

Draft Notes of Meeting of the Combined Community Councils Saturday 17 November 2012

Gungahlin Library. (Gungahlin, Belconnen, Weston Creek & Woden Community Councils were represented.) Apologies were received from Gary Kent & Darryl Johnston. Late apologies received from Tuggeranong & North Canberra.

The Draft notes of the previous meeting held at the Legislative Assembly on 25 August were confirmed.

Actions Arising

It was noted that a brief discussion had been held with RDA ACT & it was agreed that the common interests were very narrow.

The Convenor opted not to write to all parties prior to the election seeking support and resourcing for the CCC in view of a lack of agreed outcomes on issues under discussion, apart from the release of a statement on planning matters subsequent to the public Planning Forum.

The Chair of the Transport Sub-committee was requested to work with Gary Kent (Inner South) and Ewan Brown (Gungahlin) to produce a short background paper on the key transport issues that the sub-committee deemed to be of high importance, to draft a media release on reducing public transport travel times. (Not progressed to finalisation)

The Transport sub-committee is to continue to liaise with TAMS and to consider the prospects of recommending the establishment of a task force to examine the very broad range of transport related issues. (Ongoing)

There was discussion on the Draft Operating Parameters of the CCC and it was agreed that the principles should be retained but expectations of outcomes be lessened to reflect the capacity of the Community Councils to undertake additional tasks relating to whole-of-ACT issues. The role of Sub-committees will continue but the short term focus would be limited to Planning and Transport matters.

There was some discussion on the CCC model, largely as a consequence of the failure to secure resourcing from Government. The Convenor advised that some politicians saw little value in the Community Councils but that many senior bureaucrats had expressed support for the resourcing of the CCC. It was agreed that more focus be placed on liaising with ACT bureaucrats since they were more likely to respond to ideas & concerns. It was noted that the proposed structure of the CCC may have been seen as a threat, particularly in an election year.

There was discussion on 'internal' matters such as constitutions, meeting formats, meeting programs, finances & information dissemination. It was agreed that there is value in the sharing of ideas, activities, experiences & procedures adopted by individual Councils. Future agendas would include a session on this theme. It was agreed that the CCC should continue to achieve recognition & outcomes by making statements on agreed issues, mainly to the bureaucracy rather than the media.

Several specific issues on the agenda could not be fully discussed due to the absence of the proposers. It was noted that the timeline to comment on changes to the Territory Plan had been extended at the request of several CCs however it was agreed that the Convenor write to ESDD seeking discussion of

the issue at the Planning & Development Forum since there was uncertainty about the full impact of the changes.

The 'silence' on progress on mandatory pre-DA consultation was also noted & Ewan Brown advised that he had requested that this matter be put on the agenda for the next PDF meeting.

TCCC had sought discussion on resident's rights in relation to prospective noise sharing arrangements emanating from expanded Canberra Airport activities. There was scope for TCCC, NCCC & GCC to form a sub-group to liaise on this issue. In the meantime it was agreed that the CCC would await the outcome of the TCCC action to obtain legal advice before any potential strategies could be discussed.

The CCC discussed the role of Chair/Convenor into the next year. Consideration of the appointment of an external or independent chair was deferred & the matter may be listed for consideration at some future meeting. Ewan Brown agreed to continue in the role with a brief to develop a process that the majority of Community Councils feel they can cope with.

David Denham, representing ISCCC, advised that the Griffith/Narrabundah group had examined the DV 306 recommendations in detail & offered to circulate their report.

It was agreed that the Chair of the Planning Sub-committee compile a list of the key outcomes from the Planning seminar, matched with pre-election commitments from the various parties, for the CCC to issue a statement on matters we still want addressed.

Presentation

The Health Care Consumers Association (HCCA) addressed the meeting on a range of Health Infrastructure Program initiatives (some completed, underway or planned). The information was very valuable and was well received as it provided a detailed appraisal of past & future developments throughout the ACT. The HCCA is seeking to present to all CCs & has made arrangements with several so far. We requested that all CCs be put on their mailing list for regular updates. As we become more aware of the specifics of current & future developments the opportunity exists to utilise that organisation to represent community interests in ACT health-related matters.

The meeting expressed value in having presentations at future meetings.

Other Matters

Concern was expressed about the disconnect between ACT government bodies (TAMS & ESD) in relation to preservation of trees & verges adjacent to developments. Specific mention was made of the lack of tree protection associated with a number of code track developments. The Convenor is to write to ESD about this issue.

BCCC advised that they sought to hold at least one daytime CC meeting per year to accommodate people who generally were unable to attend evening meetings.

In summary the meeting agreed:

- to review the scope of its activities,
- to focus on two key themes in the short term,
- to retain the sub-committee process for those themes,

- to continue to seek government resourcing,
- to seek meetings with the Chief Minister & key bureaucrats,
- to feature presentations at meetings,
- to continue to make statements on key matters, &
- to introduce a forum for the sharing of ideas & experiences.

It was agreed to hold the next CCC meeting on Saturday 2 March (from 10am-1pm) at Gungahlin Library.

The meeting closed at 1305.