

Oaks Estate News

Oaks Estate Progress Association

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OEPA CHRISTMAS PARTY and Master Planning Public Meeting, Oaks Estate Community Hall, William St., 3.00pm, Sunday, 18 December.

All welcome.

Please bring a plate and something to drink. A good chance to meet up with other residents, have a bit of fun and talk about how to begin working out what the community would like to result from the Oaks Estate master planning process (see below). A hat will be passed around for donations to help meet costs of printing newsletters and leaflets informing the community of further developments in the master planning.

OAKS ESTATE MASTER PLANNING

The *Project Brief for Oaks Estate Master Plan* was released in late November by the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (formerly ACTPLA). The *Brief* is an attachment to ESDD's Request for Tender for Provision of the Oaks Estate Master Plan.

Although the *Brief* recognises Oaks Estate as a "rural village", it is focused on "land release opportunities", *i.e.* on increasing population density in Oaks Estate. It is likely that the master plan will enable immediate development of vacant blocks in Oaks Estate, in particular, construction of at least 20 two-story dwellings on the old Mobil site between Florence and Hill Streets.

The *Brief* states that both a "vision" for Oaks Estate and the Master Plan for Oaks Estate "should be developed in close consultation with the community". ESDD consultations with the community on "envisioning" will take place in February 2011. There will also be consultations with the community leading to a draft Master Plan due to be completed in June 2012.

The aims and objectives of the Master Plan process are stated at points 2-4 of the *Brief*, as follows:

2. Project Need

2.1 There are two (2) reasons this project is necessary:

- a) Oaks Estate is an important and unique rural village in Canberra due to the historic nature of the area, its location on the ACT/NSW border and its links with Queanbeyan. The Master Plan will identify planning strategies which will guide future opportunities by focusing on potential growth, transport, land use and community concerns; and

- b) A Master Plan of Oaks Estate will inform the ACT Land Release Program.

3. Aims

3.1 The broad aims of this project are to:

- a) develop a Master Plan to guide urban planning and urban design decisions that foster sustainable development and redevelopment in Oaks Estate; and
- b) identify if there is a need for any variations to the Territory Plan to support the Master Plan outcomes.

3.2 This project brief provides the information necessary for interested Tenderers to develop a Tender for the project.

4. Project Objectives

4.1 The key objectives of this project are to:

- a) develop a Master Plan to guide urban planning and urban design decisions that foster sustainable development and redevelopment in the Oaks Estate village;
- b) inform the ACT Land Release Program; and
- c) identify the requirement for any variations to the Territory Plan to support the Master Plan.

4.2 Additional objectives are to:

- a) encourage development and redevelopment that set benchmarks in quality sustainable design;
- b) encourage public realm improvements that set benchmarks in sustainable design;
- c) determine how Oaks Estate can be developed if desired to be a destination and not just a village which services the local community;
- d) understand the limitations of current infrastructure;
- e) facilitate increased connectivity and improved circulation for pedestrians and cyclists within and through Oaks Estate and its links with Canberra and Queanbeyan;
- f) identify sufficient car parking provision to maintain accessibility while minimising additional congestion;

- g) determine how the role of public transport can be improved in Oaks Estate;
- h) identify the important historic aspects of Oaks Estate and draw on these to inspire future redevelopment and development in the village;
- i) encourage mixed use development; and
- j) development efficient use of infrastructure.

Full copies of the *Brief* and associated Government documents are available from the OEPA and will also be accessible on the OEPA website <http://www.oaksestateact.org/>.

Robertsons' House

On 27 October Nigel Featherstone (ACT Heritage Unit) and Peter Dowling (Consultant Archaeologist) conducted a tour for the local community of the Robertsons' House showing their conservation works. There were about 30 people from the Oaks Estate and Queanbeyan communities present, including Mrs Nola Southwell who had been brought up in the house. Representatives of the Canberra and Queanbeyan Historical Societies were also present. The Oaks Estate community has been asked to help conserve and protect the building – but no formal arrangement for community involvement has been made.



Tour of the Robertsons' House, 27 October 2011.

Gillespie Park Upgrade

A lot of work has been done on the upgrade of the park. It looks great and is close to completion. A Grand Opening will be held in the New Year, date to be confirmed.

Oaks Estate River Corridor Storm Debris and Weed Removal Project

On 24 October about 25 people from Oaks Estate, Queanbeyan and the Molonglo Catchment Group met with Rebecca Dawson, Project Manager of the ACT Government's Restoration of Waterways and Surrounds Project, and her colleagues.

Rebecca and her colleagues conducted a tour of part of the river corridor, noting flood debris and weeds. They described the proposed river restoration and rehabilitation project and welcomed community involvement.

While the main part of the work is yet to commence there has already been some removal of fallen trees at the junction of the Queanbeyan and Molonglo rivers. Fallen trees have also been removed to re-open the riverside track where it had been partly blocked below *Hazelbrook*, about half way between River and William streets. The track is now back to its usual width but please note that it is still a little rough and that heavy machinery will be using the track from time to time as the work continues.

Last week Conservation Australia Volunteers did some cleaning up along the River and on Oaks Estate Road near the bridge. Their work is greatly appreciated. They are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested please contact Ken Horsfall, Team Leader, Ph. 6247 7770, Mob. 0419 155 795; Email canberra@conservationvolunteers.com.au.



Tour of the River bank, 24 October 2011.

Community Garden

Allotments are available to gardeners. Please contact Peter O'Dea if you are interested.

You can contact the Oaks Estate Progress Association President, Peter O'Dea, Email peterodea@gmail.com; Ph. 0439400313.