

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY REFERENCE GROUP

ON THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2014



PRESENT	
Mark Devine	Scott Lockhart
Linda O'Donnell	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio, Coordinator Community Partnerships & Safety	Lila Dimoski, Graffiti Management Project Officer
Annie Edgar, Administrative Support Officer (Minutes)	

1 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery, Sue Savage, Melanie Duncan, Anna Bruseker, Mark North and Renee Clegg.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 AUGUST 2014 – Minutes confirmed.

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The main issues of concern around the Woolworths site have been resolved with the building work coming to completion; we have opened a line of communication with the Manager of Woolworths.

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

On 8 September 2014 seven alcohol free zones were adopted by Council. It was also agreed to carry out a formal consultation in Stanwell Park in February 2015 for consideration of an AFZ in the car parks.

The meetings at Diamond Plaza will keep going ahead to discuss safety issues in this area, the next meeting 20 October.

A meeting has been called by FACS with all government agencies, including Council and Police, to discuss the situation at Bellambi. A background paper has been prepared where data and population demographics have been pulled together.

We have received over 800 responses to the Perception of Community Safety Survey – between 500 and 600 received electronically. These are being collated and we should have a full analysis by February 2015. Piccadilly was noted as an area people found to be unsafe. Strategic Planning will be looking at Piccadilly and other areas identified, the analysis will help identify areas and feed into other work across Council.

CDAT still no meeting has been called, trying to organise a meeting on 23 October 2014.

White Ribbon Day walk is on 25 November.

6 GRAFFITI REPORT

The data July to September showed 1,099 reports of graffiti, 727 on Council assets and 371 on non-Council assets. 10% of these non-council assets were businesses and private housing and the remainder were public housing, rail and roads.

Council is the agency that receives the most reports. Part of our role is to follow up removal work with non-council assets reports.

We have 6 priority zones for clean-up within 7 days – Austinmer, Bellambi, Thirroul, City Centre, Fairy Meadow and Berkeley. The CBD area encompassing Market Street, Burelli Street, Wollongong Harbour and Crown Street pay a Community Safe levy for the priority clean up.

Bellambi Surf Club safety audit completed with club members and the recommendations are to be implemented.

- New lighting – sensor lights
- Rapid removal of graffiti by Council every week
- Alterations to the building to make it difficult to climb onto the second level
- Mesh being place on windows to make them difficult to smash.

26 October is Graffiti Action Day – Dapto Rotary will be organising and liaising with Council, we will supply the paint. Coomaditchie is the site chosen this year and the Aboriginal Land Council will also be involved.

Graffiti hot spot at Thirroul – Thomas Gibson Park – lots of community champions up there helping with rapid removal.

Guest Park is still a problem area and we are looking at strategies.

The meeting was advised a member of the community had communicated to Council that youths are congregating under the bridge near Lombard Avenue near Guest Park, noted by Police to take on board.

7 POLICE REPORT

Wollongong LAC

There has been an increase in stealing from motor vehicles in the Northern Suburbs and property theft in the Bulli area mainly bikes. Robberies are still being carried out around the University, with offenders approaching international students for phones and money.

The ongoing Biz Safe Campaign is currently in the Gwynneville area and hopes to roll out to all of the Wollongong area.

The Ride to University breakfast will be held next week, bikes will be engraved and talks held encouraging students to lock their bikes, Police also running a message on their face book page.

Volunteers in Policing (VIP's) are no longer allowed to be out into the community without uniformed Police presence in light of worldwide increased security threats. This will impact heavily on Police resources being able to be out for community education campaigns such as audits in car parks which inform people to lock their cars and don't leave valuables in them.

8 REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Youth Off the Streets (YOTS)

Youth Off the Streets commenced work in Berkeley in December 2013 and were then invited to attend Bellambi, started there in February 2014.

Berkeley kids are engaging well, working on their behaviours and they have been taken on a camp. Parents are working with us as well however there are alcohol and drug issues.

Poor lighting is a problem and graffiti especially around the Berkeley shops area is an issue.

Lila advised Council has been having conversations with the youth worker at Berkeley, part of Building a Better Berkeley to see what they want to do, looking at a partnership to beautify the space.

Bellambi are a hard group to engage, they love coming to the trailer BBQ at the beach then leave. The ages range from 6 to 21 years, our target group is 12 to 21. There are lots of behaviour issues with boredom being a big issue.

The Neighbourhood Centre and the swim program have excluded some of these kids because of their behaviour. There is no outreach at Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre. We are trying to get funding to help with registration for membership of the Surf Club.

Bellambi Bowling Club Manager wants to work with us.

Council has funds to paint graffiti prevention murals on the bus shelters in Bellambi in a partnership project with YOTS. A suggestion was put forward to do the murals on the bus shelters and make it a competition.

SESIAH

The little lighthouse will be illuminated Friday through to Monday for National Aids Day in December.

There are issues with litter in Puckey's Estate, a meeting was organised with Botanic Gardens staff to work out a strategy. Rubbish bins are too difficult or not appropriate for the area as they create other issues (ie a fire danger). There was a suggestion to hold a BBQ and encourage the community on Clean-Up Australia Day. Armando/Mel will contact the Curator of the Botanic Gardens to see what strategies they are putting in place.

The meeting concluded at 10.35am.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 9.30am on Thursday 11 December 2014.

2014 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Thursday 11 December	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	9.30am – 11am

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
18	Organise formal safety audit with Police around Woolworths/Diamond Plaza area.	Armando	Deferred due to building changes
19	Litter in Puckey's Estate - contact the Curator of the Botanic Gardens. "Contacted Paul Tracey Botanic Garden manager regarding concerns raised at Puckey's Estate. Paul explained that he and his team is working with ACON regarding Puckey's Estate. The site has been cleaned up, longer tracks, more open clear sites etc. The focus is on education. The issue is bigger than bins and that is what is being focused on. There will be no bins put on site, if you have rubbish you take it away with you."	Melanie	To be actioned

CLOSED ACTIONS			
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. 14/8 - Explain what you are trying to achieve in a formal letter.	Armando Scott	Completed/closed
16	Explore the concept of a pop up community safety meeting – speak to Megan at Shellharbour. Megan was on holidays, Mel will catch up – flag until after “The Perceptions of Safety Survey”.	Melanie	Completed/closed
14	Contact Scott Burgess, Police Youth Liaison Officer who could offer information/talk about what happens if you get caught by the Police at the School Program. Program starting in term three will contact Scott then. 14/8 - Education program – no starting date as yet will contact Scott when we have a date.	Lila	Closed
17	Diamond Plaza - Woolworths area needs to be revisited. Design, facilities and how to deal with this space. Council needs to be more proactive in the planning process. Organise a discussion with the new Management at Woolworths. Meeting held.	Armando/ Melanie	Completed/closed
9	Outreach in Berkeley and Bellambi – Youth Off the Streets – Invite to Next Meeting		Completed/closed