

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY REFERENCE GROUP



9.30AM ON THURSDAY 10 AUGUST 2017

PRESENT	
Cr Gordon Bradbury, Lord Mayor	Anna Bruseker
Sharon White	Mark North
Jane Keating	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Tracey Kirk-Downey	Radda Jordan
Lila Dimoski	Claire Knight

- 1 WELCOME
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 3 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Maxyne Graham.
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.
- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL AND 8 JUNE 2017 – Confirmed.
- 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Radda confirmed all actions were completed.
- 7 WALKWAY LIGHT AND SAFETY EASTERN END OF BANKS ST
Following an incident where two females were assaulted by a man, Lord Mayor had requested Radda investigate lighting and safety on the walkway eastern end of Banks Street along the foreshore of South Beach. Radda reported that so far responses from Perception of Safety Survey (closing 20 August) raised lighting as a main concern in numerous areas. In some situations increased lighting can actually contribute to a false sense of security, so once the results have been collated Radda will conduct safety audits and roll out plans for improved safety across the board.

8 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Homelessness

Radda mentioned that lighting is only a part of a bigger issue regarding the foreshore and Wollongong LGA as a whole. Homelessness is becoming more evident with homeless people living on Burelli Street and in tents along the foreshore and dunes. Council has a drafted homelessness policy, however upon consideration; enforcement of an endorsed policy may attract vigilante behaviour, encourage activists or see repeats of difficult situations like that of Martin Place Tent City. Whilst local residents have raised homelessness with the Lord Mayor, he reflected that improvements in social housing availability fall within the jurisdiction of the State Government.

Playground Vandalism & Mobile CCTV

Arson and malicious vandalism in children's playgrounds is ongoing if not increasing with Council spending \$13-15K in the last 6 months repairing or replacing equipment at Luke's Place, Corrimal alone. Woonona and Kanahooka playgrounds are also regularly vandalised. Fencing in and locking playgrounds at night is not an ideal solution and installing only anti-vandalism playground equipment excludes a lot of the play equipment that children love to use. Sharon reported that pictures of vandalised playgrounds had been posted on social media, rousing strong public reaction and comment. As a result the Police were able to commence investigation into people of interest to whom they were speaking with today. Tracey noted that playground projects which have community consultation prior to construction seem to receive less vandalism as a result of community involvement. Sharon advised that a major part of the damage being done is by repeat offenders, often from out of area, who are not involved in or assuaged by community consultation. Police are appealing to locals to report vandals as soon as it starts to happen, every time.

An evaluation is required to see if mobile CCTV and/or more intense lighting would be an effective means of prevention. CCTV is already used in monitoring environmental vandalism and illegal dumping. Potential invasion of privacy issues would need to be considered, however the benefits are that emerging trends would assist Police and Rangers focus on hotspots. Camera recordings whilst not monitored live would include infra-red, capturing nights when the majority of damage is done. Sharon noted that the locations of all the CCTV would need to be documented for local notification and comment.

This Monday, 14 August there is a community consultation meeting to discuss vandalism in Corrimal, encompassing Paul Scully MP, Lord Mayor and commercial owners. Radda suggested the Police are involved in the consultation to which Sharon agreed. After assessing the outcome of the meeting Radda will draw up a proposal to start a conversation with Executive and follow it up.

Women's Safety Project

Radda has put out Expressions of Interest for a Community Development Project Worker for the Women's Safety Project. This project aims to create a safer experience for women in the City Centre and surrounding areas by reducing the incidents of threatening and harassing behaviour.

9 GRAFFITI REPORT

Reports

There were 19 reported cases of graffiti on private and commercial property and 545 cases on public and stakeholder properties.

The Lord Mayor advised Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre had made some reports of graffiti. Jane mentioned that Maria, Coordinator of the Berkeley Community Centre had reported issues with youth threatening her and the shops in the area. Radda confirmed the Pizzeria and Pie Shop had also reported this threatening behaviour.

Prevention

Lila reported that the public table tennis table in Corrimal has already been graffitied and she is exploring coating it with a mural.

The giant brick wall siding PK Swim School and facing the Council carpark opposite Dapto Leagues Club is in the planning stages for a mural. The artist is awaiting approval from the swim school owners before proceeding. This mural would/should greatly deter or detract from future attacks and contribute a vibrant artwork which will revitalise a huge space.

