrow lanes.

A: Lanes are only reduced from 3.5 to 3.3 metres.

Q: Bus drivers from a private company have complained about this. Buses are 2.5 metres wide, leaving little clearance each side. Public transport use could be, limited by such traffic calming measures.

A: Roads ACT has consulted with ACTION buses.

Q: Priority bus lanes would be more useful than a cycle lane on Northbourne Ave.

Q: As a resident of Duffy for 32 years I have observed the dangers at the intersection of Hindmarsh Drive with Bangalay/Williamson/Dixon drives, particularly in the late afternoon sun. Why are there no slip lanes?

A: These have not been identified as a priority.

Q: Was an environmental impact study completed for the Gungahlin Drive extension?

A: Yes, two.

Q: On the merging lane from Hindmarsh Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway there is inadequate indication of who should merge. Could there be road marking?

A: Give way to vehicles on the right.

Q: The establishment of Molonglo was not outlined in the Spatial Plan. What will be the effect on Cotter Road? Do we have to wait for the establishment of Molonglo before there will be any changes to the Cotter Road?

A: Roads ACT will plan for this when detailed planning proceeds.

Q: The road system in Philip, especially around KFC & JB HiFi is very narrow and dangerous.
A: Roads ACT is looking at this right now.

Q: Can lower speed limits be imposed near aged person accommodation e.g. Mirinjani?
A: No, only warning signs.

Q: There are inconsistencies in speed limits in Weston Creek e.g. 50 kph for Perry Drive.
A: This is the default speed for residential areas.

Q: Will there be a review of speed signage?
A: Not an overall review, only a case by case consideration.

Q: Is there a policy on noise reduction around major roads such as Tuggeranong Parkway?
A: There are standards in the ACT and monitoring.

Q: There is a subsiding underpass near Brierly Street.
A: We are aware of this and it is to be fixed.

Q: The survey you have just distributed is difficult to answer.

Mr Gill asked meeting participants to complete a Roads ACT survey selecting 3 items from a list to indicate the importance of the Maintenance, Upgrading or New Construction of roads, traffic signals, streetlights, lines & paths, cycle ways, storm water drainage, gross pollutant traps, ponds & wetlands.

Mr Gill and the two officers from Roads ACT were thanked for taking time to attend the WCCC meeting and answering questions.

Other Business

Ms Pat McGinn drew to the attention of the meeting the report in today's *Canberra Times* that Community Councils are to be part of new ACT Government Planning Forums. The WCCC Committee will discuss its concerns and welcomes comment.

A resident drew the attention of the community to the request to change a dual occupancy in Duffy (Eppalock Street) from strata title to unit title (ie separate ownership of the block). This is a first for Weston Creek and needs to be discussed. Comments are due to the Government before June 3rd. Ms McGinn commented that the WCCC had had significant input into the preparation of DV200 of which this was an important part.

Pat McGinn indicated that the WCCC had supported the extension of the number of beds at Mirinjani based on extensive discussion at previous meetings on the need for aged care. Twelve extra car parking places will be created in a revamp of the car park.

There being no other business requested by those present, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Next meeting 23rd June 2004