

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Meeting 05/2011

4.30 pm, Tuesday 08 November 2011

RECORD OF MEETING

In attendance:

Ben Ponton, Planning Policy (Acting Chair)

Dr Renzo Gobbin, North Canberra Community Council
Felix MacNeill, North Canberra Community Council
Ewan Brown, Gungahlin Community Council
Alan Kerlin, Gungahlin Community Council
Hamish Sinclair, Planning Institute of Australia (ACT)
Eric Traise, Tuggeranong Community Council
Kevin Gill, Inner South Canberra Community Council
Austin Lynch, Inner South Canberra Community Council
Murray Coleman, Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Natalie Coyles, Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Pat McGinn, Weston Creek Community Council
Michael Reeves, ACT Institute of Landscape Architects
Erika Strazdins, Youth Advisory Council
Shirley Gourgaud, Belconnen Community Council

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

Catherine Keirnan, Design Policy
Christine Laurence, Transport Planning
Chris Murray, City Planning
Bruce Frazer, Planning Services
Garrick Calnan, Planning Services
Geoffrey Rutledge, Corporate

Economic Development Directorate

Ian Thomson, Executive Director, Land Strategy & Finance
Greg Friedewald, Communications

Apologies:

David Papps, ESDD
Penny Farnsworth, ESDD
John Hibberd, Conservation Council ACT Region
Tom Anderson, Weston Creek Community Council
Shirley Lithgow, Woden Valley Community Council
Samara Rahman, ACTCOSS
Viv Straw, Planning Institute of Australia (ACT)

Agenda items:

1. Welcome (Ben Ponton)

Mr Ponton welcomed members and noted the apologies for the meeting, and noted new members, and at his request deferred John Hibberd's agenda item

a) Conservation and development for North Canberra

2. Draft Planning Strategy (Catherine Keirnan, Design Policy)

Catherine provided a short presentation on the draft Planning Strategy and called for comments or questions

Matters discussed by members included:

- clarification of key target for residential development to be 50% split between greenfields and renewal in established areas, achieved primarily in centres (town, group and local) and identified transit corridors.
- concern that development along transit corridors is continuous and linear with numerous bus stops and potential for increase in public transport commuter times. This could duplicate the concerns raised with Flemington Rd. Prefer a concentric circle approach to development of transit corridors.
- Access to Belconnen Bus interchange when access to Westfield is restricted. – *Ben Ponton to follow up*
- Multi unit dwellings to have higher standards for reducing energy use e.g with central heating / cooling to minimise multiple air conditioners, and reduce GHG emissions.
- affirmed that the open space system and the inter-town green buffers (network of open space) are to remain between town centres.
- Spot development and cherry picking of brown site developments that can lead to a confused looking cityscape and urban form
- Landscape is underrepresented in the document. There is no articulation of what the form will be.
- strategy focuses a little on public realm e.g. street trees, but entirely silent on private landscape.
- Targets may be over simplified. Need to understand the data and thinking behind targets for those that are interested. Scenario modelling to test of the impacts of the strategies should be used.
- Seemingly still a disconnect between planning strategy and built infrastructure.
- TCC requested extension of the consultation period to allow the Councils to consider at meetings – prefer a February 2012 close.

The Chair noted that the discussion highlighted the value of community consultation and thanked members for providing their thoughts on the draft strategy.

3. Transport for Canberra Strategy (Christine Laurence, Transport Planning)

Christine provided a short presentation on the draft *Transport for Canberra* Policy and called for comments or questions.

Matters discussed by members included:

- Real time bus information – extremely helpful for commuters, but also tourist.
- Targets are not ambitious enough
- There is a pricing strategy for parking, but not obvious for public transport
- Cost Benefit analysis needs to be stronger and compare bus vs light rail.
- Cost Benefit must also consider the public good and social benefit of public transport.
- Assumption is that Kingston Railway will be dug up – when will we know? – *Chris Murray said it will be in the next six months and it is about integrating heavy rail into the system.*

Christine referred members to the numerous studies that have already been done, available at http://www.transport.act.gov.au/studies_projects/index.html and in particular the Cost Benefit Analysis available at <http://www.transport.act.gov.au/references->

[docs/Parsons%20Brinckerhoff,%202010,%20ACT%20Strategic%20Public%20Transport%20Network%20Plan%20Cost%20Benefit%20Analysis.pdf](#)

The Chair again noted that the discussion highlighted the value of community consultation and thanked members for providing their thoughts on the draft policy.

4. Members' issues

a) Defining the residential zones – Hamish Sinclair

Garrick Calnan reported that DV306 went to the issue of retaining neighbourhood character in RZ2 suburban core zones and proposes a dwelling replacement policy for residential redevelopment areas. The consultation ended in September, and the Directorate was preparing a report and recommendation for the Minister.

b) Overlap of functions – Shirley Gourgard

Need to ensure that following Hawke Review the Economic Development and Environment and Sustainable Development Directorates are working together
Example of the Program reference group for Hawker led by EDD and Kambah led by ESDD.

- The Chair noted the comments and introduced Ian Thomson, EDD.
- ESDD and EDD are meeting regularly and seeking to eliminate any overlap or duplication.

c) Other matters raised.

- The Directorate seems unaware of the role of the community councils – *noted by Ben Ponton although the basis of the comment was unclear. Ms McGinn to provide further information for consideration at the next meeting.*
- Need to get contact numbers for key contacts – *Geoffrey Rutledge to follow up*
- Are RSS Feeds available on the DA page structure by region – *Geoffrey Rutledge to follow up*
- Update on the Mitchell Fire – *Ben Ponton to follow up*

5. Next PDF meeting

Tuesday 13 December 2011 (note Assembly sittings in week of 6 December 2011)

Please forward any agenda items for the meeting to Ros Davey at:

rosslyn.davey@act.gov.au