

Your local voice



www.westoncreek.org.au
info@westoncreek.org.au

PO Box 3701
Weston Creek ACT 2611

Telephone (02) 6288 8975

Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 31 July 2019

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.32pm

The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests

Apologies: Mark Boast, Chris Wilson

31 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Your Say Community Panel – Presentation by Karen Stewart-Moore and David Briant

- The Your Say Community Panel was launched on 1 July 2019. It is a website that you can join and sign up to. There are now 1740 members and we are looking for 3000 members. You need to live in Canberra and be 16+ years old. We are targeting 16-24 year olds. There are online surveys as well as face to face meetings and panels. There are also online discussions. We are offering 5 \$100 egift vouchers per month as a prize for joining up.
- The existing Your Say will stay in place for community conversations. Anyone can contribute anonymously
- When you join the Your Say Community Panel there will be a short demographic survey of approximately 30 questions. The 1740 members are very representative of the community except for young people. We will be actively targeting young people. The regional representation is representative of Canberra except that Weston Creek has twice the representation based on population and Belconnen and Tuggeranong are underrepresented.

Q. Will you conduct surveys that target specific demographics?

A. Yes we can. We can invite them to focus groups etc.

Q. Will general survey questions go to the whole panel?

A. We may do a random sample but often will go to everyone. We may need to send reminders because we need at least 600 responses to be meaningful.

Q. Do you have an expert in statistics? There are ways of designing surveys that have leading questions. Who is designing the surveys? How will you know if it is statistically viable? You need valid data.

A. I am a professional Researcher (David Briant). My professional reputation is on the line. We have an independent reviewer and we ensure questions are not leading or biased.

Q. What is happening re feedback? It is important that it gets back to the community.

A. We are committed to sending results to everyone who took part within a month and put the

results up on the website. If we don't build trust people will stop doing surveys.

Q. What happens if the question is not applicable and there is no choice but you can't go on if you don't choose an answer? People will lie to continue on.

A. This is very frustrating for people. Surveys through this panel will not do this. You can put 'no comment' in the free text box. There will be 'prefer not to say' and 'not applicable' options.

Q. Some people will nominate who would get involved anyway. Those with a barrow to push. What can be done about that?

A. We are trying to get a wider audience. We are recruiting randomly through telephone surveys – ask them if they are willing to join the panel at the end of the survey. The panel is good for busy people. They will be nudged to answer a question via email inbox – it only takes a couple of minutes to answer surveys. We can come to your meetings regularly to provide results.

Q. Some areas have specific issues but surveys seem to be general. Who is going to make decisions about more specific issues?

A. The next few survey topics will be a bit more targeted. Not necessarily demographic or geographic but e.g. 'did you attend x event? If so...'

Q. Could WCCC get a cut of what this areas says?

A. Can do it but should we? We can to meetings and give the details.

Q. What is the reliability of the IT platform? Will it drop out?

A. There were a few issues with dates/calendars initially. We have chosen a reliable platform which also adequately protects data. We have a support email – please let us know if there is an issue.

Q. I would have thought that telephone surveys were problematic because of scams.

A. Yes it is an issue. That is why we are going online.

Q. You will get a good profile of people filling out surveys and saying what they think. How are you going to protect data from being sold?

A. There are no arrangements at all to sell data. We have chosen the company we are working with for their integrity and protection of data.

Q. How often are the surveys coming out?

A. About twice a month. We don't want to put people off by surveying too much.

WCCC encourage people to sign up. Be positive if there are hiccups and keep going through the process.

Murrumbidgee MLA's – five minutes

Caroline Le Couteur

Music/Noise Laws.

- Ms Le Couteur moved a motion 31 July 2019 to make it easier to have live music
- The problem is that in parts of Canberra such as Civic nightclubs, residential accommodation is built next to them but people want quiet (they complain about garbage trucks as well). The nightclubs are annoyed because they were there before the accommodation.
 - A motion was moved that there should be an order of occupancy, If you were there first then you have precedence. Accommodation should have better noise reduction.

Budget Estimates

- Politicians get to ask questions about anything government is funding. I asked about bus usage. It has gone up 9% in Weston Creek.

Q. Did this include Molonglo?

A. It shouldn't. It was based on known district boundaries.

Q. Could it have been affected by there being less school buses? Children may now be on ordinary buses.

A. I am not sure.

Q. There is a big shift with the new network. Buses are more frequent and go earlier and later. Does it differentiate between linked and separate boardings?

A. I don't know but multiples are considered.

Q. Does this take into account that we are now taking three buses rather than two as before?

A. Not sure.

Q. Is there any analysis between peak and off peak? This is important.

A. I didn't ask for that.

Q. What period is it reported against? Did it include the free travel period?

A. The free travel period was excluded.

Q. It is hard to read the bus route numbers when it is raining. Can this be fixed?

A. Other times as well. I have asked in the Assembly to have this fixed.

Ms Le Couteur asked what the meeting's view was on the temporary car park at Cooleman Court? It will be used until the Molonglo group shops open.

Q. Does it have anything to do with units being built that will take out car parking?

A. All parking lost for the units will be replaced.

Q. I live in Watling Place and the first I heard of the new carpark was when I received the ACT government newsletter which talked about it. Where was the consultation?

A. You didn't miss the consultation. There wasn't any. I am on the cross-bench, I am not part of the government.

Q. What does zoning allow for on public land?

A. Auxiliary use for carpark.

Q. People don't understand the true price of providing parking. We need to look at how we use/price. Why aren't we doing this?

A. Noted.

Q. Cooleman Court is a community facility and it shouldn't change. This issue is caused by there being no shops in Molonglo and the owner of the shops is difficult. What is the government planning with Molonglo?

