Coniston Community Action Group (CCAG)
Minutes Meeting Wednesday 29th August 2012

Coniston Public School meeting commenced 5pm

In attendance: Maureen Mowbray, Bill Barbus, Kylie Stubbles, David Lamb, Cr George Takus

Apologies: Susan Hewett, Angela Melouney, Jim Douglas

Minutes:

1. Reviewed previous minutes.

2. MM gave a brief review of what she had spoken about at the WCC meeting. Her notes are attached.

3. George Takus addressed the meeting on a series of issues:

   - the motions put before WCC earlier this year have been sent off to be costed. A general discussion as to what each of those were followed.

   - Keira Street crossing:
     - WCC is looking at the costs involved with all options.
     - CCAG members stated their concern about the inadequacy of blisters at this location that it will not slow traffic and could potentially still result in unsafe outcomes
     - CCAG members also stated that they were not specialists in this field and as such would await the recommendations of those that were
     - WCC are aware of UOW doing a proposal on a bridge or safe crossing and this has resulted in any decision being deferred
     - Lights have been mentioned as an option
     - Zebra crossing have also been discussed
     - Discussed what has occurred at Gwynneville outside St Brigids school where the crossing has been removed and blisters placed with a raised section
     *GT will discuss some of these issues with David Campbell former Minister for transport and seek his advice
     *GT explained that the RMS and WCC look after different roads and at times they share the maintenance on roads.

   - pedestrian access mobility study:
     - it has been noted that traffic counters have been placed around major roads in the Coniston area of late. The question was put to GT is this just coincidence that since the CCAG motions were put to WCC these appeared. GT explained that they were part of the study to gather data on access to JJ Kelly Park.

   - access to WCC staff and committees:
     - CCAG members discussed the lack of consultation from WCC staff and especially the traffic committee with several members expressing that they felt fobbed of or dismissed by WCC staff when they were seeking answers to valid questions in regard to its function, process and direct access.
     - GT explained the make up of the traffic committee which is a police representative, the RMS (Andy Gaudiosi) and a WCC representative (Lindsay Dunstan)
     - KS stated she had some previous dealings when making an enquiry re Keira Street with Mr Gaudiosi but since that one contact he has been seemingly unable to be contacted by phone and doesn’t return any emails with reference to requests she has
made attempting to gather relevant information for the CCAG and the Coniston P and C.

**ACTIONS:**

i. **CCAG determined that DL would approach Mr Gaudiosi as the school principals to provide advice and possible assistance with explaining and facilitating a crossing in Miller ST.** *(This would preferably be a zebra crossing with a raised middle – colloquially referred to as a ‘wombat’ crossing. Curbside blisters may also assist at this location)*

ii. **DL would also send a request to WCC to ask their advice and co-operation in determining the rationale behind how and what mechanisms are required to establish a pedestrian crossing.**

4. **DL report from the Neighborhood forum 5 meetings he had attended and that they have supported the CCAG actions.**

5. **Trees and pruning:**
   - MM raised the issue that all the trees along Gladstone Ave had been taken back down to stumps in the section on the southern side of Bridge Street at the shop end. Admittedly the roots look like they are causing some damage to the car parking area however they did form a buffer that blocked out to some degree the steelworks and railway line which are now on full show.
   - Also the general nature of how some of the trees were pruned under the power lines left many CCAG members shocked. The trees look unbalanced with their middle cut away only to leave the outside branches. It looked unsightly and CCAG members wondered whether it could be done with a greater eye for the aesthetics of what they were doing rather than the functional manner that had occurred with little regard to the many residents that travel and live in the area and have to look at the trees on a daily basis.
   - CCAG member put it to GT that if these trees were an ongoing issue and did need regular pruning then could a more appropriate species be utilized.

**ACTION:**

**GT will look into the rationale behind the pruning of the tree stumps and get back to the CCAG, not sure if it is State Rail, WCC or RMS. He did mention that the trees under the power lines were generally pruned by an electrical company or a sub contractor but stated he would also look into that.**

6. **Speeding in Bridge Street:**
   - ‘near miss’ scenarios especially associated with the crossing still happening.
   - SH has contacted the NRMA and there are community grants available. *(her email to DL attached)*
   - Discussed the need for red light cameras aligned with the zebra crossing.

7. **Bus stop opposite Neville McKinnon Oval:**
   - Huge gapping hole under fence near bus stop which is unsafe. Often little children lined up everyday. Pedestrian access is poor with a narrow walkway.

**ACTION:**

**GT will look at which areas are in line for WCC minor maintenance and get back to CCAG**

8. **School fence issue:**
   - DL explained the incident at the school Friday 23 involving an unknown man coming out of DOCS on Bridge Street confronting a teacher and making threats. The concern being that this could potentially be not the last disgruntled person to leave DOCS after a meeting.
   - DL then clarified the actions he had taken at the time and subsequently. These involved
contacting school security and the police, a review of the schools lockdown and
emergency procedures as well as a visit from school safety and security August 28 to
review the school’s risk assessment.

- The school safety and security officer explained over the past 12 months there had been
32 incidents involving the school, 15 of vandalism, 15 involving trespass and two of
persons entering the school grounds without permission. He sympathised with what had
occurred and explained he would send a report to the school outlining some
recommendations. These included:
  
  • DL contacting DOCS to let them know what had occurred
  • The possibility that DOCS could provide a parking space for people coming in for
    interviews away from the school
  • The school move the students to eat in a different part of the school (he did note
    that infrastructure involving concrete areas, seating and bubblers had already
    been developed in this part of the school)
  • Considering the nature of the incident a screen be developed along a section of
    the fence line along Bridge Street that blocks the view from outside the school (It
    would not be a security fence but something that stopped a direct line of sight into
    where the students ate. DL conceded that vegetation would be good but the
    chances of it growing quickly and in robust manner in this part of the school were
    minimal and a more solid structure would probably be better suited.)
  • A security fence however the Government has no money and they are quite
    expensive.

**ACTIONS:**

  i. CCAG will support the school’s actions where possible when the report is released
     from school safety and security.
  ii. KS to investigate what grants are available for developing the screen into a public
      art space which may include a local company sponsoring the construction of the
      screen.

*Meeting closed 6pm*

- *next meeting Wed 10th October time to be determined*