Summary of Mawson Consultation Group Meeting – Saturday 13 May

On Saturday 13 May 2017, the Mawson Citizens’ Group (representatives of the Mawson community) and the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (the Taskforce) discussed the proposed public housing development on Block 29 Section 36 Mawson. Other participants included Woden Valley Community Council and Woden Community Services. An independent community engagement practitioner facilitated the meeting.

Community issues raised included a preference for a collaborative outcome about what will be placed on the site; the site’s physical challenges; using community facility-zoned land for public housing; potential privacy concerns for new and existing residents; residents are interested in blending supportive housing with the use of the land; concerns about traffic, pedestrian paths and parking, including during construction; the number of dwellings; the geology of the site; and protecting the local environment.

Suggestions included constructing a four-way roundabout at the Ainsworth Street/Mawson Drive intersection, incorporating access to the site and a pedestrian crossing; placement of the dwellings at the Mawson Drive frontage; reduce the number of units; create a shared community space, for example a community garden, to help tenants engage with surrounding residents; address misinformation about public housing tenants; maintain a significant old tree on the site; and maintain the habitat for birds.

Outcomes

- The Taskforce will contact ACT roads and traffic management about a roundabout on the Ainsworth Street/Mawson Drive intersection and invite relevant experts to the next meeting to discuss the suggestion in more detail.
- The Taskforce will work with the Mawson Citizens’ Group to incorporate special requirements in construction contracts for construction traffic, parking, geological impacts, dilapidation reports on surrounding homes, etc.
- The Taskforce will approach relevant groups to discuss establishing a community garden on the Shackleton Circuit end of the site.
- Housing ACT and Woden Community Services to discuss the Mawson Citizens’ Group and other community representatives being involved during the tenant relocation process.
- Mawson Citizens’ Group to draft a ‘welcome’ letter to prospective tenants with information about the Mawson community.
- The Taskforce will involve environment specialists in the design of the development, to advise on retaining trees and enhancing and supporting bird species in the area.
- The Taskforce will invite the engineers who prepared the report on the geology of the site to provide information and answer questions.