

MINUTES OF THE GUNGAHLIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th April, 2002

The President, Ian Ruecroft, declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Bill Wood, Minister for Urban Services who has had to attend a sitting of Parliament this evening. Tony Gill is very kindly attending on his behalf.

Minutes of the last meeting (13/3/02)

Copies of Minutes of the last meeting were circulated. There was one amendment. In the Treasurer's Report, under the heading "Social Capital Grant" the balance at 20/2/02 should be \$19,655.25 and not \$1,655.25.

MOTION: That the Minutes from the meeting of 13/3/02 be accepted.

Proposed: Lloyd Walker **Seconded:** Julie Brodrick **CARRIED**

Meetings

Ian advised that he and Julie Brodrick met with Simon Corbell, quite a few issues were discussed but at this time there is very little to report other than he is not aware of any delay to the opening of the childcare centre which is programmed for October 2002.

Treasurer's Report

No financial statements had been received for the month. Ian circulated the Treasurer's Report that will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting. The 10th Anniversary celebrations had cost around \$5,000.

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Gungahlin's 10th Anniversary celebrations were a great success with good attendance (with more than 1500 people attending) and feedback. People expressed a wish for the Gold Creek Homestead to be more accessible, with perhaps a regular market held there.

MOTION: That thanks be accorded to the organisers of the very successful 10th Anniversary celebrations.

Proposed: Roma Hosking **Seconded:** Barry Dee **CARRIED**

Social Capital

The Social Capital Committee has met each week, concentrating recently on the 10th Anniversary celebrations. An item in the latest edition of *Gunsmoke* encouraged people to forward submissions for funding from the Social Capital grant. The Committee has some ideas, including one for assisting with Gold Creek Homestead to take it to state where it can be safe and usable. An expression of interest to manage the homestead and surrounding grounds has been lodged with the Government. Costings, etc. will need to be prepared and a submission for funding is currently being prepared.

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Roma Hosking said that although she hadn't forwarded a written submission, *Gunsmoke* could benefit from a further injection of funds. It was agreed that Roma and Julie would work out the process for this submission.

GCC Website

Jonathon Reynolds has been working on the GCC website and this is now up to date. Feedback is that it is very useful and easy to use. Guy Thurston's report about Light Rail alternatives is available on the website. The GCC has not yet taken a stance on the Light rail issue.

Mitchell Resource Management Centre

Ian advised he had received an email advising that the recycling and waste centre at Mitchell will be opened on 30 April and Belconnen centre will close on 26 May. These details will be published in the next issue of *Gunsmoke*.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guy Thurston and Barb Barrett – Action Buses

Guy and Barb advised the meeting that changes will be in force from 13 May with increased services to Gungahlin, and less convoluted routes. They intend to trial services using Flemington Road with only some servicing Mitchell. They hope Gungahlin can become part of an inter-town route through to Barton and Woden. Action propose to letterbox drop every Gungahlin household with a pamphlet showing updated timetables to try to stimulate the demand. Their website and Call Centre will have available the new details. Barb circulated a draft of the pamphlet and asked for feedback. Details will also be published in the next *Gunsmoke*. Guy advised that busfares and zones are being discussed by the ACT Government at a sitting this evening. Anne McGrath from the Gungahlin Development Authority suggested Action could have a display on the GDA noticeboard.

Any comments can be sent to Guy.Thurston@act.gov.au or Barb.Barrett@act.voa.au. They will be happy to receive any feedback. Ian thanked Guy and Barb for again coming along to the GCC meeting.

Tony Gill – Urban Services

Tony Gill updated the meeting on several issues raised at the last GCC meeting.

- Horsepark Drive and the connection to the Federal Highway are scheduled to be constructed by the end of June 2003.
- Antill St & Philip Ave – there is no proposal for traffic lights at this intersection.
- Philip Ave & Majura Ave – there is no proposal for traffic lights at this intersection.

