

Your local voice



www.westoncreek.org.au
info@westoncreek.org.au
PO Box 3701
Weston Creek ACT 2611
Phone: 0458 756 034

PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 2021

MINUTES

See also video of meeting, live streamed and uploaded to WCCC Facebook page

Committee in attendance: Janice Paull, Bill Gemmell (WCCC Interim Chair), Shelby Schofield, Michelle Bourdet, Michelle Weston, Simone Hunter,

MLAs in attendance: Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Emma Davidson MLA.

Apologies: Mark Boast, Giulia Jones MLA.

Meeting opened: 7:37pm. 8 signed in attendance plus guests and MLAs and WCCC committee members. Others in attendance signed in through QR code.

Unique Facebook 289 views of meeting video (at 25 October).

7:37 pm Welcome to members and guests: Bill Gemmell. Reminded people of speaking politely. Introduced guests.

Acknowledgment of Country. Diana Forrester

We are honoured to be meeting on the ancestral lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge these First Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, whose cultures are among the oldest living in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the communities in the Murrumbidgee region and extend our recognition to their descendants – past, present, and future.

7:40 pm Presentation by CRIME STOPPERS: DIANA FORRESTER, CHAIR ACT REGION

Presentation:

- Diana Forrester gave an overview of Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers is also a registered charity
- Crime Stoppers started in 1974 in America, seeking information about a robbery. It is now international. 1200 different programs now operating in 25 countries
- In Australia, Crime Stoppers began in 1987 in Victoria. It started in 1998 in the ACT
- Examples of campaigns: Dob in a dealer, and firearms campaign of 2017
- National firearms amnesty launched in July 2020 in Canberra. To encourage people to hand in unwanted and/or unregistered firearms without fear
- Crime Stoppers have developed awareness of cyber-crime modules following work with e-safety Commissioner. Dealing with cyber bullying and dealing with fake news. More information is on the Crime Stoppers website
- Bike Link is another platform launched in 2021 with ACT Police where you can register your bike or scooter. Good way to re-unite with bike if it is lost. It is free

- *It's What You know* campaign 1800 333 000. You can ring this number or report online. The smallest piece of information can make a difference. You can do this anonymously
- Thank you to Diana Forrester who provided cards with helpful hints and ice scrapers

Presentation by ACT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: LAURIE BLACKALL, PRESIDENT

- Laurie Blackall gave an overview of Neighbourhood Watch (NW)
- All members are volunteers, no paid staff
- NW is about education and crime prevention. How to stay safe and have a sense of well-being in your area
- Mission is to foster the safety and security of neighbourhoods
- Partnership with ACT Police and Crime Stoppers
- NW are not vigilantes or trying to do the job of the Police
- If you are worried about hooning in the street – report everything
- Neighbourhood Watch ACT is also a registered charity with a Board of Management. It is community based
- NW are funded by a grant through ACT Policing
- Traditionally a suburb decides to have a NW. Now some suburbs have grouped together and are quite successful, example Molonglo Valley Group
- Communications – moving with greater social media presence, including Facebook pages
- Crime prevention is everybody's problem. You can be the eyes and ears of your area
- Evaluate your own security. For example: have you marked your possessions, do you lock your garage door. You can use a UV pen to identify your belongings
- Some areas in Weston Creek are not currently active, you can become a point of contact who helps circulate information. There is an online membership form. Please contact one of the Board members if you are interested in being a contact and they can come out and have a chat with you

Presentation by SARGEANT CHRIS BALL, ACT POLICE.