Council in conjunction with Corrimal Revitalisation Action Group is proceeding with a public art installation in the laneway between Civic Video and CBA as part of the Corrimal Town Centre Plan. Works will take place from 21 to 30 August 2017.

Community Partnerships

Carol from Illawarra Reintegration Centre in Unanderra is looking for suitable jobs for inmates' reintegration into meaningful work. Graffiti removal provides the community with much needed assistance and the inmate experience in a skill. Work at Greenhouse Park may also be a good option for inmates' hours of service. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drawn up and negotiated before any collaboration commences. In the meantime Essential Personnel continue to be an effective and valued partnership in graffiti removal for one day a week.

Sunday 29 October is Graffiti Removal Day 2017. This year there are two groups who will remove graffiti from two sites:

- Stathes Mews walkway, Bellambi by Bellambi Community Safety Group and;
- Unanderra Pigeon Club shed in Unanderra Park, Central Road by Dapto Rotary.

10 LAKE ILLAWARRA POLICE (LAC) REPORT

Recent Events

- Various NAIDOC Week events took place including at Greene Street, Warrawong and Koonawarra. Lord Mayor thanked Jane for their involvement at these events.
- Coffee with a Cop took place at Port Kembla
- Children's reading event was held at Cringila Public School
- Events were held with Housing NSW at Avondale and Manuka Complexes to address antisocial behaviour issues. These events were very successful with fear of reporting estimated to have been reduced by 50% after police were able to engage with elderly and/or fearful residents in the safety of their own homes.
- Tamper Resistant Screw Fitting Service continues monthly at Lake Illawarra Police Station. Dapto sees the highest rates of registration plate thefts.
- Commanders Active Citizens Program has launched and currently underway
- Juvenile Justice Dinner was held in Wollongong

- Grants for Breakfast Club have been applied for. This program is in its infancy but Jane will have more information on its progress at the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Children's reading event at Warrawong
- Breakfast with the Boys and Girls in Blue
- Events within the Wollongong LAC are as follows:
 - Illawarra Sports High - 1 September
 - Kanahooka High - 15 September
 - Warrawong High - 10 November
 - Coffee with a Cop at Berkeley Cakes & Pies - 24 August (10.30 – 11.30am)
 - Wear It Purple Day (LGBTIQ) – Warilla High School
 - Multicultural Forum, Wollongong - 4 September with Wollongong LAC
 - Community Safety Precinct Meeting - 5 September
 - Children's reading event Warrawong Plaza
 - Coffee with a Cop in Dapto - 12 September (10.30 – 11.30am).

Currently working on

- Police continue to work on issues of youth anti-social behaviour in our major shopping centres. A meeting took place yesterday with major stakeholders about moving forward with a project to address it.
- Police's Tamper Resistant Screw Fitting Service continues monthly. It's been very successful and gained positive community feedback.
- Breakfast with the Boys and Girls in Blue – 6 events planned
- Commanders Active Citizens Program has begun.

Good Work

- \$2M in cannabis seizures in the last 2 days in Dapto.
- There will be an overnight media release about a significant arrest made in Warilla concerning children's protection. More details released when announced.

11 WOLLONGONG POLICE (LAC) REPORT

Crime Review - August 2017

Steal from Retail Stores

- There were 131 incidents reported during the months of June, July and August.
- High percentages of offences were recorded in Wollongong followed by the suburbs of Fairy Meadow, Figtree and Corrimal.
- Liquor, underwear, clothing and perfume were the most common items targeted. Of note is the trend that toiletries were habitually stolen in the mornings, suggesting there may be a link with homelessness.
- Police Retail Theft Operations & User Charges continue within the Mall. Patrols are made with security personnel to enforce smoking legislation, speak with retail stores and assist with any issues within the shopping precinct or training of staff that may be needed.
- A business audit was completed with Fairy Meadow Coles in relation to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), banning issues and reporting to police.
- Continued Retail Theft Operations and User Charges conducted within the Mall/GPT have contributed to the high number of incidents and should be looked at in a positive light.

- Repeat locations include Dan Murphy's Corrimal, Bunnings Wollongong, Best & Less, Woolworths and Coles at Fairy Meadow and Wollongong and First Choice Liquor, North Wollongong.

