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Consultations again

Deb Foskey, Greens MLA, today commended the parents who are turning out in surprisingly large numbers to be consulted yet again on the future of the land around their local schools.

"Last night I attended the consultation about part of the grounds around Weston Primary School, which closed at the beginning of last year as part of the Government's 2020 plan," said Deb Foskey.

"The room was full of people eager to have a say in the future of this land, which has the potential to provide value to their community."

"Certainly Weston Creek people are taking seriously the ACT Government's assurance that it didn't shut the school to sell the land, although questions remain about the future of the oval nearby, which was not part of the consultation."

"Weston Creek people overwhelmingly want community facilities: a place where people of all ages can mingle, where dogs might be walked, where community events may occur, where community food-growing gardens can be set up."

"With Phillip Pool under threat, there was also a great deal of interest in a swimming pool on the site."

"It would be a great pity if the good faith and care for community demonstrated by Weston Creek people was betrayed by a government with other intentions."

"Community consultation is important, but the suburbs where schools have closed are getting a lot of it at the wrong end of the process. Writing their wish lists on yellow post-it notes has to be more than therapeutic for communities to regain their trust in this government, which has learned about the importance of consultation rather too close to the election to be convincing," said Dr Foskey.

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