

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, 27 JULY 2022

### MINUTES

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

**COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes

**COMMITTEE APOLOGIES:** Lesley Pattinson, Michelle Weston, Mark Boast, Diana Terry

**MLAS IN ATTENDANCE:** Emma Davidson MLA, Dr Marissa Paterson MLA

**APOLOGIES:** Peter Cain MLA

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:36 pm. 7 signed in attendance plus guests and WCCC committee members.

Unique Facebook 133 views of meeting video (as of 1 August 2022).

Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

Answers to questions taken on notice from the last meeting have been uploaded to the website.

Chair encouraged people to comment about projects on the Your Say page.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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.

### **7:35 pm PRESENTATIONS and Q&A:**

- **Transport and City Services portfolio** activities in Weston Creek, **Minister Chris Steel**
- **Brierly Street upgrade project by Sophie Clement and Jeremy Smith** from the TCCS Infrastructure Delivery area
- Michael Lee and Pieter Van Der Walt from Canberra Town Planning - Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Veterinary Hospital on Dixon Drive, Holder. **Please note that this presentation has been postponed. Date to be advised.**

#### **Presentation points Minister Chris Steel:**

- Duffy shops upgrade has commenced, and area is boarded up
- Concept plans for Brierly Street have been released and community feedback will be used to inform final design before construction
- Some intersections have poor performance history and therefore will be upgraded
- ACT Policies for comment have been released in the last week, for example, Active Travel Plan
  - Better connected network. You can comment on the map by dropping a pin
  - Consultation will occur (also through the Community Council), example where scooters should be parked and end of trip facilities
  - Share the Road is a road safety campaign

- Slower streets – communities have come forward saying they want motorists to slow down
- Conversation on speed limits on local streets
- ZEV strategy to try and address 60% of our emissions and bring this down. Significant piece of work and will support people through the transition including incentive schemes
- 12 buses electric will arrive before the end of year, looking at a further 90. Buses will be stored at Woden interchange. Mechanics are currently being trained.

**Sample questions and comments from the audience:**

Q: Are we going to have a separate cycling and walking paths?

A: Yes, in high frequency areas

Q: Problems with participating with active travel examples: Difficulties with visibility of the colour and print of the tap on buses. Poor connection, example the R7 does not connect with buses to Holder and Duffy, and you can see the bus leaving the stop and you then wait 15 minutes for connection. Safety issues for students at Mulley Street as this has become a drop off zone due to lack of bus run through Weston.

A: Minister Steel said he would follow up

Q: When are we going to see a permanent police presence in Weston creek?

A: Investing in 60 more police who work from the vehicle and respond to reports

Q: Criminal motor vehicle behaviour in Molonglo.

Vehicle crime is negatively impacting on family budgets, insurance costs high

A: Doing a review into penalties and if they are proportionate to the crime. Working with the police minister, particularly in the area of vehicle theft

Q: Dead and damaged trees are a safety issue. Repairs are needed for the paths at Fetherston Gardens, have been waiting 3 years. There has been support from TCCS

A: Will pass on to TCCS, talk with the tree team. Volunteers do a great job. Expanding Holder depot to do this work.

Q: Comparing electric and solar buses. Have solar buses been considered?

A: Looking at a range of options. Will look at solar panels at the depots to charge the buses. Did trial about hybrid buses a few years ago, but Government moving to zero emissions.

**8:09 pm Sophie Clement (TCCS) Brierly Street. Presentation points:**

- Priority is Brierly Street with improved trees and landscaping, accessibility, and lighting
- Have engaged a consultant (Anna)
- Community voice – more trees and outdoor dining, improved seating, pedestrian safety, family friendly
- Workshop about 3 months ago supported one way street. There were concerns about the budget and how it has been allocated, congestion at loading dock and petrol station access
- Drew on the suburban character and trees of Weston Creek to create garden rooms and furnish with tables and seating that was comfortable

**Key design elements:**

**Brierly Street south extending**

Improving paving  
Adding a pedestrian crossing aligning with laneway

**Brierly Street north (petrol station)**

Widening footpath at Lava Café to 2.5 metres  
Creating outdoor spaces with trees in garden beds  
Adding a pedestrian crossing  
Removing the loading zone  
Relocating the bus stop to Parkinson Street

**Trenerly Square**

Adding batons to make seats more comfortable  
Adding trees and tables  
Planting elm trees

**Northern Carpark**

Adding line markings and bollards  
Getting ready to move Woolworths trucks into Liardet Street  
Keeping street slow with no heavy vehicles  
Looking at upcycling materials in construction  
Pistachio trees – will only be male trees

**Sample questions and comments from the audience:**

Q: There is lots of paving and it gets very hot

A: Will be adding a significant number of trees and low plantings in areas where presently there is none

Q: Car spacing

A: No loss in numbers of parking as pushing out the curb. Loading zones outside real estate will move, become parking

Q: Will there be extra permanent tables?

