



northern
beaches
council

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held as an online meeting on

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee
held on Thursday 6 August 2020 as an online meeting
Commencing at 8am

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Michael Regan	Mayor – Chairperson
Cr Candy Bingham	Deputy Mayor
Cr Sue Heins	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Cr Stuart Sprott	
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Michelle Comito	Catholic Care
Michelle Povah	Community Representative
Ray Mathieson	Community Representative
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative
Stephen Pirovic	Community Representative
Michelle Erofeyeff	Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
Christina Franze	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Drew Johnson	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Trish Bramble	Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre
Belinda Volkov	Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)

Council Officer Contacts

Ray Brownlee	Chief Executive Officer
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Paul Crossan	Acting Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Rob van den Blink	Manager Youth and Community Development
Will Wrathall	Team Leader Community Development
Leanne Martin	Community Safety Coordinator
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer Youth and Community Development

Visitors

Natasha Schultz	Executive Manager Waste Management and Cleansing
Kim Preston-Hiney	Electorate Office State Member for Manly

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting gathered, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly
John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches
Melissa Palermo	Health Promotion, Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD)
Melissa Messina	Acting Director Community and Belonging
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance.

The following members were not in attendance:

Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Tony Hilliger	Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches
Kara Hillier	State Transit Authority Northern Region.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 25 JUNE 2020

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 25 June 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting, noting the change of Electorate Office State Member for Manly's representative to Kim Preston-Hiney.

5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	Item No.	Action Update
25-Jun-20	6.5	<p>Community Impacts of COVID19 on Northern Beaches</p> <p>In mid-July over fifty local services were contacted by Council staff, to identify the current and future predicted community impacts of COVID19. A summary of statistics and areas of concern was provided to the Committee.</p>
25-Jun-20	7.0	<p>Manly Safety Audit</p> <p>Council's intention is to undertake the Audit towards the end of this year subject to COVID19 restrictions, as doing so in the current climate would not be a reflection of the normal situation.</p>

5.2 LOCATIONS OF CONCERN

5.2.1 In conjunction with the Friends of Ivanhoe Park, a safety audit has been undertaken on issues of vandalism within Ivanhoe Park.

5.2.2 The Dee Why dunes rough sleepers have been permanently housed and the site cleared. A great result in Homelessness Week which involved a number of agencies. Credit to the Homeless Case Coordination Group to achieve this result.

5.2.3 Following complaints and in conjunction with the Police Crime Prevention Officer, a safety audit of the West Esplanade former aquarium site was undertaken. The land owner, Transport for NSW, responded quickly to addressing the building's broken door/windows and installed more sensor lights. Additionally, Transport for NSW are engaging weekend security to break a pattern of drinking at this site by groups of young people.

5.2.4 Brookvale's pedestrian bridge has been highlighted as a safety issue by residents. In conjunction with the BLine, Transport for NSW team, the Police Crime Prevention Officer and Council conducted a safety audit of the area. Safety by design factors are included in the site with cameras installed and permeable mesh bridge construction. Any further reports of intimidation in the area will be monitored.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 POLICE REPORT SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK SHARKEY - 15 MINUTES

DISCUSSION

Superintendent Sharkey provided an update on local Police matters, including crime statistics that continue to indicate a downward trend. It was noted that COVID-19 restrictions may contribute to these results.

- In relation to domestic violence, Northern Beaches Police had the highest legal action rate within the North West Metro region for 2019/20.
- It was noted that the vast majority of robberies were between parties that are known to each other, often relating to juveniles.
- 2020 mental health statistics were discussed and this issue will be further addressed by the Suicide Response Steering Group.
- During the school holidays a youth crime specific operation was undertaken targeting the middle holiday weekend with success disrupting illegal youth gatherings across the Northern Beaches.
- Police have engaged with the Department of Education in regard to youth vaping and use of nangs (nitrous oxide canisters). Additionally, in conjunction with Department of Health and other stakeholders, retail outlet education has been undertaken in relation to the sale of vaping items to minors and responsible service of nangs.
- A meeting between Police and local school principals has been organised for mid-August to discuss local issues.
- The Committee noted that Police do not identify juveniles within the media, including social media. The NSW Police media team manages this policy.
- Members were also reminded to be aware of COVID-19 scam awareness, both electronic and door to door and to share this knowledge with their networks.
- Police continue to enforce and respond to the COVID-19 protection measures along with returned traveller follow-ups which is resource intensive. The community is encouraged to refer to the [NSW Department of Health COVID-19](#) website for regular up to date information.
- Northern Beaches Police Command continues to work with Council in regard to emergency management, including the most recent east coast low and preparing for future weather events.

