

Griffith/Narrabundah Community Action Group

PO Box 4127 Manuka ACT 2603

Volume 5

NEWSLETTER

6 April 2001

Griffith Library to be demolished for townhouses

The ACT Government's planning consultants, Smith Kostyrko Cohen Middleton (SKCM), will be presenting their **Draft Development Control Plan** at a Public Information Exchange Meeting on 10 April that **calls for the demolition of the Griffith Library** (the old Primary School) to make way for 23 two storey townhouses and 6 detached houses. The plan also proposes that 26 two storey "Terrace Houses" (only 6.0 m wide) be built on the parkland and playground area behind the Griffith Shops and near Throsby Crescent.

SKCM said they will be recommending that a replacement library be built on Section 78 but cannot give any guarantee that it will be built, or that it will be located in the Griffith/Narrabundah area. The ACT Government's own *Library Facilities Strategy* clearly indicates that Section 78 is one of the least likely locations for a new library in South Canberra, if one is to be built.

Overwhelming community opposition to residential development on Griffith Section 78 has been ignored. SKCM have admitted that only one or two of the submissions they have received since October last year specifically favour townhouse development on Section 78, yet their Draft Development Control Plan proposes townhouses.

After the Easter school holidays, SKCM will have an open period for public comment on their Draft Development Control Plan. A spokesperson from the Planning and Land Management Group (PALM) said on 5 April that the comment period may be as short as 21 days. We have asked for 6 weeks.

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXCHANGE MEETING

Tuesday, 10 April 2001

Two Identical Sessions:

4.30 pm & 7.30pm

at the O'Connell Centre, Main Hall

This is the most critical period of the consultation process.

PLEASE attend and voice your opinions on the Draft Development Control Plan.

Our Rally was great!

Thanks to all who were able to attend. We had more than 250 supporters, excellent speakers, music, fun and games for the kids and a terrific Griffith Butchery/ODelli sausage sizzle. Our group must be "in the right" because the weather cleared up just in time.

Thanks to our supporters:

Many of the shopkeepers at the Griffith Shops very generously made donations to support the rally raffle. We would like to thank them and let everyone know how much we all appreciate their support and community spirit:

- Griffith Butchery/ODelli
- 5 Star Supermarket
- Antz Pantz
- Beyond
- Essence
- Extend-A-Home

(Continued on other side⇒)

- Griffith Massage
- Griffith Newsagency
- Griffith Take-Away
- Hierophant
- Maureen Baily
- Mountain Creek
- Om Shanti
- Organic Energy
- Studio MAP
- Urban Design

Not all of the donated goods and services were raffled off at the rally because we could not sell enough tickets on Saturday to raffle off all of the items. We will raffle off the remaining prizes in the near future.

POLITICIAN WATCH: What your elected representatives have said:

We have written letters to all seven of the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in the Molonglo Electorate to ask each for his/her position on Section 78. Here are the responses we have received to date. The next election has been scheduled for Saturday, 20 October 2001.

Liberal Party of Australia

Gary Humphries..... No response at all.
Greg Cornwell..... Responded, but did not address the issues.
Jacqui Burke..... Responded, but did not address the issues. Offered discussions.

Australian Labor Party

Simon Corbell..... Gave commitment to oppose any development on Sec. 78.
Ted Quinlan..... Gave commitment to oppose any development on Sec. 78.

The ACT Greens

Kerrie Tucker..... Gave commitment to oppose any development on Sec 78.

Moore Independents

Michael Moore..... Responded, but did not address the issues.

Actions you can take:

- Please attend the 10 April Public Information Exchange to voice your opinion.
- Begin to prepare your comments on the Draft Development Control Plan so you can make a written submission as soon as the period of public comment opens.
- Please talk to your neighbours and your friends and ask them to join our group. The more members we have, the better.
- Please keep writing to Members of the Legislative Assembly, including the independents, telling them that you oppose residential development on the site. Please send copies to the G/NCAG Secretary so we can keep informed.
- Please keep writing Letters to the Editor.

Upcoming Raffle of a Geoff Pryor Original Cartoon

Geoff Pryor, the political cartoonist for *The Canberra Times*, has very graciously donated an original of one his cartoons. We will be raffling it off in the near future. Keep your eyes on this space in future newsletters for more details about how you can have a chance to win what will surely become a priceless piece of art. We thank Geoff for his support.

Our Goals:

Our goals are clear:

1. *The retention of our community facilities for now and the future.*
2. *The preservation of our community open space.*
3. *The retention of our library service.*
4. *Opposition to any development that is inconsistent with our other goals, including that which would involve varying the Territory Plan in order to re-zone the land.*

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