

*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 SEPTEMBER 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, Michelle Weston, Mark Boast

**COMMITTEE APOLOGIES:** Lesley Pattinson, Diana Terry

**MLAS IN ATTENDANCE:** Emma Davidson MLA,

**APOLOGIES:** Dr Marissa Paterson MLA, Peter Cain MLA, Minister Chris Steel

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:35 pm. 7 signed in attendance plus guests and WCCC committee members. Unique Facebook 249 views of meeting video (as of 22 October 2022).

Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

**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 Canberra and City Services (TCCS)** will give an update about the revised parking arrangements around Coleman Court. Geoff Davidson.
- **Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park Management** on the proposed Stromlo Forest Park upgrades
- **Emma Davidson MLA** discussing disability reform

**Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) gave an update about the revised parking arrangements around Coleman Court. Geoff Davidson.**

- 1229 car parks available around Coleman Court
- Utilisation survey was completed. On the Thursday there was an average 44% occupancy. 41 disability spaces available
- Proposed changes include:
  - extending Monday to Friday restrictions to Saturday
  - 2-hour parking in Watling Place
  - Commons and MacLeod Courts to 2-hour parking
- Next steps: hopefully completed by the end of 2022
- Review spaces in the southern carpark which may not meet the current standards, investigate park and ride
- New ACT Parking Action Plan
- Brierly Street upgrade will provide additional spaces

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

- The difference between all day and park and ride Park and ride and all day. The one behind the petrol station has low usage. Feedback was that Dillon Place was better location.
- Shared zone speed limits are too high
- Q: Will there be enforcement as there will be fewer loading zones. A: Access Canberra does undertake parking patrols
- Q: What will be the impact once Molonglo opens up? A: Will be part of the Action Plan and adjustments can be made
- Q: Will there be longer time parking spots? A: Yes. No changes to 4-hour spots
- Q: Dillon Place is a good spot, but the bus stop is not covered A: Good feedback and will pass on to Transport Canberra
- Q: Southern carpark is a problem spot that does not meet code A: will undertake a safety review
- Q: Dillon Place is an informal park and ride. A: Will consider if it gets signage after Liardet street park and ride is taken away
- Q: More parking for tradies is needed. A: Brierly Street upgrade will have along vehicle parking area in the northern carpark at the mc end
- Q: concerned about the taxi rank and distance to bus connections. Should be aligned with Disability Transport Reform. A: spaces reduced from 4 to 3. Wasn't possible and it's not far to walk. Will take on feedback
- Q: What happened to the Container deposit scheme? A: It is still under consideration

**Scott Saddler Stromlo Forest Park. Executive Branch Manager Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park**

See also slide presentation.

- In 2016 there was consultation with stakeholders
- National Arboretum Canberra took over Stromlo Forest Park in 2020 and made improvements
- Proposed design and improvements include (to be completed by June 2023):
  - Improved entry
  - 2.5 asphalt surfaced path
  - A refuge island
  - Upgrading the existing car park with 500 car parks, adding disability parking, and dedicated drop off zone
  - Village Green will have easier access points

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

Q: What are the longer-term plans, example student accommodation and small car park, linking from Stromlo Road to the park itself? A: A central hub will be a commercial hub and potentially a hotel. Designs are in for 3 sports fields to be built. Road links – will put to Government

Q: Will there be a Velodrome? A: it's not in the existing master plan

Q: Will there be an audit of mature trees and grass areas? What will be lost? There are trees there already with canopy, including local natives A: Can't answer overall

Q: Has the 2016 Master Plan be revisited? A: Not in the foreseeable future as cost prohibitive but will continue to explore

Q: Concerns about tree preservation, choice, and removal. Also concerned about lack of shade, run off, and drainage. A: Rainwater – have their own catchments and it is recycled

A: 22 trees in car park will be removed and others planted around the park. If we can dig them out and move them, we will

Q: Concerns about heat sink car park. Trees will take a long time to grow. A: Taken on board

Emma Davidson MLA gave support for Stromlo Forest Park, the benefits for mental health and the improvements at Stromlo Forest Park.

Q: Will there be transport connections to the site including bus connections, particularly for Weston Creek? A: Have had success with Swallow Tail and Uriarra link. Agree links are important.

Q: Equestrian community would like to stay in the area and would also like the support from Emma Davidson MLA  
Emma Davidson MLA: When developments are being planned, good community consultation is important, and spaces can be shared to make best use of the space

Q: Will there be pay parking? A: That is a decision for wider Government, not this group

#### **Emma Davidson MLA discussing disability reform.**

See also slide presentation.

- NDIS intended to give people a choice and control
- NDIS in recent years has focused on cost, not value
- People have not been able to go home from hospital due to delays in decision making by NDIA
- A review will happen soon, terms of reference hopefully will include providing value for participants
- Around 10 000 people in the ACT have NDIS plans
- All of us benefit from people with a disability being able to participate in education, work, community decision making and social relationships
- Average cost of a plan in the ACT is \$62 700 which is the lowest in Australia
- There are gaps, for example:
  - for people aged over 65 years, ADHD and ASD, early childhood services, psychological disability, Multicultural community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Lower socio-economic postcodes
- NDIA leadership and appointment processes are improving. Example Kurt Fearnley appointment who has lived experience
- Disability Strategy will be a 10-year strategy aligned with Australia's Disability Strategy covering every aspect of life
- There are more than 80 000 Canberrans with disability plus 50 000 carers
- Extensive consultation was conducted. Every consultation was led by people with disability.
- A Listening Report will be published in December 2022. A Strategy will be finalized and an Action Plan for mid-2023
- The Sue Salthouse Leadership Fund is open until 8 October 2022
- Sue Salthouse Award for excellence in Championing Human Rights and Equality closes 6 October

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

Q: Concerned about the lengthy wait times to get support A: Difficulties with Bureaucracy. Needs to change

Q: Young people in nursing homes and in long term care A: There are approximately 10-15 people under sixty-five in nursing homes. Currently looking at this and better options

Q: Is there support for parents to complete application for NDIS A: Community organisations, Office for Disability and health services can assist and advocacy. A plan manager can help.

A: Can there be a process to get disability needs in the assessment of DAs? A: Working with Transport Canberra. Will investigate. There will be a rollout of Disability Action Plans. Awareness in the community can increase when people with disability are in the work force

Q: Not easy to get a bus or taxi in Canberra if you have disability

#### **MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs**

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

#### **Emma Davidson MLA announced:**

- *Coolo Park* no longer on the indicative land release program. However, there are no known future plans.
- What does the community want for this space?

## 9:19 pm GENERAL MEETING

- Minutes of the meeting of July 2022
- Moved: Michelle Weston    Seconded: Louise Hughes    Accepted: Yes.
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of July 2022. None

### General Business

#### Chair report

- WCCC will be publishing a Social Media Policy
- WCCC is revising the WCCC Constitution and hoping to bring to the AGM in October
- Council Email arrangements have been simplified
- On 24 October a Women's safety forum will be held at Weston Creek Community Hall
- On Sunday 30 October there will be a Garden Party at Fetherston Gardens from 11am to 2pm
- 6 October is the closing date for comment on the amendments to the Village Constructions site
- Dangerous driving is still a community concern

**CLOSE OF MEETING:** 9:26 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.

#### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**Women's Safety Forum** on 24 October at the Weston Creek Neighbourhood Hall 6pm – 7:30pm

Weather permitting, Sunday 30 October 11am – 2pm **garden party at Fetherston Gardens**

**NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING:** Wednesday 26 October

VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre