
From: Paul Room [mailto:mdfroom@netspeed.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 26 April 2007 10:49 PM
To: PORTER
Subject: RE: Application for Reconsideration 200700092 (23/117 Kaleen)

Mary,

As an owner of a unit at The Huntington and a long term resident of Kaleen, I would welcome your views on events to date and your preferred way ahead regarding the site at 23/117 Kaleen, previously the Bocce Club.

The following questions come to mind given the history to date:

- Is it time to ask ACTPLA to do a detailed due diligence review of the chain of commercial interests in this site given that it was a community resource provided under very generous terms by the government for the benefit of the community?
- Surely the fact that the Bocce Club no longer use the site means that other community groups should be given the opportunity to develop and maintain a community amenity? Has there been any active consultation with community groups about alternative community uses as opposed to building all over the site?
- Who is looking after the public's right to retain and enjoy the amenity afforded by this site now that the Bocce club does not use it?
- Has the public somehow lost the right to use the site? If so does this mean that we can expect to see the tennis, bowls and other clubs across Canberra being turned into good earners for the developers?
- What evidence based assurance has the ACT Government got that this community asset is not being traded for major private commercial gain?
- Does repeated behaviour by nominally different lessees of this site in cutting down major trees and demolishing facilities without reasonable consultation or permission from planning authorities present a challenge to the ACT government's ability to control developers and protect community amenities?
- After lessees previous poor behaviour and the planning authority's failure to monitor or take effective action to prevent it; why should local residents have any confidence in the planning process or that ACTPLA will enforce decisions taken on behalf of the community?
- We have many unused schools in Canberra with large areas of flat land that would be much easier for elderly residents to move around on. Why not use these sites for residential development for the elderly instead of on the significant slope at this site?

Regards,

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