

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- *Your Local Voice* -

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Established 1991

Minutes Monthly Meeting

8.00pm 25th May 2005

Welcome

The WCCC Chairperson, Mr Jeff Carl welcomed the Committee and residents. Mr Carl advised that the topics for discussion at the meeting are:

- Bushfire memorial
- ACT Budget
- Rivett Local Centre Master Plan
- Community Fire Units.

Other Business would follow.

Mr Carl acknowledged the attendance of the Legislative Assembly member Mrs Jacqui Burke MLA

Apologies

Mr Brendan Smyth MLA, Juanita Kerec, Pat McGinn.

Bushfire Memorial

Mr Carl advised the meeting that he had agreed to participate in a story and photo shoot with *The Chronicle* on the location of the bushfire memorial. There had been growing discontent on the proposed location which had become apparent during the recent WCCC shopping centre visits.

The location on Mt Stromlo was considered too distant and remote from the community. The aim of the story was to encourage public debate on a “people’s memorial” not just the formal ACT Government built structure. Although there had been some public consultation on the type and location of the memorial, a process in which the WCCC participated, the outcome did not reflect the views and expectations of a majority of the Weston Creek community.

This discontent is not directed to the artists or their concepts – merely to the location chosen to build the memorial. A memorial of relevance to the people was needed – one that is accessible by all. The suggestion of a library located near Cooleman Court with memorabilia room in the foyer could meet this need. This approach would avoid problems of residential affinity to a location. Additional rooms in such a facility could assist currently stretched community facilities in Weston Creek.

A resident indicated that the 1km walk would cover the building rubble dump as it would not be fit for any other purpose. Another voiced concerns that the location in Weston Creek may indeed bring a residential affinity and not be seen as belonging to Canberra in general. Mr Carl indicated that 90% of the affected houses were in Weston Creek and that residents of the Mt Taylor Estate in Kambah are carving their own memorial fire tree.

A resident indicated that a community walk around the suburbs would be the better solution. Mr Carl said that the WCCC had put forward a walking trail around the affected suburbs from Lyons, past Weston, Holder, Duffy, Chapman and then to Fisher and on to the Mt Taylor Estate in Kambah, finishing at the Environment ACT building on Athllon Drive near Farrer. It was pointed out that much of the proposed walkway was in place with horse trails, concrete footpaths, and fire breaks and there were perhaps few places where this needed to be linked. Memorabilia, seating and sculptures telling stories of the event could be located around the Walk.

Mr Carl advised the meeting that it was believed that political outcomes might have affected the decision and the WCCC suggestion was not progressed. A resident suggested the community commence it own Walk and invite the participation of Lions and Rotary volunteers. Mr Carl indicated that significant parts of a proposed Walk were probably already being looked after by either LandCare or ParkCare groups in Weston Creek, Tuggeranong and Woden Valley.

Another resident indicated that parts of the proposed walk would need to be accessible by the disabled to ensure the community walk was accessible to all. In addition the community walk would be an attraction not only to others in Canberra but perhaps to tourists from interstate to Weston Creek.

Mr Carl encouraged an going debate on the proposal. The Government's bushfire memorial is a valuable piece of artwork and it can only enhance the rebuilt Deek's Forest Park on Mt Stromlo. Perhaps it can become a tourist attraction in its own right, but it appears that it might be ineffectual as a long-term bushfire memorial.

ACT Budget

Mr Carl indicated that the WCCC had a copy of the 2005-2006 Budget papers and committee member Barbara Brinton was able to compare the WCCC budget submission to the Treasurer, Mr Quinlan, with what appears to be outcomes from the budget for Weston Creek.

Ms Brinton elaborated on the comparisons namely:

What WCCC asked for	What Budget delivered for W Ck
Cotter Rd Streeton Dr intersection	Mentioned Page 210 no allocation this year
Traffic Mgt Plan for Streeton/Unwin	?
Off St Parking Netball courts Sherratt Place	?
Parking near Narrabundah Hill	?
Hindmarsh /Eucumbene Dr redesign intersection	?
Cotter Rd Street lights from Curtin	?
Streeton Dr on road cycle path from Darwinia to Dixon	Expand footpath maintenance especially in older suburbs
Restoration Molonglo Corridor	Pest willow removal from Molonglo by May 06
Narrabundah Hill re plant	? (see below?)
Cotter recreational Area redevelop	Planting of 1.3 million pine trees & 36,000 other native & exotics including planting of Stromlo Forest Park. Continue major forest road rehabilitation program focused on works within Cotter catchments. Enhancement of facilities at Cotter & Tidbinbilla
(Tourism -Stromlo/Brindabellas)	Tourism Subaru Rally, Brindabella Mts Challenge, Mont 24 event, Planning for winter 06 event
(Aged)	Falls prevention program in ACT Residential care
(Police)	Woden Police Station new
(ESA)	Implement Strategic Bushfire Mgt Plan Continue to enhance skills in CFU's
(Childcare Wck)	Weston Creek Childcare facility by June 2006
(Community)	Develop & implement Community Engagement Strategy
(Stromlo)	Stromlo Forest Park \$6mil+\$1 .4mil maintain World class cross country course & cycling criterium for Brindabella Classic & Mont 24 300 hectares along Cotter Rd replanted this year.
Weeds	DUS to continue to assist in the rehabilitation of lower catchments area. Remedial stabilization on rural road embankments. Remove trees affect be drought

Maurice Sexton, President of the Weston Creek Community Association advised the meeting that, although not explicit in the Budget it was expected that the rebuilt childcare facility in Parkinson St, Weston, would be ready by June 2006. A project manager has been appointed and there will be additional community meeting rooms in the expanded facility.