A: Yes, added in certain areas and as much public seating as possible. Adding 3 extra tables in Trennery Square under the canopy and vines will be grown over the canopy

Q: How long will it take to build, is it in the budget?

A: 1.5 million in budget, Construction tender will go out before the end of this year, ready for 2023

Q: Concerns about the loading dock intersection and Woolworths trucks reversing

A: Too difficult to address in this project

Q: Unsure if this plan will calm Brierly Street. Woolworths northern carpark has one small zone of 10km/h. Notionally the car parks are therefore 50km/h, which is a safety issue.

A: Taken on notice

Other comments:

- Limited Renewable energy in this project
- Concerns with buses on Brierly Street, bus layover will stay, bus stop in front of BWS will move to Parkinson
- Disability reform strategy whole of journey is important for connections with different modes of transport
- Brierly Street will have shorter turn around for parking times. TCCS is consulting on parking time limits

**8:50pm TCCS presentation Jeremy Smith**

- Upgrade of 3 intersections in Weston Creek, feasibility studies have been completed on all 3 intersections. All are on heavy vehicle routes.
- Some data: Hindmarsh and Brierly Street is a black spot with federal funding due to 21 collisions. Heysen Street recorded 14 crashes
- Cost difference between roundabout and lights is not very much
- Construction tenders will go out later this year. Construction about 6-9 months depending on traffic control

**Sample questions and comments from the audience:**

Q: Why stop traffic flow northbound towards Cotter Road?

A: Needed for safe pedestrian movement

Q: Mulley Street intersection is busy. Has there been a safety audit?

A: In the past 5 years, yes. You can look up ranking. Jeremy will follow up

Q: On Heysen Street there is a school entry. School traffic block road. Unwin Street is the gate the school is meant to use. Concerns of safety for students and congestion when Village construction starts.

A: Taken on notice. School would have had to do a traffic plan

**9:05 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs**

We always have an open invitation to all Murrumbidgee MLAs to speak at the WCCC public meetings.

**Dr Marissa Patterson**

- Census has been released. ACT population grew quite significantly with 1500 increase in Weston Creek
- Assembly next week with Tuesday budget release
- Marissa on Estimates Committee, Will spend 2 weeks questioning the Ministers. After budget she will

seek questions

- Inquiries - renewable energy innovation report
- Community Corrections report today
- Open inquiries include EV, Housing, Reproductive choice, Future of the working week. Anyone can write a submission for consideration and is encouraged
- Tabling petition on Bluett's block next week
- Chair invited Dr Paterson to WCCC September public meeting with Western Edge topic

#### **Emma Davidson MLA**

- Announcement of technology grants which are inclusive for purchase of such items as laptops phones for loan or use. Will be another round 2023, 2014 and it usually opens February
- Prebudget announcement – funding for ACT Carer Strategy e.g. Carers ACT
- Funding a social recovery framework will help understand what organizations are out there, what they are doing, particularly in disaster situation, or getting prepared
- Question was asked about Emma Davidson MLA trip to QLD.
  - Investigating for plans for the first eating disorder Centre in Canberra will be in Coombs
  - Concept design of a public health facility
- Q: Question was asked about mental health
  - A: next week in the Assembly Emma Davidson MLA will be tabling a report, an inquiry is open now for submissions, independently chaired

#### **9:23 pm GENERAL MEETING**

- Minutes of the meeting of June 2022  
Moved: Rosemary Drabsch    Seconded: Val Bland    Accepted: Yes.
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of June 2022 none

#### **General Business**

##### **Chair report**

- Council very busy at the moment. Looking at submissions for active travel, EV adoption, Human Rights Act
- Thank you for comments from the community
- New Planning Bill going to Cabinet shortly and then Assembly, hope we will get to see it
- Western Edge reports are out. This is an important issue, suggestion given for these to be read in conjunction with the State of Environment Report
- Save the date: Garden party 30 October
- No August WCCC public meeting

**CLOSE OF MEETING:** 9:30 pm. Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

We would appreciate any assistance packing up the hall, 9:15-9:30 pm. Thank you in advance.

**PLEASE NOTE: Council will not be holding the usual public meeting in August**, due to both the forecast Covid trajectory and the number of external pressures on our already stretched and busy volunteers. Thank you for your understanding.

**Topics for the WCCC NEXT PUBLIC MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER will include:**

- **Discussion on the Western Edge Investigation**
- **TCCS will give an update about parking at Cooleman Court**