Presentation points:

- Thanked ACT police partners, Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch
- ACT Police use reports from Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch. From these reports Police can identify areas where to focus, example anti-social behaviour, and then Police can put on extra patrols.
- Keeping safe suggestions: talk with neighbours, have someone collect your mail when away, keeping lawns tidy, and bring in the bins
- Weston Creek is a safe community
- Police can also be in the area in unmarked cars.
- Response to calls – calls will be prioritized for life threatening incidents and appropriate Police response. On average Police respond to these high priorities in 10 minutes
- Different Police stations help each other out
- Road safety – Police have a dedicated unit operating 7 days a week. They will respond to reports of dangerous driving. You can report anonymously
- Report to Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE

- Do the Police look after Crime Stoppers phone? No, there are volunteers answering the phone.
- Is reporting on social media a good idea? Best to report through Crime Stoppers and/or Neighbourhood Watch. If you have CTV footage, show it to Police. Don't put details on Facebook pages.
- How does the information go from Crime Stoppers to Police? Information comes from online portal. It is triaged. The information is not kept, it is not kept after it is made into an information report.
- How do you determine if a report is genuine? Sometimes it is multiple reports. Report even if you think someone else has.
- Concerns over dangerous driving. Why is this still not resolved? Please pass on any videos or complaints. Police use a whole of government approach, for example Uriarra bitumen has been put down that can shred car tyres.
- You can also report graffiti through Access Canberra.
- What are the most common crimes in Weston Creek? Is it different from other areas? Mostly a safe area. Theft is on a spike, at the moment, in this area. However, it is lower than other parts of Canberra.
- What are the chances of getting a Police Station at Coleman Court? Police need to be centrally placed.
- What is the resourcing/funding at Woden Police Station/Crime Stoppers? There are a few people at the station, plus 2 or 3 cars, and a team leader. Crime Stoppers would benefit from more funding, for example for educational programs.
 - Currently working with the Police Service Model with \$33 million Government funding and additional staff.
- What happens to reports made? Process of reports outlined. Send in your report and you receive a report tracking number. You can call ACT Policing and ask about the process of your numbered report.

8:55 pm Murrumbidgee MLAs

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

- Marisa Paterson outlined a serious incident that has impacted her. This is why the Firearms Amnesty is very important. Please promote this campaign
- Petition for Warramanga ovals from Weston/Molonglo ovals for additional lighting. If interested, please sign petition
- Release of draft Crimes Act in relation to consent. This has been getting feedback. You can still comment
- Politics in the Pub tonight. Topic was Territory Rights. Giulia Jones MLA attending. There is a petition for this issue.

Emma Davidson MLA

- Intergenerational impacts of crime and prevention. We all want to live safely. Emma Davidson is the ACT Minister responsible for youth justice. Looking at raising age of criminal responsibility. Social determinance an important factor, such as homelessness. We need to provide the right supports from the beginning and better outcomes for young people Discussion paper open for 5 August on Your Say website

- Question about NDIS reforms: Community was very clear about not having independent assessments and needing open and transparent sharing of information about finances. Need more information about finance person-centred codesigned plans.
- Government will go back to the community. Emma Davidson MLA happy to help people with this

8:42 pm GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 30 June 2021.

With 2 corrections Heysen Street (spelling) and Namatjira Drive.

Moved: Rosemary Drabsch. Seconded: Val Bland. Accepted: Yes.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 30 June 2021. None

TREASURER'S REPORT

- WCCC account: \$27 868. A result of receiving 2 Arts grants totaling \$18 000 which will be spent this year.
- Friends of Fetherston Gardens Account: \$5 592

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Bill Gemmell, Interim Chair:

- Planning Review underway including district level planning
- Brierly Street upgrade consultation is getting lots of input. There is a pop-up session tomorrow.
- WCCC has received Street Arts Grants – thank you to Simone Hunter for her hard work. More information at the next general meeting. Simone outlined possible projects including art on walls and Trenergy Square sculpture.
- Development applications: There has been a meeting with Village Building about AFP site. There will be another meeting later in August. Community members will be invited. Others coming up and Council will keep you up to date.
- Budget will be announced at the end of August. Council will give update on our requests.
- AGM will be held 25 August. Call out for new members.
- Suggestion box: on sign in table. Please give feedback.
- Air quality: there will be a meeting with Rebecca Vassarotti MLA. Council is requesting an air quality measuring station.

HAVE YOUR SAY FROM THE FLOOR:

- Typos in minutes Heyson Street and – will be amended.
- Comment of concerns about wood fires.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 9:22 pm. Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

Next Meeting
Wednesday 25 August 2021
Weston Creek Community Centre
Simone Hunter about Surface Art Festival.
Annual General Meeting (AGM)