

**MINUTES OF THE GUNGAHLIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2002**

**PRESENT:** As per attendance sheet.

**APOLOGIES:** Kerrie Tucker.

The President, Barry Dee, opened the meeting at 7.40pm.

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING 11 SEPTEMBER, 2002**

The Minutes of the public meeting held on 11 September 2002 were circulated. It was noted that Lloyd Walker's apology for non-attendance at the 11 September meeting should be included in the official Minutes for that meeting. Due to the late publication of *Gunsmoke*, it will not be possible to discuss the results of the Town Centre survey included therein, as none have yet been received.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

- The GCC survey on the Town Centre has been included in the latest issue of *Gunsmoke* as mentioned above. The box for returns is situated near Woolworth's register 6, in the Marketplace.

**MOTION:** That the Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 11 September 2002 be accepted.

**PROPOSED:** Maben Douglass   **SECONDED:** Jonathon Reynolds   **CARRIED**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Barry Dee reported on a meeting that he and Ian Ruecroft attended at EPIC on 12 September at which the five year Masterplan for EPIC was presented for discussion. The Master will be reviewed from time to time. Barry Dee provided a map encompassing the new plans, which was available for viewing. The CEO, Tony Sadler, is happy to brief the GCC on the EPIC plan, and although it was hoped this might be at the November meeting, it is more likely to happen in the new year due to the formal release of the Masterplan not yet being finalised.
- The Summernats will be held on the first weekend after New Year's Eve.
- Audrey Guy, Peter Coggan and Barry Dee attended a recent Dept of Education meeting. They pointed out to the meeting, that although this was a meeting supposedly held to consult with the people of Gungahlin, the fact that it was held in Tuggeranong made this rather difficult. It was agreed to hold a further meeting from 7-9pm on Wednesday 30 October at the Ngunnawal School, and all interested parties are urged to attend. This meeting will be advertised as widely as possible, given details were not provided in the most recent issue of *Gunsmoke*. Although construction of parts of the Amaroo school complex has begun, it is still not too late for the community to have some influence. The main issue is not so much the bricks and mortar questions, but the fact that the number of students/teachers, etc. on site will number more than 2,000, which may raise social and safety issues. A letter received from the Dept of Education in reply to questions

raised by the GCC is available for viewing at this meeting or can be emailed to those providing their email address for this purpose.

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#### Transport Issues

Ian Ruecroft and Mark Loney attended a meeting on Wednesday 2 October that was convened by Halliburton KBR, the contractor for the Public Transport Futures Feasibility Study. As a result of that meeting, Ian and Mark developed a preliminary GCC input document for a community consultation workshop that is to be held on Monday 14 October. The document is a work in progress as it was prepared at short notice to meet Halliburton's tight deadline. Halliburton KBR will report to the Government by mid-2003. Professor John Black from UNSW is leading the community consultation effort on behalf of Halliburton KBR.

There have also been discussions with the Conservation Council and Friends of Black Mountain about the potential for the forthcoming visit by Professor Peter Newman of Murdoch University to include a meeting focused on Gungahlin transport issues. If the meeting proceeds, it is expected to take place on the evening of 24 October.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER – JON STANHOPE, CHIEF MINISTER**

Barry Dee introduced and welcomed the Chief Minister to the meeting and suggested that any questions raised at the meeting should concern Gungahlin rather than the wider community. Jon Stanhope thanked Gungahlin residents, Gary Humphries and Helen Cross for their attendance and said that he is happy to address issues in the broad in commitments to Gungahlin and the policies with which his party went to the election. He spoke about health, education, transport and other issues, and the Government's commitment to the people of Canberra to maintain the best possible systems. He said that some of the main issues facing the Government are:

- an integrated transport system (as the public system is not well utilised and does not break even);
- the Gungahlin Drive extension - he agreed that the light rail option should be re-visited, as well as other transport options;
- additional childcare places;
- planning reforms.

