New group leads the way

FROM PAGE 1

That centre features a chemist, service station, a restaurant and a take-away, but has been without a supermarket for two months.

The Hackett Community Association's first meeting was held on June 6 after a meeting on April 3, attended by more than 140 residents.

Their greatest concern was the uncertain future facing the Hackett shops, where four of the 10 shops are now vacant.

Other concerns raised included the dissolution of Land and Planning Advisory Committees (LAPACs) and the development of community plans, a desire to remove Monash Drive from the gazetted plan, traffic congestion in Majura and Phillip Avenues and Officer Crescent, aircraft "turning patterns" over Hackett, and the need for greater protection of Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie reserves.

The meeting resolved to form a community association to lead the way in community involvement and to hold a working bee on April 19 to clean up the shopping centre.

The main purpose of the June meeting was to elect a team to form a flexible structure to put in place a constitution, arrangements for meetings and methods of reporting.

Office bearers were elected and Mr de Luca said the Hackett Community Association would be a vehicle to express concerns to the Legislative Assembly.

"Neighbourhood Planning Groups are being formed in many suburbs, which will become a vehicle for getting residents to think about the sort of suburb they want to live in," he said.

The Neighbourhood Watch newsletter published monthly would communicate the progress of the association and future meetings.

Working bee organiser Jolanta Gallagher read a letter from Planning Minister Simon Corbell at last month's meeting, in which Mr Corbell spoke about the Government's desire to work with Canberra communities and maintain a secure and friendly garden city.