

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY SAFETY REFERENCE GROUP



9.30AM ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT	
Anna Bruseker	Armando Reviglio
Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery	Lila Dimoski
Mark North	Mark Scott
Mary Paterson	Melanie Duncan
Scott Lockhart	Kristeen Sandercock (Minutes)

IN ATTENDANCE	
Vimala Colless – Multicultural Development Worker	

- 1 WELCOME – Armando (Chair) welcomed everyone
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None
- 4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Margaret Purcell and Sue Savage.
- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2013 – Accepted
- 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES  
None
- 7 PERCEPTION OF SAFETY SURVEY

The Draft Perceptions of Safety Survey was emailed to Reference Group members earlier in February requesting feedback about the survey to be discussed at this meeting. A hardcopy of the survey was passed to members who had not yet had the opportunity to review the survey and asked to email feedback. The survey aims to understand how “Safe” our community feels in and around the area where they live or work. Some questions in the survey have been derived from the recent surveys conducted by the City of Sydney.

There is one section in the survey that aims to gauge how people generally feel. This section may help toward developing strategies or identifying further conversations to have with community

groups at a later stage. The Reference Group were asked if they had any concerns about this section to raise them.

The Local Government Community Safety and Crime Prevention Network (LGCSCP) are currently liaising with the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice regarding the concept to have a generic survey that all local councils could use, or at least some set standard questions. This would then provide further evidence and possibly comparative evidence which is often a requirement when seeking funding.

Members were asked to email Melanie with any further ideas and thoughts about the survey. July is the proposed date for the main roll out of the online LGA wise survey. Face to face surveys will also be conducted to help reach specific populations. Attendance at events such as Seniors Week and CALD community events will assist.

## 8 CONDOM SUPPLY TO COUNCIL FACILITIES

Scott presented a leaflet provided by NSW Health titled "Ending HIV". This campaign is being driven by NSW Health and ACON explaining that we now have the means to virtually eliminate the transmission of HIV by 2020. The previous program "Beat It" has ceased.

The drive is to promote the use of condoms to guard against HIV and STIs and they have commenced placing condom dispensers on walls in public toilets around Wollongong. Would Wollongong City Council be happy to have dispensers placed in their buildings such as the Community Centres/Facilities?

It was noted that Council did not want to get into a debate with the Community regarding moral issues as a result of them agreeing to have dispensers placed in their buildings. Chair noted that Council's Health and Facility Management Policies would be taken into account on this matter.

This request will be taken to Council's Community Facilities Division for their comment. Many of the Community Centres are leased to external organisations and the remainder are managed directly by Council. Scott will send through a list of Community buildings that already have the dispensers.

## 9 OUTREACH IN BERKELEY AND BELLAMBI

Unfortunately the representative from Youth off the Streets was unable to attend the meeting, however, the programs have commenced in Berkeley and Bellambi. This agenda item will carry forward to the next meeting.

## 10 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

### i. Safer Spaces Warrawong Project (NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice)

Consultation has been completed for enhancing the forecourt area in front of Warrawong Legal Centre and Community Centre, the date of installation is still not secured. The EOI for the mosaic elements on seats and panels has gone out and liaison with local schools about education regarding graffiti prevention has occurred. Graffiti education notices will be placed on the back of washroom doors in Westfield Warrawong throughout April, as will mail out and information educating people on how to report graffiti.

### ii. ICADV – Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence

The focus of this Committee has shifted this year – focusing more on what is needed for service providers. Some service providers may have changes to funding which may also impact activity, however this will not be known until after June.

The following events and activities have been proposed; speed networking events, DV Forum following on from the 2013 forum to address concerns and educate service providers working with multicultural communities, White Ribbon Day walk and directory of services for victims of Domestic Violence.

iii. CDAT (Community Drug Action Team)

CDAT is now facilitated by the Australian Drug Foundation. Our first preliminary meeting will be on 25 February 2014 at Wollongong City Council with the new Project Coordinator (Heidi Freeman).

iv. Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs)

All Council's AFZs are due for re-establishment this year with processes regarding re-establishment already underway. Signs will be audited and mapped on our computerised system. Upon completion maps of signs will be forwarded to police in preparation for identifying new areas that may require signage. Meetings will be organised with relevant Neighbourhood forums, place public notices in June 2014 and provide an online short 3 question survey to allow for the opportunity for feedback.

