

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday-28 March 2018

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.34pm. The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests

Apologies: Bec Cody, Chris Steel, Guiluia Jones, Gai Brodtmann, Ken Brazel, Pat McGinn

20 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Denman Prospect - Nick McDonald Crowley

- Eventually there will be 400 dwellings.
- Currently 401 blocks have been sold.
- 280 houses have been completed with 200 currently occupied. This is approximately 500 people.
- The local shops are well advanced.
- There is 3000m² for commercial with 16 townhouses above. 2000m² for GFA and 1000m² for supermarket.
 - 200 car parks will be provided.
 - There is a 6m façade on the town houses.
- The medical facility from Crace is coming over.
- The gym is well advanced.
- An aged care provider is coming on board.
- It is hard to get a supermarket but we are willing to subsidise the rent for three years. No one has been secured yet.
 - By the end of the year, there will be 1000 people in Denman Prospect and 6000-7000 people in Wright and Coombs to feed in.
 - It is hard to convince supermarkets of this.
- Coombs shops are charging 30% more rent than Denman Prospect and are not subsidising the rent.
- We have provided a playground on one of the residential blocks as the ACT government has not yet provided land.
 - This will be relocated to a park later.
- An easy to walk path has been developed. The path is approximately 800m long. The rock fencing has been made from rocks found on site.
 - There are separate mountain bike tracks.

- A Group Centre will be built by the ACT government in the future.
 - It will be a similar size to Cooleman Court.
 - It will be a commercial hub not and employment hub i.e. no government jobs.
 - It will be around 2023 before anything will be constructed because of long lead times.
 - The land around it is not as valuable as residential land to the ACT government.
- There are Permissive Caveats on the land.
 - 0.1% of sale price goes to Homes for Homes if the purchaser agrees to the caveat.
 - There is currently \$400,000 in the fund. The first \$200,000 is being applied for now.
 - There has been a 90% take up.
 - The ACT government has been very helpful in not charging for caveats to go on or come off.

Q. Is there a place of worship?

A. Yes, it is multi faith.

Q. During the planning stage there was supposed to be ovals etc. Has the ACT government changed their minds?

A. They are concentrating on Stromlo Forest Park. We are encouraging them to build the promised facilities. The walking path has not yet been approved but we assume it will be. There is a need for all ability paths.

Q. How accessible are the grounds for 4WD or cars?

A. The roads to the shops are not open yet. Butters Bridge is for pedestrians. The access will become easier in a couple of years. At the end of the year, there will be more access to walking tracks for cars and there will be carparks.

Q. What kinds of consultation are you having with the community regarding the parks?

A. Communities@work is running the consultation. Approximately 80 people came to a session last week. There will be an information session on landscaping for houses soon.

Q. When do you expect the shops to open?

A. Building will start at the end of October. It will take 4-6 weeks for fitout. So hoping for Christmas or early next year.

Q. Will you maintain ownership of the shopping centre?

A. Not the townhouses but will keep the shops for approximately 5-8 years. The tenants will get first option to purchase.

Q. How much public housing will there be?

A. 24 in the first stage. A combination of units and houses salt and peppered through. The second stage will be 48, comprising two blocks of 24.

Q. How is the public transport going?

A. There is only one loop around the school site so there is little usage. It is the wrong demographic now but they are looking to have a better bus route.

Age Friendly City Survey – Elizabeth Jolley and Penny Taylor from the Community Services Directorate

- Currently looking after the Ministerial Advisory Council on the Ageing. This is a very active council that started in July 2017.
- The Active Ageing Framework is being finalised so now undertaking a survey that will feed into TCCS and planning areas with a seniors lens. The survey will be on line and on paper.
- The survey will be in three parts – information, survey and a reply paid envelope. It will be online on Have Your Say until 12 April 2018.
- The things that affect seniors often affect other people too such as people with prams, people with disabilities and those who are culturally linguistically diverse. You can put comments in around this.

- The survey is the first step then there will be more targeted consultation following analysis of the survey results.
- The demographics are changing. By 2055, the number of people aged 65+ will be triple what it is now. The 2016 census showed Weston Creek has 50% over 65.
- The current Active Ageing Framework was done in 2011. It was put in place when Canberra became a member of the age friendly network through the World Health Organisation.

Q. How are you connecting with multicultural people, particularly the older generation? They are often elderly men still in the clothing of their country of origin. They look lonely.

A. There are no targeted connections like this. However, we sit with the offices of multicultural affairs, disabilities and women. We are doing the best we can and we have quite extensive networks including ACT Housing and ACT Libraries. We are looking for any suggestions. Some people may be members of their own communities e.g. Afghani community.

Q. I have been to some information/consultation sessions on the Molonglo River Corridor. I asked if walkways were suitable for older people e.g. seating, suitable gradients, toilets. They seemed to be surprised by the question. Planning people do not seem to take into account the needs of older people.

A. Some work is going on around older suburbs in relation to seating and water fountains. Put the feedback through the survey.

