

MINUTES OF THE GUNGAHLIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 11th JUNE, 2003

PRESENT: As per attendance sheet.

APOLOGIES: Bill Stefaniak, Dudley Horscroft, Shirley Goodall, Maben Douglass

The President, Barry Dee, welcomed people to the meeting. Brendan Smyth, MLA, and Helen Cross (Independent) were both in attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the meeting of 14 May 2003 could not be accepted due to insufficient attendees to constitute a quorum at this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Barry Dee. This will be attached to the Minutes. The Urban Services Community Renewal Program grant has now been repaid to Urban Services as requested.

NEW EX-MEMBER AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION:

Due to the absence of a quorum this item will be addressed at the July meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

As the Council is likely to lose some members of the Executive Committee at the next AGM, Barry asked for volunteers to step forward for the positions which will become vacant. Roma Hosking will insert an article in the next issue of *Gunsmoke* asking for volunteers.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The GCC has lodged two appeals with AATxxx?, one in relation to the planned available parking being cut by two thirds, which will inevitably lead to illegal parking. The ACT Government's plans apparently allow for 20% of Gungahlin residents to use public transport, compared to 6% for the rest of Canberra. The GCC is also concerned about the opportunities provided to enable the residents of the proposed boarding house to integrate into the community.
- Following previous motions letters have been prepared to be sent to Save the Ridge; to the ACT Government re speed limits and the widening of Northbourne Ave, and to the Education Department about office accommodation in the Gungahlin Town Centre. These letters were available for perusal.

GUEST SPEAKER

Barry Dee welcomed Brendan Smyth, MLA, to the meeting and apologised for the small number of people in attendance (probably due for the most part to the playing of the State of Origin game this evening).

Brendan said that he was pleased to be here in the building for which he had helped to turn the sod, and which proved an example of his Government's commitment to the people of Gungahlin. He also presented the good news announced only hours before, that the ACT Government will not be placing a Bushfire Tax on Canberra residents as there has been a strong budget, and that the best thing his party can do is to have a strong economy which will help to build equal infrastructure to the rest of Canberra for Gungahlin.

Brendan participated in discussions covering the following issues:

- Public transport: It is "pie in the sky" to think that the majority of Gungahlin residents will use public transport when the city, which was built in the 1960s, is about 60km long and designed for the car. The use of public transport should be encouraged but density is required to make it run viably. It was suggested that it would be cheaper for the ACT Government to provide free buses as in some other cities, however there is a need for density of population. There are a minimum of 12 lanes out of Tuggeranong and only about six out of Gungahlin.
- Expansion of Gungahlin: Under Labour, Gungahlin will grow but to nowhere near the projected 120,000 people and could be as low as 80,000. Our Yellowbox grassy woodlands make it harder to extend. Moving to a higher population density around the Town Centre would make better public transport viable.

Brendan discussed the booklet "Canberra – a City Like No Other" issued by Simon Corbell. He pointed out that two of the maps in the booklet do not work and explained why. He talked about the various options for Canberra expansion (infill, extend beyond the ACT borders). Jonathon Reynolds commented that builders are already building outside of the ACT borders with the blessing of NSW; the residents are using ACT jobs, hospitals, schools but are paying NSW rates, and that this is not sustainable.

Local Councils must be strong when dealing with Government proposals, like building in Stromlo, which already has a lot of infrastructure, and urge for expansion in Gungahlin.

- Funding: It is encouraging to see that schools will continue to be developed, but health care needs further funding. Calvary is the hospital of choice for people in the northern suburbs but it is presently under-funded. Accident & Emergency is under-funded by 8% and has been given only 7% in the latest budget rather than the 15% promised by Simon Corbell.
- Gungahlin Drive Extension: This was planned as a 4 lane highway with flyovers. Due to the delays it will now cost a great deal more and will only have two lanes. Brendan explained that the present Gungahlin Drive had been built piecemeal due to the ACT budget being unsustainable at the time. For the first ten years of self-government the ACT budget ran at a loss.
- Horsepark Drive: Ensure that Horsepark Drive be built to join Majura Road then thence the Monaro Highway, which will then give Gungahlin three exits (west – Gungahlin Drive, central – Barton Highway, eastern – Horsepark Drive). Brendan drew a diagram

explaining a future NCA plan for getting people into Civic via Horsepark Drive/Majura Road.