The Government has committed to:

- moving ACTAB to Gungahlin - this is proceeding and the move is anticipated to be completed within eighteen months;
- the continuation of the work on Horsepark Drive; plus
- a broad range of other work being pursued by the Government.

Mr Stanhope said that it should not be forgotten that the Government had made concrete promises; that the Government was open and accountable, consultative, and listened, and he believed they had delivered on this.

The meeting was opened to questions from the floor. Some of the issues raised were:

Q. The provision of a Community Health Service in Gungahlin.

- A. None planned for at present, but Jon Stanhope undertook to look into the issue of health care for Gungahlin and the considerable distances that people are forced to travel for medical appointments.
- Q. The location of a boarding house in the Gungahlin Town Centre as opposed to dispersing people throughout the community.
- A. There has been a lot of debate on this; there is an accommodation shortage; concerns at the homeless rate; the Government cannot support a whole range of people within the community; Gungahlin because that is where present development is.
- Q. Residents are concerned at the present traffic flow within the Town Centre and surveys have indicated that 80% of residents would prefer a town square.
- A. Jon Stanhope needs to be briefed by the GDA and PALM. Safety issues are paramount – he will report back to the Council.
- Q. The Government inherited a far from open Public Service – the community always seems to be told it is too late to have any input into planning; that research has been done, but is never publicly available when asked for. Will the Chief Minister be attending the meeting re the Amaroo School complex on 30 October?
- A. Jon Stanhope is aware that PALM is looking into these issues and the previous Government did respond. Simon Corbell will be attending the meeting on 30 October.
- Q. The abolition of the Gungahlin Development Authority next year and how this will be better for Gungahlin. How will the GDA's funds be dispersed?
- A. At present the GDA will continue – a hypothetical question as no decision as been made. Jon Stanhope took this question on notice, along with the traffic and safety issues.
- Q. Concern at the location of the boarding houses in Gungahlin Town Centre without consultation. Two x 10 unit 3-storey buildings with no lift access.
- A. Jon Stanhope took this question on notice. He is interested in the concern for the boarding house residents and their social isolation and safety. He will speak with the responsible officer, Bill Wood.
- Q. Lack of after-hours medical assistance in Gungahlin.
- A. An enhanced after-hours General Practitioner service is being discussed and it hoped that two areas will be trialed within the next couple of months. This is a Federal Government issue and if agreement cannot be reached, the ACT Government will pursue this. There is presently a shortage of 59 GPs in the ACT and, as the ACT has not qualified as either rural or outlying Metropolitan, it is therefore ineligible for Federal Government assistance. This is a major issue.
- Q. Support for the Remand Centre at North Majura which may have employment benefits. Concern is roads and transport, i.e. the Barton Highway round-a-bout is the number one Black Spot. Peak hour traffic lights are likely to be installed – about time a major push is undertaken to rectify this dangerous intersection.
- A. ACTAB is a good start to an employment base for Gungahlin providing 30 full-time and about 110 casual positions. Unfortunately the Federal Government looks at the Barton area and does not find Gungahlin attractive. It is hoped that the Remand Centre will be fruitful and not dogged and divisive. As an aside the Chief Minister commented that whilst the Local Member for Belconnen he did not receive one

representation from a concerned resident about the Remand Centre located in the Belconnen Town Centre. The Barton Highway is a Federal road, however, Jon Stanhope will take advice on the Black Spot Program and what is the ACT's responsibility – he will ascertain what representation has been made to the Commonwealth and what options there are to do something.

