# Belconnen Community Council – Chair’s Report May 2020

Another month has passed under the cloud of COVID 19 and while we are in a far better position than we were in April, there is still much work to be done. To all the wonderful staff at health facilities treating our sick and injured, our educators and childcare folk looking after our kids, our food and supermarket staff keeping shelves stacked and checkouts open, our transport and logistics workers keeping supplies and people moving, and last but not least our many public servants who keep the wheels of government and services ticking over, a huge thank you. Your effort epitomises all that is good in our community and what it means to belong. To those businesses who are yet to restart, please hang in there; we need you to be here for us once the restrictions lift to a level where we can support you again. As we move through this transition period there will be many challenges to face and lessons to learn, but together we will get through this even though things will never go back to the way they were.

Cameron Avenue – Geocon DA

It is unfortunate that once again, we are faced with more issues surrounding the Republic development. It is extremely disappointing that Cameron Avenue tenants and Chandler Street residents were unaware of road closures to facilitate movement of materials from trucks to the site on Monday last week. We have it on very good authority that the activity was conveyed to tenants at 40 Cameron Ave by letter in their physical mailboxes less than 72 hours before the closures occurred. This is not consistent with community expectation or government regulation and accordingly, the road closures were ceased after complaints were made to Transport Canberra and City Services. As part of any pre-DA consultation process, the community rightly expects better of developers when these activities are proposed, but the actions of Geocon again lead us to wonder just what kind of long term partner they intend to be in this community. The DA is available for consideration on our website and for those like me who live in the immediate area, this is a must read document.

There’s been plenty of press on it and as always we need to hear from you, so please get in touch.

Kippax Centre Update

The Belconnen Community Council has been committed to the Kippax Group Centre redevelopment since early 2014 when the changes to the master plan were first proposed. Over the subsequent five years the BCC has facilitated numerous community meetings to provide opportunities for people to hear about the proposed changes to the plan and to voice their support or concerns. The BCC also participated in the community panel that was established to seek community feelings and expectations in relation to the redevelopment.

The BCC has supported the idea of a redevelopment of the Kippax Group Centre from the beginning however, not at the cost of the existing green space.

While there is more work to be done and another round of consultation with our community to be undertaken, the BCC believe there is a genuine commitment to meet community expectations and the wishes of the owners of the Kippax Group Centre. The BCC looks forward to continuing to work with our community to find a design that best meets the interests of those who live, work and play in West Belconnen.

Again there’s a lot of media attention on this but we will keep you posted as more information comes in.

AIS Precinct

As promised in February, we wrote to the head of Sports Australia, as well as Senator Richard Colbeck as the Federal Sports Minister and Yvette Berry MLA as the ACT Sports Minister in relation to the various rumours doing the rounds regarding the Australian Institute of Sport Campus at Bruce. It was great to get some feedback from the people at Sports Australia about the revitalisation program being developed and the High Performance program which are being considered by the Federal Government. The good news is the AIS is not going anywhere for the foreseeable future and there is a focus on providing the community with a fit for purpose environment that meets everyone’s expectations. COVID has forced the campus to shut it’s doors temporarily, but there is great anticipation on facilities demand as we move toward 2021 and the Olympic Games. I’ll have more to say on 666 Afternoons around 1pm tomorrow 20 May and we will provide more information as it comes to us.

Please visit our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/belcouncil/) and [BCC website](http://www.belcouncil.org.au/) pages to keep up with everything that’s happening.

Stay safe and well in these challenging times.

Glen Hyde

**Chair Belconnen Community Council**

**19 May 2020**