Q. Do you have a budget to spend on initiatives or do you influence other areas? Do you have any clout?

A. We have no budget and not much clout, but we need to know about the issues.

Q. The survey questions are about things that need fixing rather than aspirational goals. Are there programs around channeling people's aspirations or experience? There needs to be a company set up offering leadership, so that people who want to do something worthwhile can really contribute.

A. We had his conversation at the Ministerial Advisory Council recently. There is a need to harness these skills. The government has not considered this type of program. We work closely with COTA but ideas need to come from outside of government.

Q. We have a sophisticated older population. Toilets and ramps etc. are important but we need some more aspirational things. We should use the skills of retired public servants before they lose them. Is anyone driving it?

A. not really. The Ministerial Advisory Council, with Fiona May as the Chair, is the channel. U3A, ACT Veterans and newsletters and COTA are good bodies.

Caroline Le Couteur MLA

There are two things I would like to discuss.

- Compulsory Third Party
 - The citizen jury considered this
 - They chose Model D, which has the lowest premium and has the best coverage for everyone not just the people in the right.
 - It will reduce the premiums a little.
 - People in the wrong are not covered now but will be.
 - There is still the potential to go to court for more serious injuries.
 - The legislation will be presented before the end of the year.
- The Greens do not agree with Mr Barr's comments about journalists and the ABC only having an older demographic.

Q. This is a rumour that Mr Barr is being impeached?

A. The Liberal party was considering this but decided not to. It wanted to go to the Privileges Committee but the Greens did not support this as there were no questions of fact. The Greens said that Standing Orders were broken so it was sent to the Administrative Procedures Committee. It is unlikely there will be any consequences.

- In relation to the Age Friendly City survey, Gordon Ramsey, the Minister for Aging is a really nice, ethical person. I am not sure how much power he has.

Q. Thank you for your support of Coombs shops.

A. The lease runs until 2019 and then Mick Gentleman could resume the lease but the ACT has never resumed a commercial lease.

Q. There is some talk of shops in Wright as Coombs is a disaster.

A. This is a possibility. A 1500m2 supermarket is being allowed in Wright. This is not fair as Coombs is only allowed a 1000m2 shop. There is a question from supermarkets as to whether a supermarket is viable.

Q. is there any news on environmentally efficient window coverings are being provided for public housing?

A. ACT Housing policy, crazy policy, does not provide curtains. I helped set up a curtain library through Vinnies etc. where second hand curtains are provided.

(Commentary – Wright, Chapman, Holder and Denman Prospect will now have window furnishings).

Q. There has been a huge investment in public housing but there are no solar powers or other energy efficiencies.

A. I totally agree.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 28 February 2018

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous meeting as amended be approved.

Moved: Chris Wilson

Seconded: Trevor Wilson

Carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 28 February 2018

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

- \$18,808-90 Main Account
- \$5229-11 Fetherston Garden Account

Business arising from the Treasurer's Report

- Nil

General Business

- Submissions WCCC committee is preparing/has prepared responses:
 - Climate Change Strategy
 - Molonglo River Reserve
 - Housing Choices
- Service Station
 - The Development Application was approved on 7 December 2017. There were many conditions attached to the approval
 - Some work has been done on the footpath.
- Media about Molonglo
 - Tom Anderson was interviewed about Molonglo. He said he was worried about it ending up being a collection of dormitory suburbs like Gungahlin. There was also concern about access during flooding or bushfires.

- New bus routes
 - Action buses were at our November meeting and were coming back to the February meeting to present again. They are constantly deferring coming back.
 - With the suburban routes, it is hard to make the logistics work.
 - There are insufficient buses
 - The new routes will be less friendly in the sense that people will have to walk 700-800m rather than the current 450-500m.
- Old AFP site
 - Tom Anderson has spoken to Village Building Company but the plans are not advanced enough to come to be presented at a meeting.
 - Tom Anderson thinks there will be approximately 250 townhouses.
 - There will be some issues with traffic.
 - Tom Anderson has written to Roads ACT re the bank up of traffic on Heysen Street and has asked them to do a traffic count with a view to having traffic lights on the intersection.
- 50th anniversary
 - There will be a cake in June
 - Activities will start around May
- Fiona Carrick, WVCC, Chris Redmond, Woden Community Service and Tom Anderson wrote to Minister Fitzharris re the issues with Woden Town Centre.
 - Minister Fitzharris, Bec Cody, MLA and Chris Steel, MLA visited Woden.
 - Tom Anderson took the opportunity to speak to Bec Cody regarding providing curtains for public housing tenants in Coombs.

Q. Is there any update on the Development Application for Coombs from DHA?

A. We have asked them several times to present to us but we have had no response. We will continue to follow them up.

Q. Is it possible to have retrospective cat containment in older suburbs?

A. Caroline Le Couteur – The government could regulate there needs to be a high degree of public agreement. The rules are not being enforced. First residents follow the rules but the next people are often not told or do not follow the rules. All new suburbs should be cat containment especially when they back onto nature reserves.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

**Next Meeting Wednesday 30 May, 2018
Raiders Club, Liardet Street Weston**