

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

AGM 20/9/2003

Present: 40 people

Apologies: Ian Stehlik

Welcome by President Francis Perkins;

Frances outlined the negotiations undertaken by the YRA with the Minister and the Dept. regarding the Brickworks site. She expressed the committee's disappointment at the length of time it is taking to resolve the issue.

Frances then introduced the Minister for Planning Simon Corbell, and invited him to address the AGM.

Minister Corbell firstly outlined the governments overall planning objectives and what had been achieved since taking office, including the creation of a new and independent statutory planning authority, revised neighbourhood planning process and new planning legislation: DV200. Mr Neil Savoury has just commenced in the newly created position of Chief Planner.

Brickworks

On matters related to Yarralumla Minister Corbell expressed regret also that the resolution of the brickworks issue has taken so long. He reiterated his support subject to financial costings of the YRA proposal for rehabilitation and development of the brickworks site.

An Independent costing of the proposal has been undertaken and this has shown a fine margin between the estimated costs of rehabilitating the site and the estimated profits gained from the development.

Because of this small margin the minister is not willing at this time to commit the government to the proposal due to the perceived potential financial risk it entails to the government.

Hill Corner St Nicholas Pre School

Minister Corbell reiterated his support of the YRA's position and explained the Dept had asked St Nicholas to demonstrate to the Government and the Land Development agency the pre-school's need to expand beyond their existing boundary into the park area of Hill Corner. To date the Minister does not feel they have done this and he is awaiting further communication from them.

Frances responded to the Minister's comments regarding the Brickworks, explaining that the Defence Housing Authority's (DHA) have expressed interest in developing the site and are confident of the cost/profit margins. The DHA proposal would remove the financial risk from the government. Frances reiterated the Committee's frustration at length of time the process has taken and also their feeling that the Dept. has been unwilling to consider the DHA option.

Minister Corbell responded that the DHA proposal needs to be more fully reviewed, and viewed in a wider context of the long term life of the Brickworks. There is also the question of the DHA being required to bid for the land in an open tender process. The Minister stressed the governments support for a small scale development on the site.

The Minister then took questions from the floor.

Questions and the Ministers responses related to whether the process of development should be subject to an open tender process, or even an 'ideas competition' regarding

uses for the site. The view was expressed that the Yarralumla community had been widely consulted regarding the Brickworks use and were happy with the current YRA proposal.

Concern was also expressed at how long any further consultation may take and whether the issue would ever be resolved.

In response to a question regarding the earlier proposal of 500 town houses the Minister gave the guarantee that proposal is 'dead'.

Minister Corbell gave a commitment that a decision on the 'way forward' would be made by the end of the year, with a view to implementing the process early next year.

Frances thanked the Minister for attending the meeting.

Check the Association's web site www.yra.org.au for information and updates.

The AGM was then undertaken.

Minutes of the previous 2002 AGM were tabled.

Proposed the minutes be accepted:

Moved: G Hall, 2nd: P Fuary, Accepted.

President's Report: (previously given by way of introducing Minister Corbell)

Treasurers Report tabled, due to an outstanding receipt the books are awaiting audit which is expected in the next week.

Robin Brown as Treasurer proposed that subject to the audit the financial report be accepted.

2nd: M. Wagner. Accepted (1 vote against, 1 abstention).

Election of new Committee:

President: Frances Perkins

Current Committee members continuing:

Robin Brown (not continuing as treasurer)

Michael Wagner

Hugh Saddler

Gary Hearne

New member:

John Soderbaum

Currently there are no nominations for Treasurer or Secretary. Anyone willing would be gratefully accepted.

A vote of sincere thanks is made to outgoing committee members Ian Stehlik (secretary) and Rosemary Brisenden.

Motion: To maintain the association subscription fees at their current level.

Proposed: F Perkins. 2nd: R Brissenden. Accepted.

Meeting closed 5 pm