- Services: Ensure that Gungahlin is provided with the appropriate number of parks and library services.
- Planning: The planning for Gungahlin has been makeshift with no staging. Brendan agreed that there had been no vision beyond 3 years.
- Water: There is a need to increase Gungahlin's water capacity. The current water restrictions allow people to use more water than they had prior to restrictions. Brendan said this was due in part to Canberrans using a grass which requires a great deal of water. Roma offered to print an article in *Gunsmoke* re the correct grass to use and will contact Catherine Keenan, as suggested by Brendan.

Before Brendan left for another appointment he suggested that the following three issues need to be addressed:

- Police and Emergency Services: Gungahlin is under-served with the number of officers and an increase will be needed to address law and order issues as the area grows.
- Care of the Aged: A strategic plan is required for coping with the rapidly aging population as older people move to be nearer their families and expect the same facilities they have been used to. People with special needs also need to be taken care of.
- Arts: Gungahlin residents should begin lobbying for an infrastructure incorporating the arts. A multi-purpose building should be planned for.

As his Party needs to listen to the people, Brendan asked for the Council to prioritise (with consultation) on:

- Which ten items of infrastructure should be built next (e.g. roads, drains, town halls, schools, etc).
- Which laws should be strengthened and which weakened.
- Which ten ACT Government programs should be weakened or strengthened to meet the emerging needs of the people of Gungahlin.

Brendan agreed to forward Roma a half-page article on the above for her to insert in *Gunsmoke*.

Barry and others present thanked Brendan for his attendance at this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Barry – you may wish to meaningfully re-write the following – I didn't understand the info about LAPACs etc.

Barry Dee reported on a PALM Community Planning Forum he had recently attended. This will be followed up with another meeting next week, which Ian Ruecroft will attend. He also reported on a 2 June meeting, at which some discomfort was expressed at the Government's plan to take away review of planning policies by residents.

Roma said that many residents are not confident that comments made to Government bodies are taken on board and fed back. Helen Cross said that she is open-minded to the consultation process but cynicism is increasing; that the present Government said it wanted to be open and accountable, but she doesn't see it happening yet. There seems to be a pre-determined conclusion and the consultation process is merely to pacify people.

Ian Ruecroft commented that people are being 'consulted to death' and hear the same things repeated time and again.

Electoral boundaries

Roma asked what, if anything, is being done about Gungahlin falling within one electorate. Jonathon Reynolds said that the GCC had put in a submission for a single electorate to the Electoral Commission Review committee.

DVP 200

Helen Cross asked for comments on the Draft Variation Plan 200. She said that there is concern that town planners find the document too complex, difficult to read, not clear and people don't know where they stand. PALM can over-rule it if they need to.

Tree planting

Barry Dee read details from paperwork that Mark Loney has put forward to support a proposal that the GCC consider a motion to support extensive tree planting, put forward by John Stanhope. It was agreed that this required further discussion re safety, the more suitable type of trees, etc. and will be added to the agenda for the GCC's July meeting.

Barry thanked people for attending the meeting, which closed at 9.25pm.

The next Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th July, 2003.

ACTIONS Carried forward

Action No.	Action		Status
1-9/4/03	Ask Minister Corbell how many letters he had received, and for the comments made in the letters regarding the Town Square option.	Vicki Dunn	

Reminders

- 1) Approve Minutes of 14 May 2003 meeting at July meeting.
- 2) Bring forward item re new ex-member amendment to the Constitution.
- 3) Add Mark Loney's tree-planting proposal for discussion at July meeting.
- 4) Roma to contact Catherine Keenan re "grass" article for *Gunsmoke*.
- 5) Address the 3 points Brendan asked about and put article from him in *Gunsmoke*.