In response to a question regarding noise complaints, Superintendent Sharkey confirmed that Police staff have been advised to add all noise abatement calls to the system for attendance and recording. Reporting persons are asked for their details and followed up when their details are provided. Timely response and Police attendance is prioritised depending on competing circumstances.

Lighting in public places was discussed. Police would liaise with Council or other land owners if they are alerted to a lighting safety issue. Council advised that ongoing conversations are continuing with Ausgrid for repair to lights in a number of locations.

Cr Sprott advised that Melwood Oval rugby field around the barbeque area (known as Poppy Park) may be an area of Police interest for youth gatherings.

In response to a question from Zali Steggall regarding mental health and locations of concern, Superintendent Sharkey indicated that as at mid to late May 2020 there has been a slight shift away from North Head, Manly to further up the peninsula. Location fencing and barriers are subject to ongoing discussions with landowners and a matter for the Suicide Response Steering Group. Additionally, the Committee noted that the Suicide Response Steering Group will be looking at causation trends and identifying approaches to provide a collaborative response. Zali Steggall's office was encouraged to contact Council's Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture for more information in relation to the Suicide Response Steering Group.

On behalf of Council, Ray Brownlee thanked Superintendent Sharkey and the Police for their close working relationship during COVID-19. The proactive approach and assistance given during this time is appreciated by Council and staff.

ACTION:

Council staff to discuss the Suicide Response Protocol offline in relation to Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Centre (SDECC) and information sharing.

6.2 COMPLIANCE REPORT**DISCUSSION**

Paul Crossan provided the Committee with an update on Compliance matters and a compliance report was presented.

- Animal control. The key challenge for dogs of interest is the reporting mechanisms and consistent delays in the reports being received by Council.
- In response to a question in regard to cats in critical habitat areas, it was noted that Council's Animal Management Team, in conjunction with Biodiversity Team and external stakeholders (including National Parks) are meeting this week on this matter.
- East Esplanade is currently under a 24/7 alcohol restriction on an interim basis to assist with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Patrols of the area have increased during the course of the day and night service remains unchanged. Two VSM boards have been installed to assist in making the community aware of the changed conditions. In response to a question regarding Rangers patrolling East Esplanade earlier than 5.30pm, Council will consider this request.
- Following a question regarding dumped rubbish, the Committee was advised that enforcement options include fines and clean-up provisions under the Act. Offence fines are given to owners of that waste as well as to the persons placing that waste. On significant cases, Land and Environment Court actions are pursued.

6.3 YOUTH DRUG ISSUES UPDATE**DISCUSSION**

Belinda Volkov from Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Centre (SDECC) briefed the Committee on the experiences of drug and alcohol use of young people and families during COVID-19, including emerging issues.

Communications have greatly improved with Northern Beaches Police Command and the quality working relationship is appreciated. Superintendent Sharkey was thanked for direction in this

regard.

SDECC recognise the increase in youth violence towards parents and engagement in antisocial behaviour. The Committee noted that youths fined during the COVID-19 period can 'pay off' their fine via a SDECC work development order that involves 4-5 sessions of harm reduction counselling.

Benzodiazepines ('Benzos') are an ongoing issue that also concern SDECC. A creative community education campaign is needed to address the misuse of these drugs.