Steal from Motor Vehicles

- There were 162 incidents reported during the month of June, July and August. The suburb of Wollongong recorded the highest number of incidents followed by Woonona and Corrimal.
- Many of the vehicles are left unlocked and personal belongings in view.

Community Engagements

- On 2 June Reconciliation Walk in Bellambi (Holy Spirit to Bellambi Public School) involved the community from Bellambi Primary School, Towradgi Primary School, East Corrimal Primary School, Aboriginal Elders, Holy Spirit and Bellambi Community Centre. Activities were held at Bellambi Primary School. About 300 attended.
- Rima Elhage competed for Wollongong LAC in the Dance for Cancer and raised \$21,736.44.
- On 21 June Wollongong LAC attended Refugee Week storytelling and at Wollongong Town Hall yesterday. There were a variety of performances by local students from refugee backgrounds including impromptu dancing. Both performers and audience were enthusiastic and all had a great time.
- 27 June Police attended and engaged with the local community at the Myuna Way Market Day, organised by the Homeless Hub. They donated their collections of clothes and bedding. There was a free BBQ and clothes and bedding donations and money raised was given to Orange Sky.
- Community Precinct Meeting.
- Police attended TAFE International Student Orientation Safety Presentation to new students where there was a viewing of Getting Along in Wollongong DVD and question time.
- At UOW's O Day on 17 July Police provided promotional items and displayed campaign posters at the location and engaged with students.
- Linking Women Network Forum on 27 July at UOW presented safety tips and information for around the home and out and about. Fight for Life presented self-defence strategies. Approximately 30 to 50 attended. Pamphlets were handed out.
- 4 August was Wollongong Police Ball where police and members of the community came together for fundraising, dancing and a meal.
- 7 to 11 August is Homelessness Week. Community engagement with the Homeless Hub and other services will come together on 11 August to donate items collected and provide information.
- 25 August Wollongong Police will take part in the Wear It Purple Day with community engagement at UOW between 10.00am and 11.30am before attending the Wollongong Performing Arts High School. Police will engage with the community about youth suicide and community acceptance of all people.
- Multicultural Forum - 4 September.
- Wollongong Police Facebook page has hit 16,537 likes.

Lord Mayor enquired whether there have been spikes in suicides to coincide with the increased focus on funding suicide prevention programs. Discussion revealed that whilst suicide statistics remain relatively consistent, they did not reflect the incidents of self-harm and suicide attempts. It was widely agreed that expenditure on mental health was warranted if not inadequate, as mental health is triggered by a spiral of many factors such as domestic violence, unemployment, lack of housing or housing affordability and drugs.

12 REPORT FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Watershed

- Women's Choice & Change Group - Anna reported this group is for victims of physical and non-physical domestic violence. The group aims to help support and educate women on issues such as how to identify non-physical abuse, how to function if their choice is to stay and how to remain safe if they choose to leave. It helps them work through their fears of reporting and creates support links for ongoing assistance.
- SMART (Self-Management and Recovery Training) - SMART is a program which aims to assist those who wish to eliminate or moderate their dependence on substances.
 - Community SMART Group is on Thursdays.
 - Women only SMART Group is Fridays.
 - Be SMART Group is designed to assist families and people who are affected by the addictive behaviour of someone close to them. The program aims to help participants develop more effective coping strategies such as setting boundaries.
- Watershed also provides residential programs for withdrawal, rehabilitation and aftercare and non-residential day programs and SMART. There is no formal referral process.
- Illawarra Drug and Alcohol Service regrettably observed an increase in anger, entitled and aggressive attitudes from its patients.

Mark North

- Mark noted the increased occurrence of graffiti in Corrimal which Council acknowledged the Corrimal Revitalisation Action Group was aware of and working to improve with the Corrimal Town Centre Plan.
- Mark also noted that he observed employees in supermarkets were reluctant to act upon reports of shoplifting due to being under-trained or fearing threats or retaliation. Police commented that due to low or non-existent security, supermarket management tend to decide it's easier to write-off losses, rather than trying to prevent it which could potentially risk staff personal safety. This is making theft from shops a very difficult crime to reduce.

The meeting concluded at 10.45am.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 9.30am on 12 October 2017.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
8/17	Vandalism in Corrimal meeting with Paul Scully MP and commercial owners Radda to start a conversation with Executive and follow it up.	Radda Jordan	