

MINUTES OF THE GUNGAHLIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 11 SEPTEMBER 2003

1. Meeting opened by Barry Dee at 7.35pm
2. Those Present are registered on the attendance sheet.
3. Acceptance of minutes of last meeting moved by Jon Reynolds and seconded by Renee' Olsen.
4. Matters arising: Letters sent to Minister Corbell and Vicky Dunne on 5 September. Letter re Valley Avenue extension not yet sent.
5. Shirley Goodall tabled two papers concerning Gold Creek. Discussion concerning a date for visiting Gold Creek Homestead took place immediately prior to the close of the meeting.
6. Guest speakers Guy Thurston and Barbara Swift from ACTION Buses made a presentation of progress and changes to services to Gungahlin:

- * There has been a 24% increase in bus patronage since May 02. This is due mainly to the introduction of 'one fare anywhere'.

- * As at July 03 there had been a further 10% increase in patronage.

- * Changes to Gungahlin bus routes are expected to be implemented on 24 Nov 03. The aim is to improve travel time with more direct routes via Flemington Road rather than via Mitchell affecting route 251. Route 52 will have changes affecting Ngunnawal. Route 55 will become route 53. A new 54 route operating Mon – Fri will be implemented and route 56 will remain unchanged.

Questions were asked regarding services for those living in Ngunnawal who work in Mitchell.

They may have to change at Gungahlin Marketplace where it is hoped a service will operate every 4 minutes in peak hours.

Changes will be communicated via letterbox delivery, at the library, on the internet and at shopping centres. It was suggested that pamphlets be available on buses prior to the change of timetable.

Other main points included:

- New CNG buses with air conditioning are being purchased.
- A new communication system with GPS tracking is being stalled.
- The project to implement door mechanism safety is almost finalised.
- Design improvement at Belconnen and Woden interchanges are being investigated.
- Modern design features are being planned for Gungahlin.
- To this end an information afternoon on Wednesday 17 September from 4.30 – 8.00pm is being planned by the Land Development Agency. Venue: upstairs Gungahlin Marketplace.
- It is hoped that at the above display there will be information on the 'Red Cliffe' bus shelters.
- A new bus service is being implemented to service the new Townhouse development in Watson.

For the future:

- L.E.D system similar to that at railway stations to indicate arrivals and departures of buses to be implemented at Bus stations including programmes whereby:
- Mobile phones which can store bus timetables.
- No bus service direct from Gungahlin to Fyshwick/Airport is being planned yet.

The president thanked our visitors for their presentation and noted that Mr Swift was also present.

7. Gungahlin Police Report.

Sgt Brian McGahey, Sergeant in Charge of Gungahlin Police reported that he is now in charge of the North District and that Sergeants are also in Charge of Civic and Belconnen. These areas are under the direction of a more senior officer who meets with the above sergeants once per week and services are co-

ordinated between all three. There is no patrol operating out of Gungahlin after 7.00pm. The fire and ambulance services are operating under a similar schedule. The system works well.

The Gungahlin station is now staffed by 4 regular staff supplemented by fortnightly rosters from other stations. Sgt McGahey is hoping staff levels will increase to 15 around Christmas when officers serving overseas return to duty. It is hoped that from next month trainee police will be employed to gain work - experience in dealing with the public for non-critical areas. It is less necessary to have local police stations open 7 X 24 hours now that cars have audio/video equipment installed to record interviews.

Intel. is being used to investigate burglaries which have increased recently. Some early arrests are anticipated.

Crime stoppers are largely staffed by retired police officers who are very experienced and useful in aiding police investigation and filtering public reporting.

The president thanked Sgt McGahey for coming.

8. Guest speaker Mr George Tomlinson assisted by Ms Stephanie Pribil from the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce addressed the meeting.

They distributed the booklet, 'Shaping Our Territory', and Mr Tomlinson spoke under the following headings:

- Steering committee arising out of the January bushfires.
 - Basic principles
 - Sustainability
 - Managed buffer zones
 - Opportunities – industrial development – positive legacy.
 - Human diversification (forestry, rural, villages, community).
 - Challenging the market
 - High quality planning & design
 - Some facilities need to be undertaken by private sector.
- Bushfire Planning
 - Land use and land management
 - McLeod inquiry Report
 - Urban edge – primary managed zone 300m
 - Fire abatement zone
- Water Resources
 - Not to build another dam yet
 - 20% reduction in water usage good
 - Need for continuing innovation & water recycling
 - Erosion protection important in catchment areas
 - Precaution – need to protect future catchments and possible dam sites.
 - Tennent possible new dam site for future
- Recreation
 - Replace or relocate most recreational facilities if possible –
 - Deek's Forest to be memorial Park
 - Namadgi National Park
 - Walking trails – Molonglo, Paddy's River.
- Forests
 - 70% of forests lost in fire

- Won't replace with pines, possibly Eucalypts but not for commercial use – no hard timber sawmills available
 - Reafforestation of Stromlo not going ahead.
 - New pine forest revegetation possible west of the Murrumbidgee River
- Tourism
 - Opportunity for increased nature-based tourism
 - Tourist route 5 linkage key attraction
 - Walking trails Murrumbidgee and Molonglo River corridors
 - Cotter – key recreation area
 - 50km cycle path (on road shoulder)
 - Farm gate, cellar door, arts & crafts
 - Wilderness lodge-type accommodation
 - Boutique conference centre accommodation
 - Rural Villages
 - Many burnt, residences lost
 - Opportunity to enrich non-urban environment
 - Provide choice for people who lost homes
 - New lifestyle for others
 - Villages at Tidbinbilla and Williamsdale, Uriarra, Cotter and Ingledene possible sites.
 - Rural leases and agriculture
 - Security of tenure
 - Greater flexibility for leases to include vineyards, to allow for sales and intensive agriculture (p112)
 - Science and Education
 - Enhance Birrigai, Jerrabomerra, Botanic Gardens
 - Tidbinbilla wild life park to be more educational without animal enclosures
 - How much development should be at Tidbinbilla?
 - Mt Stromlo – public access telescope – more school groups
 - Cotter option p 184 –
 - Wants feedback from public about how far to go with 10 steps of development p 186
 - 'Shaping Our Territory Key' Concepts are to be found inside the front cover of the book.

Public comment is requested on Options and Opportunities for Non-Urban ACT on the purple forms provided.

The president thanked our guests for their presentation.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with the president thanking those attending.