Other issues tabled previously:

- a. No reports of issues in Northern suburbs following on from the Councillor request last year.
- b. Lake Heights Cellars – issues raised by a Community member about serving and drinking (smoking issues have also been raised).

v. Trail Bikes

Complaints have been received regarding Eleebana Reserve Koonawarra. Mail out and flyers were sent in early February to properties adjacent to this reserve encouraging people to report when it's an issue. Police noted that phone calls seemed to have ceased since the flyers were sent out.

vi. Berkeley

Berkeley is our proposed area to seek crime prevention funding should it become available from the NSW Attorney General and Justice Department. It's timely to bring key stakeholders together due to new services and programs now starting in this area. Propose to bring together Youth off the Streets, CareSouth, Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre including the new youth worker and Police to share information about current programs, establish partnerships where possible, identify gaps and potential strategies should funding become available.

## GRAFFITI REPORT

Graffiti reported figures are down a little both on Council and non-Council assets. For the period January to February 2014 there was a total of 635 reports of which 420 were on Council assets and 215 on non-Council assets.

Graffiti Removal – Trainees are no longer available. We hope to source funding so this program can be continued.

Corrective Services – are on hold at the moment and we will be seeking a meeting with them to clarify the situation. Dapto Rotary Club currently facilitates graffiti removal in the Dapto area and has now offered to expand out of their area to help continue this project for a short time.

Youth off the Streets are partnering with Council and Police, looking at programs to paint and clean up improving the look of the areas.

Wollongong Youth Centre building – legal graffiti artist has completed the top half of the back wall of the building. This project was managed by Wollongong Youth Services.

Bus Shelters – A program is underway where young people can legally paint murals on bus shelters in the Bellambi and Berkeley areas. This should eliminate the illegal graffiti which has been a problem in these areas.

Ziems Park Corrimal – Program to engage with young people to paint legal graffiti on walls.

## 12 POLICE REPORT

Mark Scott (Lake Illawarra Command) updated crime statistics – Berkeley, Dapto, Port Kembla and Warrawong are the top 4 with Berkeley being the highest. Domestic violence, drug and alcohol issues and stealing are the 3 most reported issues. Behaviour was pretty good at Australia Day events across the area.

Mary Paterson (Wollongong Command) – a large seizure of ICE was made in the area over recent weeks. A meeting was held at Wesley Centre regarding a group of people who sometimes demonstrate anti-social behaviour. Regular meetings to review progress in reducing incidents of concern. The chess game in the Mall has now moved to the bottom of Globe Lane area and is a hangout now for this group as well. A letterbox drop will be conducted in Coledale regarding break and enters. Motor vehicle break-ins are still high but people are leaving their vehicles unlocked. Police Community Engagement will be held on Saturday 8 March at the Old Court House on Cliff Road. Concern about reports of a man seen on Thursdays in MacCabe Park with fire sticks, Police would like to know if he has a permit. WCC to make enquiries and notify Mary. DENNY Foundation set up a van each Thursday evening in MacCabe Park adjacent to the Youth Centre which is also open Thursday nights. Not sure if the fire sticks people create issues for the Youth Centre. WCC to follow up with Youth Services Coordinator about this and Mary will monitor random Police patrols.

## 13. REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

### **Watershed**

Anna Bruseker advised that the Watershed Residential Rehabilitation had more members than they could handle at present. The Sobering Up Centre has provided service to a number of people over the summer period and is going well. No other issues outstanding.

### **Community Representative**

Mark North advised he had travelled in on the free bus from Fairy Meadow to town and there were a number of bus shelters with graffiti.

## 14. NAVITAS + OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Vimala Colless (Council's Multicultural Development worker) spoke about Refugee Communities in the Illawarra. Wollongong has long been a place of settlement for refugees particularly for Women at risk. NAVITAS case manage refugees incorporating other services depending on each situation. A copy of the document Vimala presented at the meeting is attached to these minutes.

## 15. GENERAL BUSINESS

No matters were discussed.

16. NEXT MEETING – Thursday 10 April 2014 – 9.30am to 11.00am

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.

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Minutes to be confirmed at next meeting to be held at 9.30am on Thursday 10 April.

2014 – Future Meeting Schedule

Thursday 10 April	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	9.30am – 11am
Thursday 12 June	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	9.30am – 11am
Thursday 14 August	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	9.30am – 11am
Thursday 9 October	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	9.30am – 11am
Thursday 11 December	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	9.30am – 11am

**ACTION SUMMARY**

Item	Action	Officer	Status
8	Speak with Community Facilities Staff re: Condom Dispensers being placed in Council's Community Centres as requested by NSW Health.  List of Centres with Condom Dispensers to Melanie Duncan	Armando  Scott	
9	Outreach in Berkeley and Bellambi – Youth Off the Streets		Agenda next Meeting
12	Check with Ranger Services re: man in McCabe Park with Fire Sticks – notify Mary Paterson (NSW Police) of outcome	Armando/ Melanie	
12	Speak with Toby (Yth Services Coordinator) re: DENNY Foundation set-up on Thursday nights near the Youth Centre	Armando/ Melanie	