

McKELLAR PRESCHOOL SITE
LOCAL CONSULTATION - INITIAL SUMMARY
(30 OCTOBER 2007)

1. Introduction

On Tuesday 30 October 2007 a community information display was held from 4.30pm – 7.30pm at the Belconnen Soccer Club, McKellar, to discuss options relating to the sale for the former preschool site.

These notes summarise the key outcomes from discussions held throughout the consultation. It should be noted that participation in the consultation was premised on the qualification that that it did not signify support for preschool closure or sale of the site.

2. Background

In 2006 the ACT Government announced that 23 primary schools and preschools would be closed as part of its Schools Revitalisation Policy.

ACT Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) have appointed a consultant team to undertake detailed site specific technical studies and local community consultation in order to identify optimal uses for each site.

The consultation process is staged and provides opportunity for residents and other interested members of the community to attend local information displays to provide feedback and discuss issues relevant to each of the former school sites. Technical findings together with feedback received through the consultations will be used by the consultant team to assess and make recommendations to TAMS about future uses for the former school sites.

TAMS have indicated that the McKellar site is to be sold. Therefore the session was structured to invite input from the community regarding what uses the site should be sold for.

3. Approach

The consultation session included a community information display held from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

A series of plans and information relating to the McKellar site formed the display. The information included:

- Metropolitan Context Plan
- Project Timetable Flowchart
- Project Objectives
- Building Condition Summary
- Population Characteristics
- Social Infrastructure Plan
- Territory Plan Extract (Community Facility)
- Territory Plan Extract Map
- Planning Processes Flowchart
- Typical Development Types'
- Site & Suburb Air Photo
- Site Analysis Plan
- Site Photos
- Development Option Plan

4. Attendance

Approximately 9 people attended the display.



5. Key issues

The key issues that were raised at the McKellar consultation included:

5.1 Current and future community needs

- The majority of participants expressed a preference for the site to be sold for community use and not for medium density residential purposes. There was also preference to reuse the existing building/s if possible.
- There was support to sell the site under the existing 'community facility' zoning.
- Most participants noted that they did not want to see medium density housing on the site, but many did not have a particular preference for use of the building.
- Suggestions included: childcare centre, medical centre, aged care facility, arts and craft or other small businesses.
- There was general consensus that any community service would be preferred to housing on the site.
- Local residents would like the tree corridor adjacent to the site retained for community use, such as dog walking.

5.2 Potential use of former preschool site to meet community needs

- Given the condition of the building and importance of the surrounding trees as part of a highly utilised walking corridor, most participants stated a preference for the building/s to be retained.
- Some residents stated that the building could be used for business purposes, such as a medical centre. There were suggestions that the building would be suited for an early childcare centre.
- A number of not-for-profit community based childcare providers could use the site but are not in a position to purchase it at a commercial rate and therefore could only access via a subsidised or supported leasehold arrangement in partnership with government.
- A limited number of participants noted that some form of redevelopment would be allowable, if there was provision for some community space. This is due to the fact that there is no other community building space in McKellar.
- A limited number of participants noted that it could be possible to redevelop for low density housing such as for aged care purposes, although their preference was still to retain the current buildings.
- There was a suggestion to use the building for purposes such as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, although this option was not supported by all participants.

These notes reflect key issues and ideas raised during discussions with the consultant team during the course of the Information Display and are not intended to reflect all of the comments made, nor does it include any of the comments written on 'Feedback Sheets' provided to persons who attended the session.

Information from feedback sheets and other submissions will be analysed and incorporated into the site evaluation process by the consultant team and included in the final report to Government.

7 November 2007