Mrs Burke advised the meeting that she could assist where and when needed in respect of funding priorities as well as assisting to drill down to find the details in such large general headings of capital works.

Rivett Local Centre Master Plan

Mr Carl advised the meeting that the WCCC had learnt that the draft Rivett Local Centre Master Plan had been made available to the proponents for the Development Application (DA) submitted by Shell for the Rivett Service Station in around October 2004. This is apparent from the supporting documents for the DA which referred to the draft Master Plan and that the proposal by Shell was consistent with the draft Master Plan.

The WCCC had recently again requested a copy from ACTPLA and it had arrived this week. The data used for the draft Master Plan is dates from 2001. This is the period when Colin Stewart Architects undertook both Holder and Rivett Local Centre Master Plan consultations; however the front cover of the Rivett document is dated May 2005.

There are significant errors of fact in the draft Master Plan, including statements that there is a Service Station operating, the composition of the shops at the centre and the number of vacant shops.

Mr Carl indicated that the WCCC will prepare a written submission on the draft Master Plan which would address the errors of fact and also suggest to ACTPLA a way forward to implement the Plan as had been undertaken and completed in Holder. Mr Carl added that the WCCC had spoken to approximately 90 people at the Rivett shops in a two hour period recently while undertaking our "*Taking it to the Streets*" and there was a positive reaction to dealing with the disused service station.

Community Fire Units

Mr Carl indicated that the WCCC had not participated in the Community Fire Units (CFU) debate up to the present time as the ACT Government had expressed on a number of occasions that funding would be provided to the community for their training and provision of the CFUs.

The 2005-2006 ACT Budget has put to rest those inaccurate assertions. At present Weston Creek has 3 CFUs and this will grow to 4 and then stop. The original plan was for 70 CFUs in Canberra.

A resident advised that he was aware that approximately 600 people have been trained but there were not funds to set up any more CFUs.

The meeting debated a number of issues surrounding the training of residents, location of CFUs, potential other funding sources, the cooperative approach of the Fire Brigade, good community

support, lack of CFUs in Gungahlin, lack of CFUs in Duffy, closer proximity of larger houses on re-built blocks, the cyclical nature of severe bushfires and the cyclical nature of the spending promises.

Mr Carl stated that the WCCC would write to the Chief Minister and the Minister for Emergency Services expressing the community's deep concerns on this matter, and will encourage other concerned resident to also write.

Other business

Mr Carl called for other business.

Cooleman Court Ramp

Mrs Jacqui Burke advised the meeting that she had written to the responsible Minister following discussions at the previous WCCC meeting but was yet to receive a reply.

Mirijani Road Crossing

Mr Burke advised that there was a proposal to relocate the crossing 100m up the road. Mr Sutherland believed that this would be a retrograde move as it would be closer to a blind corner over the crest of a hill. It was suggested that the speed limit also be lowered from 60 to 50kph.

Relocation of Bus Stop

Mr Carl advised the meeting the WCCC was writing to the Minister for Urban Services on the concern relating to some parts of the proposal to relocate the bus stop in Brierly St, outside Woolworths. The plan by Roads ACT is to alter the bus stops in Brierly Street near the service station. The relocation of the bus stop to the other side of Brierly Street appeared sensible however the location of the bus waiting bay directly opposite the service station was of concern because waiting buses would restrict vision for vehicles entering/exiting the carpark of Mahony Ct.

Mr Carl advised he had contacted Barbara Barrett, General Manager Communications in ACTION who was to return his call with more information before the letter was sent.

Rock Throwing

A resident advised the meeting that she was subjected to rock throwing incident while driving on Hindmarsh Drive between Namatjira Drive and Breirly Street. She advised the meeting that her windscreen was smashed and she had contacted ACT Police, but there were insufficient officers to attend the incident.

Small Business Forum

Barbara Brinton advised the meeting that the next WCCC meeting was on 22nd June. The theme would be a small business forum and guest speakers were Business ACT, AusIndustry and ACT Chamber of Commerce.

The WCCC expected to produce and deliver a flyer to all residences (except those with no junk mail signs on their letterboxes). Assistance would be appreciated in delivering flyers to shopkeepers. Volunteers who would like to assist can give their details after the meeting.

Ms Brinton welcomed Linda Tregoniing and Trish Hoad from Communities @ Work and thanked them for the publicising the June meeting in their next 'Chataway' newsletter.

Mr Carl called for additional items of business. As there was none forthcoming he thanked residents for their attendance.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday 22nd June 2005 7.45pm