Ian raised concerns that there is little employment in Gungahlin; that Northbourne Ave has little capacity left during the morning and evening peak times, and that Urban Services should be considering other issues like increasing traffic through Officer Crescent. Gungahlin Drive extension has received another setback and won't be going ahead in a reasonable time.

MOTION: That the GCC write to the ACT Government re the urgent installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Philip Ave and Antill St, and Philip Ave and Majura Ave

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intersections, plus the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Majura Ave and Officer Crescent, and the widening of the road in front of Dickson College.

Proposed: Ian Ruecroft **Seconded:** Lloyd Walker **CARRIED**

Tony Gill was asked to investigate the possibility of traffic lights for the intersection of Majura Road and Fairbairn Avenue.

- Anthony Rolfe Ave – the amount of commercial traffic passing through the town centre is of great concern. It is planned for Anthony Rolfe Ave to be extended through to the first small roundabout south of the Gungahlin Marketplace with one lane each way and a wide median strip to allow for a possible light rail system. This extension will give heavy transport an alternate route through the town centre. Funding has been approved for this extension to be constructed by the end of October

Jonathon Reynolds questioned the draft plan to redirect Anthony Rolfe Ave directly to Hibberston St. Anne McGrath said that this is only a proposal and that, as she has stated before, there will be further consultation with the community before anything goes ahead.

- Gungahlin Drive – Tony advised that the west option is now the favored route and as not much work has been carried out on that option, further environmental and feasibility studies need to be done.

In reply to a question from Roma, Tony replied that when it does eventually go ahead, work will probably commence at the Gungahlin end.

- Gundaroo Drive – The Barton Highway, William Slim Drive and Gundaroo Drive intersection is extremely dangerous with a high accident rate. Additional capacity

is needed and the Gungahlin Drive extension would have solved some of the problem, but due to its delay, alternatives need to be looked at. There is a proposal to upgrade William Slim Drive but as it is not on the present five year plan this may need to be reviewed. Traffic lights to be used at peak times is an attractive solution and may be trialled after a decision is made by the end of this financial year. Urban Services would consult with the GCC before installing lights.

MOTION: That the GCC write to Urban Services re the trialling of peak hour traffic lights at the Barton Highway, Drive, William Slim Drive intersection to facilitate traffic flow.

Proposed: Jonathon Reynolds **Seconded:** Lloyd Walker **CARRIED**

• Morrisett Rd – Lloyd Walker asked if Urban Services would consider opening the gates on Morrisett Rd, the gravel road at the back of EPIC. If these were opened to traffic travelling northbound at peak hour, this would give an alternate route to those people travelling northbound on the Federal Highway. It was agreed that Ian Ruecroft, Lloyd Walker and Jonathon Reynolds would agree a time to meet with Tony Gill to investigate this option.

Ian Ruecroft raised the issue transport infrastructure appears to be very inefficient and costly to the Taxpayer when often redoing roadworks, etc. a short time after they have

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been completed. This is of great concern. Tony Gill advised that this has proved to be the most effective way of progressing works.

Roma expressed concern that William Slim Ave is not a comfortable road to use now and will become more hazardous when the traffic volume increases, as it will with Gungahlin's forecast growth.

MOTION: That the GCC recommend to the ACT Government via Tony Gill, that the duplication of Gundaroo Drive and William Slim Avenue, with appropriate intersections, be investigated within the next twelve months.

Proposed: Roma Hosking **Seconded:** Lloyd Walker **CARRIED**

• Study into Public Transport – Tony doesn't know the status of this report. A Brief (Terms of Reference) has to be tabled before the Assembly before it is tabled.

Ian thanked Tony Gill for attending the meeting once again. It was agreed that Ian Ruecroft and Julie Brodrick would be an appointment to further discuss issues with Tony.

Light Rail

A debate on the Light Rail will be held at the next meeting, although the Terms of Reference may not yet be available. Simon Corbell had given an undertaking that the GCC would be able to consider the draft Terms of Reference before they were issued to a consultant, but it seems this may not have happened. Anne McGrath said that recently a lot of work still had to be done for the brief. It was agreed GCC will write to the Minister to request that GCC be given an opportunity to contribute to the Terms of Reference.