- Q. Concern re the lack of infrastructure in the Gungahlin suburbs – approval of blocks for development built over existing springs; water seepage and drainage issues.
- A. Jon Stanhope will take specific advice and will get back personally (contact details taken).
- Q. Minister Simon Corbell has recently indicated that there is no green field neighbourhood planning agreed at this stage and Gungahlin has more need than any existing area. The problems with the Amaroo school complex would not have occurred had neighbourhood planning been in place.
- A. Jon Stanhope said he understands the points and there are a whole range of other areas around Canberra, and the Government cannot establish neighbourhood planning all at once. At present it is focussed on north and south Canberra – there are no groups in Belconnen or Tuggeranong. He does not know the timetable but in time and incrementally, the process will cover all of Canberra. The GDA and GCC will have on-going roles in the development of new suburbs and there should be an opportunity for input before the plans are set in concrete. He did not know if a neighbourhood planning process would have resolved the Amaroo school issues.
- Q. Congratulations on the relocation of ACTAB to Gungahlin.
- A. ACTAB was going to Bruce a year ago but now will be located in Gungahlin, although this will create problems for the staff in regard to childcare arrangements, schools, carpools, and general dislocation and uncertainty. The Union is currently unhappy. There is an 18 month lead-in time for building and occupation.
- Q. Concerns re traffic safety with the pedestrian crossings in front of the Marketplace; a lack of pedestrian crossing between the Raiders' Club bus-stop and the Marketplace; the three intersections on Gozzard/Hibberson and now the increasingly confusing and busy intersection where the new Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise is located. There is confusion with rights-of-way and traffic lights will be needed at the Police Station intersection when further road development takes place. Will the Government look into these issues – preferably at peak traffic times when the traffic is extensive and concentrated? The rising and setting sun also creates a problem. Access to the Community Centre is non-existent for prams and wheelchairs.
- A. Jon Stanhope is more than happy to look into these issues and will ask immediately for traffic engineers to look at the intersections around the Town Centre.
- Q. Congratulations again on relocation of ACTAB to Gungahlin. Concern that the ACT Government blames the Federal Government when it should be “biting the bullet”. Admit that there won't be increased employment within Gungahlin if this is the case, and look to other long-term solutions. Employment numbers have decreased in Mitchell. Is it the intention of the Government to make a statement by the end of its current term?
- A. Jon Stanhope said (tongue in cheek) that in terms of capital works the ACT Government can offer Gungahlin the gaol (*to which there was a loud “Yes, please!”*). He commented that Gungahlin already has a higher employment base per ratio of residents when compared to Weston Creek, Belconnen or Tuggeranong. Planning

for the future is necessary and this is being done through Simon Corbell's "Spatial Plan" and the economic white paper which is being prepared. These are not being done in isolation and are taking a broad view with a range of work that will address issues around Gungahlin.

Barry Dee thanked Mr Jon Stanhope for attending this meeting and for answering questions from the floor. He also thanked Gary Humphries and Helen Cross for their attendance.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Barry Dee asked if anyone from the GCC was available to attend a meeting regarding the general agreement of trades and services organised by the Greens. This will be held at the ACT Assembly between 5.30-7.30pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October and may be of only minor importance to the GCC. Audrey Guy kindly volunteered to attend.
- A request has been received to attend a Community Environment Forum hosted by the Conservation Council and the ACT Government. This will be held at the Majura Centre, Dickson. The GCC will be tabling issues pertaining to Gungahlin and if anyone has an issue they would like raised, please see Ian Ruecroft who will be happy to do this.
- The "boarding house" consultants are holding a public meeting at the Gungahlin Community Centre between 7-9pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> October – all are invited to attend.
- If attendees would like to receive information by email, they should provide their address to the GCC website. Their address will not be publicly browsable. It was suggested an extra "email address" column be added to the Attendance List sheet provided at each meeting.
- Ian Ruecroft provided a Treasurer's Report, as follows:
  - \* Current balance = \$24,447.04 at 30 Sept 2002
  - \* Unexpended Social Capital = \$16,479.18 at 30 Sept 2002
  - \* Unexpended Gold Creek Homestead book = \$3636.36 at 30 Sept 2002Note: Costs for printing Gunsmoke #69 = \$1669.00 paid  
Funds available for GCC business at 30th Sept = \$4331.50  
Accounts received but not paid:
  - \* Costs for printing Gunsmoke #70 - \$2316.00 unpaid
  - \* Note: Advertising revenue has yet to be received for Gunsmoke #70.

The statement was available for viewing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**MOTIONS**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
That the Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 11 September 2002 be accepted.	Maben Douglass	Jonathon Reynolds