A. I can 100% assure you that no-one in government wants this. The owner was told that he had a certain amount of time to do something and he did. If the law is changed it will impact on commercial property owners who do the right thing. Should have used a select tender process rather than the highest price. There was a suggestion at Estimates that select tender be used for all land.

Q. There is a problem with Planning across the board in the act. Wasn't the idea of leases that they could be pulled if they developer doesn't do what they are supposed to do? We shouldn't be picking up his pieces in Coombs.

A. I agree.

Q. Isn't it the case that the week before the auction in Coombs the government reduced the size of the supermarket allowed? It is a bit disingenuous to only blame the landlord.

A. It is true about the change to the supermarket size.

Q. Because the car park is temporary does that mean it has to go through a DA process?

A. No. This is not what the government wants but it can't find a better option. The community seems to want parking.

Q. Wasn't there a proposal for a permanent multi-storey car park? Why don't we do this?

A. It was not a proposal but it costs approximately \$30,000 per parking space to build.

Q. WCCC should put a petition around to get it stopped.

A. We can look at this but we need someone to do it as it takes a lot of time.

Q. What is happening to the idea for there to be commercial on the ground floor of new units? This is not happening.

A. The Suburban Land Agency is committed to this. They are going to look at how land is sold in the future.

- The need for new infrastructure with a separation of pedestrians from cyclists, electric personal transportation devices and Segways etc

Q. If one hits someone there is no insurance or compensation because they are not registered. What can be done about this?

A. We have that in our submission.

Q. There is a need for an education campaign around appropriate behaviour for all devices. There also needs to be better signage. Incidents will happen. Should the police get involved to resolve these issues?

A. I don't think we should use the police.

Coombs Play Space

- There are issues with the design and the lack of consultation.

Denman Prospect Community Centre

- There is a Development Application for a new community centre of 1100m²
- The design looks good.
- It will cost \$2.5m plus capital works of \$1.5m. Total cost \$4.0m
- Coombs has a community centre but it sits empty because no-one knows how to manage it properly.

Q. Can we get one for Weston Creek?

A. We continue to try.

Holder Wetlands Open day

- Sunday 11 August 2019 11.00am to 3.00pm
- Southern ACT Catchment Group are running it.
- The Holder Wetland Carers Group has already been set up to look after it.

Q. Is there any seating?

No. You need to allow people to sit and enjoy it. The same with Weston Ponds. The community could choose to provide memorial seats.

Bus network – meeting with Transport Canberra

- They need to improve the signage including things such as "buses depart here for..." listing major destinations, in a larger font size.
- We asked for a review of passenger numbers on peak hour buses from Molonglo and Weston Creek to see if we need bigger buses.
- We need a bigger Park and Ride carpark near the RSPCA. Perhaps one could be considered at the top of Hindmarsh Drive.
- There is an issue with parking in the all-day parking at Cooleman Court and then going to work on the bus e.g. at Pet Barn.
- There is an issue with connections between rapid services (R7) and local services at the Parkinson Street stop. e.g. a number of R7 drivers have been departing as intending transferring passengers are exiting their connecting services or walking between buses or their service is arriving at the stop.
- A small number of drivers are refusing to open rear doors at suitable stops, and departing before people such as the elderly, people with prams etc are seated.
- The Park and Ride spaces in Liardet St are probably no longer well located considering the move of services to Parkinson St.
- A designated terminating stop at Woden interchange for all Weston Creek services would be welcomed by passengers.
- Are there any plans for additional bus priority measures (lanes, traffic lights) on Cotter Road. Congestion must be impacting on travel times between 8.00 am and 9.30 am, and will surely impact network reliability.

Q. There are too many people catching buses for the amount of shelter provided. Can it be increased?

A. That is a good idea we will pass it on.

Deed of Grant to WCCC providing funding for the next year.

- This was signed today (31 July 2019).
- The funding runs from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.
- In the past we have had to have 10 meetings in a year. Now we only have to have nine. It can be hard to get people to meetings in the very cold weather.

Woden Community Services - Meeting with the new CEO Jenny Kitchen

- They cover Weston Creek and Molonglo as well as Woden.

Second service station

- It is almost open. There were tankers there today filling the tanks.

Q. I understand that the service station will be run by the same people as the one at Cooleman Court. This will lead to no competition.

A. We were originally told that a group of footballers had bought it.

Heysen Street bike path

- WCCC, the Equestrian Association and Pedal Power have been talking to the ACT government
- We want it to run behind the sub-station but it would go into a recreation reserve.
- No one is prepared to negotiate with another agency.
- The fallback position is to take out the bus stop and put a fence around the brick building
- Cyclists, horses, cars, pedestrians and kangaroos will all be in the same area.

Q. How do you get from the left hand side of Heysen Street to the right hand side?

A. There will be a crossing.

Q. How many horses will there be?

A. Not many.

Meetings with politicians planned

- We have asked to meet with Chris Steel MLA
- David Smith MP has asked to meet with us
- We want to meet with Caroline Le Couteur

We need people to let us know what the issues are and what people are thinking. Pass them on to us even if we don't agree personally.

Q. Has there been any communications about the communication tower in Fetherston Ridge doubling in size?

A. It is a federal issue but they only have to put an ad in the paper. They do communicate in other ways.

Woden

- The Chair of Woden Valley Community Council considers that Woden is our Town Centre and gets our input on things impacting on it.
- We recently suggested that the Woden CIT land be kept for health and ancillary services such as a hydrotherapy pool.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 28 August 2019
Raiders Club, Liardet Street Weston