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Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 26 June 2019

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.32 pm. The Deputy Chair, Pat McGinn, welcomed members and guests.

Apologies: Tom Anderson, Jenny Adams, Lance Williamson, Chris Wilson, Max Kwiatkowski

Guests: Minister for City Services, Chris Steel MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA, Shengnan Wang

25 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Minister for City Services, Chris Steel, MLA

Mr Steel advised will take on responsibility for Transport Minister from 1 July 2019.

Mr Steel spoke about:

Car parking Cooleman Court

- Proposed car parking for 150 cars will be temporary with area to be used for community facility in future.

Walk-in Centre

- To be located at the Independent living centre
- Services will be broadened when Walk-in Centre opened

Waramanga playground

- The government is conducting a playspace review across Canberra
- Review ongoing
- Funding outcome of review

Library services

- Budget includes funding for a library co-design process that will look at where new services will be provided
- Someone from government attend future WCCC meeting

Trees

- Funding for 17,000 more trees
 - Replace end of life trees and where canopy good for climate change
- Urban Forest Strategy will be developed

Stromlo Forest Park

- Funding for design of ovals/playing fields
- Seeking expressions of interest from groups interested in managing the Park

Roads

- Funding available for Kent and Novar Street intersections off Dudley Street
 - Redeveloped traffic modelling – options being investigated
- Will come back to the WCCC
- Future roads east/west lane onto Tuggeranong Parkway
- Adelaide Avenue – improve traffic flow – examining dedicated lane from Cotter Road northbound to remove need to merge onto Adelaide Avenue

Police

- Extra 69 police operational staff
- New police model

Q. Molonglo Neighborhood Watch Group - Is it possible to provide part time police presence at Coombs shops?

A. Worth raising and will pass on to relevant Minister.

Hospital

- SPIRE being built – will provide 39 emergency beds and 9 new operating theatres.
- Suggested that a speaker attend a WCCC public meeting

Food Waste

- 59% of Weston/Molonglo have green bins
- Government looking at food waste bin from 2023

Single use plastics

- Submissions to government paper closed July

New dog model for ACT

- Reduce off leash areas
- New enforcement team from July

Heyson Street bike path

- Consulting with community

Questions and Answers

Trees

- Q. Is there a map available to show where will be planting trees including information on fire risk?
- A. Part of the Urban Forest Strategy review and plan. The focus is on street trees and some rehabilitation will be undertaken.
- Q. What about the bush ravaged?
- A. This is a separate project and not included in Strategy.
- Q. What will happen to the trees where the new Cooleman Court car park is proposed to be built?
- A. Key is to retain as many as possible.

Parking

- Q. Will a crossing be provided on Parkinson Street as new carpark will compound existing pedestrian safety concerns?
- A. The entry to the carpark will be at the roundabout on Briery Street and a pedestrian crossing will be provided on Parkinson Street to provide access to the new carpark. Propose a wombat crossing and other measures to slow traffic down.
- Q. What measures might be undertaken to improve pedestrian safety from skateboards, etc?
- A. Looking at ways to slow people down.
- Q. Building a carpark on space designated for a community facility prohibited by Territory Plan?
- A. Not in breach of Territory Plan. The carpark will be temporary. The area will be used as community facility after the Molonglo Town Centre comes on board. 50% of residents support extra car parking.
- Q. Centre Management of Cooleman Court welcome the extra car parking. However, need to enforce time limits and rangers needed to come.
- A. Look at all different types of parking – employee all day, park and ride plus time limit shorter time etc, mobility parks.
- Q. Safety of pedestrians around Cooleman Court. The signage at the revamped carpark south is not clear. There is nothing marked for pedestrians – signing – way, etc.
- A. Will look at extra signage.

Comment: Trennery Square – the covered area gets westerly sun making it hot in summer and cold in winter.

- Q. There is a strip of land at the tennis court – could this be used for parking?
- A. Government will bring the design for the carpark for consultation.
- Q. What is the future of green open/park spaces? The carpark will be used for a building in future but what will happen to the remaining areas?
- A. Will look at green spaces around and make better use of them.
- Q. Turn into a carpark?
- A. No.

