



Forrest Residents Group

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

➔ Website

The new website of the group will be active before the new year. The website will contain important information about the group, the suburb and active matters including upcoming local events. The website will also contain committee minutes and all official group correspondence.

The website can be found at:
www.forrestresidents.org

➔ Italo-Australian Club Site & Block 10, Section 13

The Forrest Residents Group completed two submissions in relation to the Italo-Australian Club site, one to extend the time frame for submissions which was successful with a two-week extension granted and the second to oppose the extent of the development and highlight the impact it will have on the suburb. The Land Development Agency is yet to make decision on the development.

The Forrest Residents Group also co-signed a letter to the Territories Minister Fiona Nash and National Capital Authority regarding the proposed sale and development of Block 10, Section 13, Forrest.

Recent Canberra Times articles:

- <http://bit.ly/ctitalosite>
- <http://bit.ly/ctb10s13>



ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGM AND ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Setting up a residents group for the suburb of Forrest was first discussed publicly at a meeting of residents held at the Italian Cultural Centre on Tuesday the 30th of August 2016.

At that time a Steering Committee was elected to establish guidelines, propose membership arrangements and draft rules for the formal establishment and the ongoing operation of a Forrest Residents Group (FRG).

In addition to these tasks, the Steering Committee was charged with acting upon two motions passed unanimously by the meeting. The first motion required preparation of a submission to the ACT government requesting:

"That the Development Application process in respect of Block 9 Section 19 Forrest be suspended because of the extremely limited level of community consultation that was conducted prior to lodgement."

A second motion also required action by the Steering Committee: *"That the meeting expresses concern at the rezoning from community to mixed use of Block 10 Section 13 Forrest and the proposed siting of a hotel and residential apartments on the site, including the creation of new road access from Canberra Avenue."*

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UPDATE CONTINUED

Work on these issues has progressed to the point that we are ready to hold the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the FRG. The primary purposes of this AGM will be to establish the FRG as a formal entity, to accept members, to elect an Executive Committee to run the group for the next 12 months and to adopt the proposed Charter setting out conditions of operation for the group. The Steering Committee also will report at this meeting on progress with the development proposals that were the subject of the above motions.

The new Executive Committee will be tasked with addressing the many issues facing the suburb of Forrest into the foreseeable future. As discussed briefly at the 30 August meeting, these issues might include:

- National capital planning as it affects the suburb and its environs.
- Building and redevelopment guidelines for the suburb, including dwelling density, the height of buildings and size of blocks.
- Parking and traffic on streets in the suburb.
- Designation and conservation of heritage buildings, installations, green spaces and streetscapes.
- Maintenance of parks, street trees, verges, footpaths, roads, gutters and driveways.
- The impact of developments in Manuka and surrounding areas.
- Effects of constant escalation of rates and land taxes.

While this agenda is extensive, assistance is available from other suburban groups that have been previously established and from the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC). In this context, it is noted that two members of the FRG Executive Committee will be eligible to be Committee members of the ISCCC and thereby be in a position to influence broader planning and development policies for the Inner South.

Good relationships with the other community groups have already been established, and these groups have indicated a preparedness to work together and with a newly formed FRG to achieve our shared aims. For example, the Kingston Barton Residents Group (KBRG) have managed to obtain grants for maintaining street lights and signs, they have instituted heritage walks and have an agreement with the ACT Government for the preservation and enhancement of Telopea Park. It is envisaged that the FRG might model submissions on those developed by the KBRG, with their permission.

Because we are moving into the Christmas-New Year holiday period, we have decided to defer holding an AGM until early February 2017. This meeting will be held at the Forrest Bowling Club from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm, the date and notice will be sent in early January. For those who were concerned about the acoustics last time we met, the Steering Committee has requested that the ISCCC purchase a microphone system, this will be available to us in February and should enable people to be heard more readily by all attending. Consequently, if you are a resident or leaseholder in Forrest, you are warmly invited to attend our meeting. The agenda for this meeting, proposed charter and membership form are all available on our website.

The following positions on the Executive Committee will be available and able to be contested at the meeting:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Communications and Media Officer
- Three Ordinary Members

If you have a strong interest in any of the issues outlined above, we urge you to consider standing for a position on the Executive Committee or nominating as a volunteer to work on those issues in which you have a keen interest. Those wishing to apply for a position prior to the meeting may email mail@forrestresidents.org.au with a copy of their completed membership form and the position they intend to contest.

Convenors Note

*WISHING YOU
&
your family*

* A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY *

I would like to personally thank all of the Committee members who have worked tirelessly to establish this group during 2016; Tui Davidson, Deputy Convenor, Margaret Atcherley, Secretary, Carolyn Norrie, John Newham, Gary Kent, ISCCC Representative and Brian Weston AM, who unfortunately resigned earlier in the year due to personal reasons. On behalf of the Committee, I would also like to wish you and your families a blessed, safe and merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year ahead. -John-Paul Romano, Convenor.