



Inner South Canberra Community Council

**Public Meeting, 13 July 2021
7.00 PM to 9.00 PM
ZOOM**

Record

1. Gary Kent, Chair of the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC), chaired the meeting. There were 41 attendees including 14 Committee members and 5 MLAs.

2. **Local Issues**

a. **The Inner South District Consolidated Plan**

A power point was presented to the meeting noting what was hoped to be achieved from the Planning Review:

- Green spaces and the urban forest must be maintained in the residential areas
- A Planning System we can trust. Compliance at the planning and building stage is crucial.
- The Territory Plan should provide certainty to all residents
- All the criteria in the codes must be subservient to the Rules which are simplified and mandated
- Knock-down, rebuild DA exempt developments should require a DA
- Need more information about the benefits of District Plans.

Other issues include:

- A new map of the Inner South District Consolidated Policy Plan, the last one in the PowerPoint, had only just been provided to the ISCCC. Comments on the proposals were due at Have Your Say by 18 July. It was considered that this did not give groups sufficient time to provide input into the consultation exercise. Gary Kent, Chair ISCCC undertook to seek an extension to the consultation period out of session. It was agreed to circulate the new map.

- Groups were concerned about further intensification of their suburbs including potential rezoning of current sporting fields, green space, and parking areas around shops with more high rise developments.
- There is a high proportion of apartments currently in the pipeline throughout the Inner South before taking into account the effect of the proposed District Plan.
- Residents are concerned about a lack of transparency in the plans.
- Residents do not want Adelaide Avenue to become the same as Northbourne Avenue.
- There are also concerns about National Capital considerations and the need to engage with the National Capital Authority.

b. Light Rail

It was noted that Light Rail Stage 2A is progressing with construction on London Circuit scheduled to start in early 2022. A Light Rail Stage 2B Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not yet been released for public comment. The ISCCC will put in a submission to this. Mixed views were expressed at the meeting. These included:

- Light Rail is very expensive. Investing in Electric Buses and improving bus routes may both have benefits for the environment and be cost effective.
- A well-integrated transport strategy including light rail, buses and active transport would be welcomed and could help shift people from being so reliant on car transport
- There could be concerns about breaches of Environmental Laws. The ISCCC invited more information to be sent to it about this concern.

c. Red Hill Integrated Plan

The Red Hill Integrated Plan included entry from the Hughes side. This has been well received by Inner South residents. There is acknowledgement, however, that members of Woden councils are not pleased with the final result

d. Canberra Brick Works

The Environmental Impact Statement is open for comments until 21 July.

In terms of the ISCCC some of the issues that need to be monitored include:

- Heritage issues
- The vistas—the main issue is suspected to be from Dunrossil Drive. Governor General’s Office may require a fence to be built,
- Tree management—a large number of mature trees will be removed. There will be some replanting associated with Radiata Pines trees. The tree area needs more investigation
- Concern about destroying the habitat of birdlife.
- Transport—a major issue in the longer term will be the growing population in the Molonglo Valley and possible increased transport along the transport corridor through Yarralumla.
- The proposal to connect gas to the houses, townhouses and commercial areas but not apartment buildings is being proposed by the developer. This raises a question about if this is consistent with government policy, which is to phase out the use of gas.
- Contamination of the site is an issue that also needs ongoing monitoring.

e. **Kingston Arts Precinct**

There are plans in place that have allocated Arts organisations to spaces. Agreement seems to have been reached between Arts ACT and the organisations. The ongoing community position seems to have been ignored including:

- Respect for heritage and sight lines to existing structures
- Dominance of Power House from Wentworth Ave to be maintained
- Underground car parking
- The continuing importance of the Old Bus Depot markets
- The current plan seems to have 2-4 storey buildings blocking the sight lines that the community has been trying to maintain.
- The ISCCC is preparing an Inner South position paper on the Kingston Arts Precinct development.

3. **Emma Davidson, MLA, Member for Murrumbidgee was the guest speaker.**

Issues raised in discussion included:

- Improvements to the quality of footpaths to allow safer pedestrian movement
- Costs of light rail and indoor sports
- Importance of consultation with residents on planning
- Importance of keeping community space for the common good and there must be a stop to the movement of community land to the private sector
- Concerns about CO2 and Green House gases and justification for the extension of light rail
- Uncertainty about the cost implications of light rail.

4. **The local Kurrajong Members were invited to provide brief updates to the meeting**

Issues raised in discussion:

- Importance of extension of time to Have Your Say on the Inner South District Plan. The ISCCC Chair will seek an extension out of session.
- Advocating support for a Medi animal service for bulk billing for care for animals and wild life
- Shadow Planning Minister—Peter Cain MLA noted planning favours developers over the community.

5. **Residents Groups Reports**

Forrest Residents Group

The group has circulated the Urban intensification Have Your Say proposal. They would like to circulate the new map. There is a 42-unit proposal that is in the pipeline.

Yarralumla Residents Association

Yarralumla Residents Association has undertaken a survey of residents on the Forrest Place development. The respondents represented about 23% of the suburb. Issues raised are similar to the online survey findings. Other local

matters include: the owners of the CSIRO site have asked the Government for a change to the National Capital Plan, sea planes on the lake, the Canberra Brick works, a derelict site near the shops, trees management, gaps in the footpath network, pot holes, and considerable concern about Planning. The Association has planted 3000 bulbs for Floriade in Yarralumla.

Old Narrabundah Community Council

Old Narrabundah Community Council's main focus is planning the use of the Australian Government Grant for Better Communities for capital upgrade to the tennis courts. The demographics is changing resulting in a need for a crossing on Sturt Avenue,

Deakin Residents Association

Deakin Residents Association is concerned that the District Planning paperwork lacks information about what will happen to the existing and potential Precinct codes, Equinox 2-DRA have put in a submission opposing the Equinox 2 development. Issues of concern related to transport, noise, misleading documentation and messy community consultation. The Association has planted many bulbs for Floriade at the Deakin Shops.

Kingston Barton Residents Group

Major items are District Planning and the Kingston Arts Precinct. There was a big turnout including 5 local MLAs for planting, bulbs and annuals at Kingston Shops, ongoing hail repairs, building quality issues at Kingston Place, Green Square has now been officially named.

Griffith Narrabundah Community Association

Key issues are the petition opposing the Manor House development, DA exempt knock down rebuilds including neighbours having a lack of say and also potholes and footpaths.

Red Hill Residents Group

Agree with pothole and footpath concerns. There has been an approach to TCCS by the developer of the Red Hill flats site about using the Beagle Street open space park as a temporary car park for approximately 200 cars while building is proceeding. Protection of trees and remediation of the land will need to be monitored carefully should the proposal be approved to utilise what is currently open green space.