- Q. Could the gradient of the footpath on the north side of Coleman Court be looked at to improve pedestrian safety?
A. Will look at it.

Molonglo

- Q. What is being done to relieve the pressure on Molonglo with regard to roads, shopping, etc?
A. The Master Plan provides for extra car parks. In the longer term there will be a group centre in Molonglo. Note that Denman Prospect shops have opened with a supermarket.
- Q. When will these facilities be provided given that Molonglo will eventually have a population of 40,000 and a lot more development is planned for the south side?
A. The development of the Molonglo Town Centre is down the track as need certain population to make it viable.
- Q. When will commercial leases commence in Molonglo?
A. Not at this time. Not able to discuss in detail but advised that market dictates the running of shopping centre and what being built.
- Q. Proposed commercial building projects are taking a long time. What are the timelines of their development applications?
A. Need to ensure proper due diligence of assessment of DAs.
- Q. Why are mixed use developments now just being built as residential?
A. Market response.
- Q. The way that commercial leases are being managed is having a detrimental effect in Coombs.
A. Depends on the market. Lease assistance is being provided in developments.
- Q. What impact will the recreation area in Coombs have on the river corridor?
A. Government is seeking comment through 'Yoursay' on its website. This is open to comment till 1 August 2019.

Roads

- Q. Dudley/Cotter Road Intersection. Proposed roundabout for new residential development will impact on already heavy traffic flow.
A. This is being considered in assessment of accessibility to new development.
- Q. Will the slipway off Cotter Road onto Adelaide Avenue cope with the increasing volume of traffic? Is there any proposal to build a slipway going south?
A. Main pressure going north. Government looking at slipway onto Adelaide Avenue to bring traffic into a lane rather than merge.

Bike path Heyson Street

- Q. Pedal Power is consulting with the government and Equestrian Association on the placement of the proposed bike path on Heyson Street. Section only over the hill off road. There is a need to look at the run of the path.
A. The Minister will take up second stage as a priority.

PRESENTATION

Food Waste Management – Survey

Shengnan Wang, Honours Student in Environmental Science at Australian National University

Spoke about her Honours project which is looking at adapting the successful household food waste management strategy adopted in Milan, Italy, for the ACT. The goal is to understand how we can make food waste management more sustainable in the ACT. In order to analyse the feasibility of transferring Milan's food waste management strategy to the ACT, she is attempting to conduct surveys with 100 local residents to understand their acceptance and readiness on the approach adopted by Milan.

Survey passed around. A link to the project will be provided on the WCCC website.

Findings will be provided to the WCCC. This will be made available on the WCCC website.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes meeting 29 May 2019

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

Moved: Pat McGinn seconded: Shelby Schofield Motion carried

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2019

Nil

Treasurer's Report

The Deputy Chair advised that the Treasurer was an apology and the Treasurer's Report for June would be deferred till the next general meeting in July.

General Business

Molonglo

- Zapari development: No update on the situation with regard to the approval of this development.
- Coombs playground: An information night will be held at Coombs on Thursday 27 June 2019.

Hydrotherapy pool. Various groups have raised issue with their ability to access the University of Canberra pool once the pool is closed at the Canberra Hospital in Woden. The closure of the Woden pool has now been put on hold while an assessment is made on the accessibility and demand for hydrotherapy pools in Canberra. A consultant has been engaged to undertake the review.

Heyson Street bike path. Consultation is ongoing with Pedal Power and the equestrian community on the siting of the bike path.

Building Quality. The ACT government will employ six more inspectors and eight more active response inspectors.

Public Housing

- Chapman: The development is nearly completed.
- Holder: Construction is underway.
- Wright: The development is nearly completed.

Old Police College site in Weston: The developer has advised that they are having difficulty having the estate development plan approved.

WCCC Committee succession: The Deputy Chair advised that the committee is seeking more members next year as vacancies will exist for both the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

Meeting Closed: 9.30 pm

Next Committee meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 31 July 2019 at Raiders Club, Weston