

Dear Yarralumla Residents

Thank you for your participation in the LDA Community Conversation No.3 last Tuesday evening. It was so heartening to see so many faces from our YRA community meeting present and your views allowed Yarralumla to have a clear presence (as opposed to attendees from wider Canberra). I was asked about attendance of the YRA Committee at the meeting and can assure you that we were all present (even our Treasurer who had not long stepped off an international flight and our Secretary freshly back from the snowfields).

You will find below the summary of key outcomes from the LDA Community Conversation No. 3, which Robin Brown shared with the meeting and agreed to type up to send out to all attendees so that we have a record of messages that we provided to the LDA through this consultation forum. Thank you Robin.

There are a number of things that we need to consider:

1. Although we asked the LDA to slow down the process while they fully investigate other possible sources of funding (such a Commonwealth funding, sale of land for embassy sites, sponsors, patrons etc) the LDA closing message was that they were going away to develop a preferred option.
2. The footprint of the street grid for development is the same for all three options - looks like a means of infilling planned green areas with development at a later point in time (while arguing that there is lots of green spaces in the design). Option two should be a much smaller footprint, with incremental increases across options 3 and 4.
3. The LDA are planning to double the number of residences in Yarralumla (increasing them by 1800) believing that they can tap into existing "rich" infrastructure of the suburb. They will be housed in intensively located four storey unit buildings (noting that the ACT Government plan to change the planning codes for Yarralumla for this to occur)
4. The YRA representatives on the Brickworks Reference Group have been delivering the same messages that we have seen the community has put forward at the LDA community consultation meetings. These messages have been largely ignored.
5. While the YRA has endeavoured to respond to media requests from ABC radio, ABC TV, WIN NEWS and the Canberra Times - it is proving difficult to get our message out as we are cut back to 10 second grabs. John Thistleton's lead article in the Canberra Times - Forum last Saturday did prove more useful however we need residents to intensively attract attention to this issue.
6. Our views are also being scrambled by the LDA. There are two conversations - the first is about the heritage preservation of the brickworks which is relevant to all Canberra citizens. The second is the subdivision of existing green spaces to further develop Yarralumla in order to pay for the brickworks, which should be a conversation with Yarralumla residents who will be affected by the impact to our suburb.
7. Existing planning codes in Yarralumla are largely RZ1 (single and double storey residents) and RZ2 which allows for more intensive development within 100 metres of the shops. If we want to maintain the character of our suburb, we need to be prepared to very actively fight any proposed change to the RZ1 zoning. This does not mean that we cannot have a variety of forms of housing as currently exist in the suburb, however the visual and human impact to the suburb would be more reasonable.
8. The Golden Wing Moth has not had much prominence in discussions and we need to investigate with experts in this area how their habitat (which covers about one third of the proposed development area).

Suggested actions:

- a. Residents write to the ACT Government including all the Molonglo elected representatives and 'letters to the editor' to all local media.
- b. Stay diligent in having your voice heard by participating in the LDA consultation process (with the next step to be a consultation on the preferred option at the Yarralumla shops - no date provided yet).
- c. Keep a watching brief and be ready for action on any attempts to change the current planning codes for Yarralumla.
- d. Get involved in the Yarralumla Residents Association (annual membership fee of only \$15). The YRA Annual General meeting is scheduled for 2:30 pm on Saturday, 18 September 2010 at the Uniting Church Hall, where the ACT Government elected representatives have been invited to participate in a conversation on green open spaces .
The pressures of dealing with several issues this year has meant that we are looking to expand the YRA Committee. Please consider joining this enthusiastic group of local community members. Involvement in the YRA Committee need not prove onerous, as a larger committee will mean that we can share the load and allow us to be more effective. We will welcome any level of contribution that you are able to provide. We communicate efficiently by email and work in a collaborative manner, which allows us to enjoy contribution to our community. Yes, our members are regularly 'out of town' with travel, work and grandchildren commitments and we are well-practised at working effectively around this. If would like to join our committee but will not be able to attend the AGM please respond to this email with your interest and contact details.
- e. In order for the YRA and residents to have a snapshot of the expected outcome of the LDA survey, can we ask that you respond to this email with a simple indication of your preferences. This will allow the YRA Brickworks Reference Group representatives to go to the next Reference Group meeting with a stronger sense of the Yarralumla position. Please just indicate two things:
 - i. which heritage preservation option you preferred
i.e. Option 1 - Mothballed; Option 2 - Cold Shell; Option 3 - Adaptation;
Option 4 - National Treasure
 - ii. which level of development you supported
i.e. Option 1 - none; Option 2; Option 3; Option 4 - mostly intensive 4 storey
unit development

Thank you for your involvement in your community.

Robyn Cooper

President
Yarralumla Residents Association

Summary of key outcomes from the LDA Community Conversation No. 3

The conservation/development of the brickworks and infill/densification should be treated as separate issues.

In any case it should not be possible for any infill development to proceed with the risk that work on the brickworks is deferred

The principle should be that infill utilises space that is not enjoyed as open space.

Current forested areas should remain forested – rejuvenated as necessary

Yarralumla should not have to pay for conservation/development of the brickworks with its open space and amenity. The suburb's amenity should not be destroyed by extra pressure from excess additional residents, workers and traffic.

There should be effective control of the number of residences in infill development

As a national treasure the Commonwealth should pay and should certainly pay for the removal of dangerous material the brickworks having served the Commonwealth's purpose of the constructing the national capital. Involvement of relevant Commonwealth institutions should be pursued

Any contribution from Canberra citizens that might be required should be borne by the whole community

All options proposed ignore the appreciation local residents have for the wide swathe of open space flanked by forest with vistas to the Brindabellas leading across to Dunrossil Drive. Preserving this open space could well be more appropriate in terms of the habitat requirements for the Sun Moth and the native grasses. Much of the open space provided for in options 2, 3 and 4 would not be nearly as attractive – eg that which is adjacent to Yarra Glenn and the Cotter Road. A particular case is the proposed development along Kintore St. This could be located adjacent to Yarra Glenn, thus overlooking the existing open space. This existing open space could then be enjoyed by current Kintore St residents and the occupants of the new development

Most of Yarralumla is on a north/south, east/west grid which is appropriate for facilitating passive solar design. It would be inconsistent with the city's environmental aims to lay out streets at 45 degrees and this is not necessary.

The character of Yarralumla is preserved to some extent by RZ1 and 2 zoning and any development should be consistent with this

The brickworks need at least some urgent work to be undertaken to increase security/safety of surrounding residents

The footprint for development is the same for each of options 2, 3 and 4. Clearly a range of development footprints is feasible and options should be considered accordingly

Infill near to Yarra Glenn/Adelaide Avenue is consistent with the need to increase public transport usage

The option of simply preserving the key heritage parts of the brickworks and demolishing the remainder should be considered. A large scale re-development of the site is unnecessary to meet heritage objectives

Other appropriate uses for the area should be considered.