MOTION: That the GCC contacts the Minister to clarify if the GCC will be given the opportunity to contribute to the Terms of Reference before it is given to consultants.

Proposed: Ian Ruecroft **Seconded:** Jonathon Reynolds **CARRIED**

If the Terms of Reference are not available prior to 8th May GCC meeting, the meeting may need to come up with a draft of items it wants included.

Platypus Centre

The subject of a tree at this Centre proving a danger to the public was discussed at the last meeting. Ian reported that advice has been received that the tree will be removed within the next few days.

PALM Workshops

Lloyd Walker attended a series of workshops organised by PALM. Participants were advised that Minutes of the meeting would be available within six weeks. It is now four

months and the Minutes are not available.

MOTION: That the GCC writes to PALM requesting copies of the Minutes of the Planning Seminars last August, September and October, on the six new suburbs.

Proposed: Lloyd Walker **Seconded:** Jonathon Reynolds **CARRIED**

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Gungahlin Development Authority Five Year Plan

Anne McGrath advised that the Five Year Plan is not available yet due to issues with the new Planning Authority.

Fibre Optic Cable

Jonathon Reynolds tabled a report on the plan to run a fibre optic cable through Mulligans Flat. The company appears to be taking environmental issues into account and plan to run the cable in an existing easement for the gas pipeline. There is some concern about where it will go through the heritage area and the GCC needs to reply to the report shortly.

Telephone Towers

Barry Dee made the GCC aware that mobile phone antennas are being installed on some light towers around Canberra and that they are fairly discreet. He has emailed Greg Cornwell about this but has not received a reply. Barry is happy to represent the GCC on this issue and asked that if anyone becomes of information related to this issue, to let him know.

Nicholls Playpark

Ian asked if anyone knew why the playpark near the Yerribi Pond lake had been barricaded. GCC will contact Bill Wood's office to find out what is the status of this playground.

Nicholls shops

Ian Ruecroft had been contacted by Gary Samuels from the Harcourt Hill Residents' Group regarding their suggestion to the developer that residences over garages may provide some security for the nearby park. Ian raised issues that exist for this type of development in Palmerston 4. ie. Parking, access to the residence (no front door), water metering and provision of garages. Ian advised he will be writing a letter to PALM re these issues. Anne McGrath from the GDA will also be taking up the issue.

Community Consultation

Anne McGrath advised that the GDA will be revisiting community consultation by surveying households, and doing phone and market research re the usage and patronage of the Gungahlin Marketplace. Focus groups will be held and the GCC will be invited to attend a specific focus group during late April / early May. The survey will also be published in *Gunsmoke*.

Mobile Phone Access

Kate Lundy will be setting up a meeting for people with concerns re the mobile phone access within Gungahlin. No-one had heard when this meeting is scheduled.

Meeting

Ian Ruecroft has arranged a meeting with Bob McMullin to discuss various issues including employment, the Barton Highway/Gundaroo Drive intersection, etc.

Pedestrian Crossing

At the last meeting someone had stated that it was legal to enter a pedestrian crossing whilst someone was still in the act of crossing. Barry Dee had spoken with Sgt Steve Mullins who said this is definitely NOT the case and that he would write an item for

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Roma to publish in *Gunsmoke*. Roma said that she had given copies of *Gunsmoke* to the police and encouraged them to use it to contact Gungahlin residents.

MOTION: That the GCC invite the local Gungahlin Police to attend the GCC Public Meetings to update the meeting on our area.

Proposed: Jonathon Reynolds **Seconded:** Roma Hosking **CARRIED**

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Next Meeting

The next Public Meeting will be held on the 8 May in the upstairs meeting room at the Gungahlin Marketplace. The GCC meeting will commence at 7.00pm and will be followed by the debate on the Light Rail at 7.30pm.