

Minutes of Combined Community Councils' Meeting

16 June 2012

Gungahlin Library

Present: Ewan Brown (Convenor- GCC), Leon Arundell (NCCC), Shirley Gourgaud & Brian Rhynehart (BCC), Chris Erett WVCC), Tom Anderson & Pat McGinn (WCCC), Gary Kent (ISSCC), Russ Morrison, Nick Tsoulis & Daryl Johnston (TCCC).

Invited Guest: Jane Goffman (from 1100 to 1145)

Ewan Brown thanked attendees and sought acceptance of the notes of the previous meeting held on 28 April at Gungahlin Library and indicated the key aims of the meeting were to approve the draft operating structure for the CCC and the statements on the issues decided at the last meeting. Both documents had been circulated within two weeks of the last meeting.

The process of discussion suffered from a lack of continuity of attendance between meetings. Nevertheless some matters were clarified and the proposed structure was amended in a manner that promised greater opportunities for achieving success without overloading the Community Councils involved.

It was noted that the CCC had passed formal motions on three planning & development matters at the December meeting & these were again discussed at the April meeting. An amended version was circulated following discussion with a number of experts about the outcomes of new legislation passed through the ACT Assembly. It was agreed that those issues be reframed as three separate components, rather than being in one document, so as not to detract from the importance of each issue. The Convenor is to include a lead statement for each & circulate them for approval.

It was agreed that the proposed formal structure be amended. This has implications for resourcing in the form of funding since Governments are not inclined to provide funding to organisations without a form of corporate or registered association status. Furthermore it may limit the capacity for statements to be made on behalf of the CCC without adequate public liability and indemnity insurance.

The formal structure was amended to limit voting 'power' to the Chairs/Presidents of the member Community Councils however the main focus of decision making was to be by consensus. The agreed outcomes are embodied in the recently circulated version of the operating structure of the CCC.

Motion: (A) That the Combined Community Councils will comprise the chairs of each of the seven Community Councils, or their delegates, convened by an elected Convenor, with policy decisions made by consensus of the seven Community Councils or delegates.

[Note: administrative decisions such as electing a Convenor may be made by majority vote.]

(B) That the Combined Community Councils establish five subcommittees:

(1) Planning

(2) Transport (including public transport)

(3) Governance

(4) Municipal issues (incl. rubbish, rates and roads)

(5) Social issues

(Agreed unanimously.)

The proposed sub-committee structure was amended to cover the above 5 key areas. Chairs of all sub-committees are to be sought from the membership of the Community Councils or from external sources if approved by the CCC.

The CCC agreed that immediate focus be placed on arranging a meeting with Chief Minister to discuss resourcing and one other key issue. Discussion on the resourcing issue centred on the ACT Government, in particular the Chief Minister's Department, taking responsibility for co-ordinating & resourcing the CCC. Apparently this would replicate a model that existed several years ago & represent a solution that matched the form of support provided to individual Community Councils. In some respects this would 'ring fence' the activities of the CCC but would provide opportunities for a stronger united voice to achieve better outcomes on behalf of all ACT residents without creating an unnecessary layer of adversity between the Community Councils and the ACT Government.

Jane Goffman provided an insight into the activities & achievements of the Active Planning Group & its intentions to provide a community information resource through a new website. A central aim is to document case studies. (see www.planwiseACT.com.au). An important event to be noted is "What Sort of City Canberra Wants to Be" in February 2013.

It was agreed that the soon to be established Planning sub-committee would liaise with Jane Goffman to determine the level of interaction between the two parties with the aim of developing mutually beneficially outcomes.

Progress on sub-committees.

Planning: 1 nomination Bill Hiens.

Transport: Russ Morrison, Peter Wurfel, Leon Arundel

Governance:

Municipal: Tom Anderson

Social Issues: Shirley Gourgaud

The Convenor is to draft guidelines for the operation of these sub-committees & circulate them for perusal.

The matter raised by TCCC on legalisation of brothels (and the report of the Legislative Committee of Inquiry) was referred to the Social issues sub-committee for consideration & report.

It was agreed that the issue of green waste collection not be proceeded with in view of significant discussion of this issue by the relevant ACT Minister & his subsequent expression of views. The matter of bulky waste collection was deferred with future referral to the Municipal sub-committee.

It was agreed that the CCC pay heed to the need for the CCC to be able to present a timely and viable case to relevant ACT Assembly Public Hearings & inquiries. The Convenor advised that the Committee Secretariat had sought the appearance of the CCC (in addition to individual CCs) at the hearings into DV 306.

TCCC alerted members to the Greens' paper on wood heaters. GCC noted that it was an emerging issue in their area.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 25 August.

The meeting closed at 1235.