

# WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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*Established 1991*

(Weston Creek Citizens Council Inc. – Reg. No. A2637)

## **Record of Proceedings**

### **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday 26 October 2005.**

**at The Weston Club, Liardet Street, Weston.**

#### **1. Welcome**

The Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) Chairperson, Mr Jeff Carl, opened the meeting at 7:45 pm and welcomed those who came. He announced that the advertised program could not go ahead because members of the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) team responsible for planning the proposed new Molonglo Valley suburbs were ill and they were sorry that they were not able to keep their commitments. Mr Carl said that the Molonglo Valley Project Team has been invited to the next WCCC meeting and this invitation had been accepted. Mr Carl apologised for the very late notice of the change to our agenda but said there was nothing the Committee of WCCC could do about it.

#### **2. Apologies:**

Brendan Smyth MLA, Jacqui Burke MLA.

#### **3. Progress on the Bush Fire Memorial:**

The Chairperson said that the other parts of the advertised program would proceed and he invited Ms Jocelyn Plovits, Senior Manager, Shaping our Territory Implementation Group in the Chief Minister's Department to speak to the meeting about progress on the Bush Fire Memorial.

Ms Plovits said that the memorial was an “experience”. You enter from the eastern (Mt Ainslie) side of the site and see bricks salvaged from the fire. Some of these bricks had been inscribed with the names of people involved in the bush fire disaster. Up above ground level and connected with the landscape will be sculptures representing five lightning strikes to remind viewers that lightning strikes were the cause of the 2003 bush fire. This area will be lined with casuarina trees and there will be a bubbling spring around 5 or 6 digiglass columns with segments from photos collected from local residents. People will be able to sit and have picnics at the memorial and soon

landscapers will build an amphitheatre. There will be a huge amount of mulch. The community will be invited to plant trees at the site. The recent rain, although very welcome, has delayed the work. As well some exotic trees will be planted for shade. The planning is for the Memorial to be dedicated on Wednesday 18 January 2006. This will be an early morning event. The Memorial has been moved closer to Eucumbene Drive than was originally planned to avoid riparian zone problems.

Mr Carl said that the WCCC would be releasing a flyer to advertise the November meeting and this will include details of the Bush Fire Memorial.

#### **4. Molonglo Valley Development:**

The Chairperson reported that the deferment of the meeting with the Project Team for Molonglo Valley may turn out to be an advantage in the end because there will be a new round of community consultation commencing later this month. In these circumstances a later briefing will be more useful. The original four suggested plans had now been reduced to two. There will be areas for uses other than housing. Following a recent briefing given to the Planning and Development Forum it now appeared that planning for Molonglo Valley was directed to providing for a population of closer to 60,000 than to the original forecast of 40,000 to 50,000 people. This will have an impact on Weston Creek but at this stage it is hard to know whether this will be positive or negative. Responding to a question from the floor about consultation with residents of the area surrounding the proposed new settlement the Mr Carl said he will make sure that they will be included in any consultations that occur between the WCCC and the Project Team.

#### **5. Deed of Grant from ACTPLA:**

The Chairperson reported that the necessary paperwork had been completed. The money from the Grant will be used to advertise WCCC meetings and engaging the Weston Creek community on planning matters. We will be issuing a calendar for 2006.

#### **6. Canberra Airport noise:**

Mr Carl announced that new controlled air paths into Canberra would do much to reduce the problem of noise from planes flying into Canberra Airport. The new air path will require planes to be fitted with new precision navigation equipment and so far only three Qantas planes have this equipment. These planes are used on the Canberra to Perth route. The new system will rely on signals received from global positioning satellites (GPS). Tests have shown that the computers can still guide the planes to the airport runway even if there has been a loss of GPS contact during the final landing approach. The southern part of Tralee (which is a proposed new settlement area) should be reasonably free of aircraft noise and early testing had been promising, but the northern part of Tralee is still under the proposed flight path. The new development at Tralee still needs approval from the Federal Government and NSW Government in order to proceed.

#### **7. Schools:**

The Chairperson reported that, apart from the announcement about Ginninderra District High School becoming a “super school”, there would be no further consolidation of

schools in the life of the present Assembly. There is a possibility that there could be further consolidation of schools in the period 2008 to 2012.

#### **8. ACT Budget Submission:**

The Chairperson reported that unlike previous years when only one submission had to be made, the requirement for this year was that 5 or 6 submissions would have to be made to the appropriate department responsible for the matter contained in each submission. It was suggested from the floor that the submission should include a request that angle parking be introduced into Canberra rather than the present straight parking and that a traffic slip lane be provided at the intersections of Hindmarsh Drive and Williamson Street and Hindmarsh Drive and Carbeen Street.

#### **9. Development Application for the new Weston Childcare centre:**

The Development Application to build a new child care centre on the site of the previous burnt out facility in Parkinson Street, Weston, had now been publicly advertised. The new plans show that the centre has been expanded from the previous about 50 places to 90 places, but that car parking for 22 cars would be retained on site with a further 4 car parking spaces on Parkinson Street. This number of car parks provided may not be adequate leading to traffic problems in Parkinson Street in both the morning drop-off and evening pick-up times.

#### **10: A10 Core areas:**

The recent proposal to redevelop the local shopping centre at Giralang as medium density housing raises an interesting issue regarding A10 "Core areas" set out in the Territory Plan. Under this arrangement developers are free to lodge applications for higher density housing within 200 metres of local shopping centres, but what happens if the local centre is removed? The WCCC will investigate whether these A10 areas would remain if the shopping centres were re-developed as housing.

#### **11. Lighting:**

Recent vandal attacks in Weston Creek had damaged lighting and it was suggested from the floor that the WCCC's budget submission should include a request for vandal proof lighting.

#### **12. Spring Fair in Weston Creek:**

It was reported to the meeting that the Spring Fair was very successful. Following on from this year's successful event regular monthly markets were being held at Cooleman Court in the area between the shops and the Community Centre under the pergola. The markets will be held on the first Saturday of the month. Some of the money raised will go to the Diabetes Association.

#### **13. General Business:**

A resident commented that the traffic plan for Molonglo Valley should be closely scrutinised so that connection points are convenient for Weston Creek from a public transport point of view and for other traffic. In response to a question about the future of

former CSIRO land near Gungahlin the Chairperson said that this was being developed as part of the suburb of Crace.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Next Regular Meeting  
Wednesday 23 November 2005