

West End Community Association Inc.



For passionate West-Enders to have their say about the future

Newsletter #3 October 2005

WECA's 3 goals:

Community - Strengthening community connections
Impact - Building the community's impact on decisions and plans
Viability & Vitality - Ensuring a strong Association.

WECA's thanks go to:

- Souts Leagues Club
- Ahimsa House
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- Cr Helen Abrahams

STOP PRESS!

COUNCIL RECEIVES 1000 SUBMISSIONS ON ITS DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN FOR WEST END – WOOLLOONGABBA...!!

.... for an outline of WECA's concerns about the Plan - *Please turn over*

In this issue:

1. WECA's concerns about Council's Local Plan
2. WECA's views of the Riverside Parks Master Plan and its draft set of recommendations
3. Upcoming Traffic Rorum at Souths on Thursday 10 November at 7pm
4. Launch of WECA's website AND three other great websites covering West End –
www.westendcommunity.org.au;
www.ourbrisbane.com/citysouth/;
www.kurilpa.com.au;
www.westender.com.au
5. How to contact us – see above email and postal address.

West End Riverside Parks Planning

Following WECA's **End of the Road Picnic** on World Environment Day, 5 June, the Council held a public meeting on Wednesday 26 October to discuss Council's draft recommendations for the Riverside Parks.

WECA's views (see Newsletter #2 on our website) are reasonably well supported by the Draft Riverside Parks Plan. *Well done Cr Abrahams and Council staff for a dedicated effort on this project!*

It is well recognised that West End parks are inadequate for the existing population numbers and they are under pressure from 32 different user groups. Council's recommendations in the Draft include:

- The closure of Riverside Drive. Riverside Drive as it is not a legal road - it is parkland that has been used as road.
- Purchase of land to add to Davies Park
- Extension of parkland up the side streets to the Riverside Park
- Separate paths for cycles (4m wide) and walking (3m wide)
- New parking controls for streets around the park
- Some additional facilities, some areas to be kept natural.

A plan for Davies Park is to be addressed in the future. – WECA hopes that the planning for it will happen soon. It will be important to monitor the progress of these recommendations and to ensure they are funded properly.

For further information, contact *Jeremy Townsend, Brisbane City Council* 3403 8888.

Other parkland matters for Council to address

- Investment in community-based solutions for Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point – 'move-on powers' are NOT the answer.
- A West End walkability plan with greening of the streets that connect all the parks.
- Protecting river access, visual and physical.
- Each development application is to provide the appropriate amount of public parkland to match the residents expected to be housed in that development. For example, if a residential development appropriate for 100 residents is proposed, then 0.4 hectares of public open space must be provided adjacent or nearby by the developer, in a form that is usable by the local community and visitors
- Currently no provision of parks and gardens in proposed rezoned areas; Industrial area rezoning should be to (new) Residential and Parkland so enough public space can be provided for new developments.
- Pocket parks distributed throughout the local area.
- Additional public space to that provided in draft LAP.

Council's City South Committee kicks off

Council has set up a *community liaison committee* to cover the West End-Woolloongabba-Buranda-Dutton Park area (City South). The committee's priorities are still being defined (traffic, affordable housing etc). There is an information paper available – What's Going on in City South – contact person is *Ben Thomson, Brisbane City Council, 3403 0982*.

Lord Mayor to tour West End in January

In recent months, WECA has been meeting with Councillor Abrahams, Minister Bligh, Councillor Hinchliffe and now the Lord Mayor.

In September, WECA's President briefed the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman about the pressures and challenges facing West End, particularly the lack of investment by State or Council in the community assets of the area (parks, libraries, streets, facilities) and the neglect of welfare needs of the area. The Lord Mayor has agreed to tour the area on Wednesday 25 January.

West End Woolloongabba Local Plan the story goes on... still no response from Council about the 1000+ submissions from the community (including Cr Abraham's survey)!

Well done WECA! WECA pulled all stops out and ran a major campaign for two months around its concerns about the Council's planning scheme for the City South area (WE, Woolloongabba, Buranda, Dutton Park areas). WECA urged people to make submissions. We promoted this by:

- Saturday morning stalls at the Green Markets and a presence in the West End shopping precinct
- Running a Local Plan forum at Souths attended by 80 people
- A poster placed in shops and mailboxes throughout West End (see insert).

Council approved 900+ apartments in two development *approvals while the Local Plan was on public exhibition* on the basis that they complied with the d-r-a-f-t Planwhat's the point of having any community consultation about the Plan??

Population of West End will double (<i>this is not in the draft plan but is from other council documents</i>)	Not acceptable as Council is failing to adequately increase parkland and other community facilities or adequately limit car use
Expansion of Character residential areas	Yes , we need improved protection of heritage and character areas, but have concerns that it might impact on affordable housing
Some reference to environmentally sustainable design	Sustainable design must instead be mandatory for all new developments and construction
Closure of Riverside Drive to cars, extension Davies Park, small additions to Riverside Park and at Buranda	Total parkland areas grossly inadequate : 0.4 Ha per 100 people needed. Proposed closure of Riverside Drive supported, park additions supported
Generalised encouragement of pedestrianism and cycling	Comprehensive measures lacking in the plan: traffic and mobility study needed, plus car space limits of 0.4 per dwelling plus strong street parking restrictions
Hale Street Bridge Proposed	Traffic and mobility study needed first : Merivale and Cordelia Street will become traffic channels under Hale Street bridge proposal
Riverside North up to 10 storeys, Riverside South up to 7 storeys	Proposed new zoning and density for Riverside South and North area unacceptable . For Riverside precincts need 2 storeys fronting the river then residents say between 3-5 storeys behind that.
Affordable Housing	Not addressed in draft local plan at all; needs to be as area is a traditional welfare area of the city and has lost an estimated 50% of its affordable housing. In addition to public housing, affordable housing is housing available for low-income people in the private and semi-private market including cheap rental housing, boarding houses and church housing.

STOP PRESS - WECA to meet with Council Planners Friday 4 November

WECA is to meet with Council planners about the Local Plan submissions on *Friday 4 November*.

West End folk interested in supporting people who have little or no resources might consider a **\$10 Membership** of West End Community House. Contact Joe Hurley – 3846 2114

Upcoming WECA events	Hale Street Bridge WECA Information Night	7pm Thursday 10 November at Souths Leagues Club. Contact Philip 3844 0329
	Two WECA Cabarets Saturdays	5 November and 3 December, Ahimsa House. Contact Judy 0417 017 812