An increase in vaping amongst young people (under 18) is being experienced. Schools are also experiencing this issue. However, regardless of misinformation being circulated, vaping is not more harmful than tobacco. The biggest concern is the nicotine addiction. Anecdotally, a main purchase point is online ('stigs' disposable).

Limited available research and a postvention workshop with a group of Year 12 students points towards cannabis mixed with tobacco leads to nicotine vaping. Evidence indicates that the hand to mouth ritual is as powerful as any drug and is a cultural aspect that SDECC is investigating.

Nangs have had a big resurgence. Harm reduction does not include 'shockumentary' style education programs. A creative and calm approach is required to address the increase, along with following up legislation with retailers.

In relation to the comments raised about nangs within the Police report, the Committee was reminded that at its Meeting of [14 February 2019](#) Nitrous Oxide Availability was discussed. Further information was also reported to the [15 August 2019](#) Community Safety Committee Meeting.

As the use of nangs continues to be an issue and the National Safe Cities Network acknowledges it is common across the country, the Committee may consider revisiting these representations to suggest these items be managed in the same way as aerosol paint cans.

The [ADF's Drug Facts on Nitrous Oxide](#) provides information to Committee members who requested more data on the effects of nangs.

Additionally, the [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#) provides key findings in relation to how tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs are used by people aged 14 and over in Australia.

The Committee were advised that the Northern Beaches Youth Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) Interagency are hosting a webinar for professionals on 1 September. Guest speaker, Dr Ryan Courtney from NDARC (National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre) is a lead researcher on e-cigarettes and tobacco cessation and will be speaking on vaping for professionals. The webinar will also educate professionals on the local youth AOD service systems, who is available, how they work and how to access them.

ACTIONS:

Michelle Comito to circulate the Northern Beaches Youth Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) Interagency webinar information to the Committee when details are finalised.

Representations about access to Nitrous Oxide be revisited with a view to further Committee advocacy on this issue.

6.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2020 - 2025

DISCUSSION

The Committee noted the six key priority areas, draft objectives and identified service provider partners that will contribute to actions within the Draft Community Safety Plan.

Committee Members provided feedback on the six priority areas:

1. Safe Futures To increase safety for peoples' futures
Comments:
 - Objectives have to be clearly defined, time bound and measurable.
 - SDECC just conducted a significant literature review and snapshot of adolescent violence towards parents.
2. Safe Travels To improve safety on transport and at transport hubs
Comments:
 - B-Line does not connect with other services. STA and B-Line are key stakeholders.
 - Safe travel should include walking home (less than 2km), safe access routes and lighting.
3. Safe Families To increase safety of families
Comments:
 - Homelessness and rough sleeping will be impacted due to the Premier's push to reduce inner city homelessness which will impact our area. We need to be on the front foot in increasing access and providing safe affordable housing.
 - Committee needs to consider how family groups can be reached to address some of the wider issues. Possible working group opportunity to be considered.
 - SDECC'S extensive literature review goes to show the wider issues referred to by Superintendent Sharkey and the plan needs to look at evidence based information to investigate the complexity through a variety of lenses.
4. Safe Seniors To increase safety of older people
5. Safe Spaces To increase safety of public spaces
6. Safe Nights Out To increase safety at night
Comments:
 - Alternatives to alcohol as part of the night time economy - need to build into the plan a diversity of options that design some good safety considerations so that a range of age brackets don't become a ready pool of targets of violence.
 - Library Team's Safe Nights Out discussion at a recent SRG Meeting – concern in regard to a comment that the public would prefer day time activities. Kylie Walshe advised that this will be discussed further with the Library Team.
 - Suggested consideration be given to COVID-19 impacts as part of the plan. Manly Chamber of Commerce can provide a business point of view on the impacts.

6.5 COMMUNITY MEDICAL WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM TRIAL

DISCUSSION

The Committee noted the information provided by Natasha Schultz in regard to the 12-month trial of a Community Medical Waste (sharps and dialysis tubing) Collection Program, in the six locations identified by NSW Health as having a need for such services..

Committee members expressed support for this public safety matter. In particular, the proactive approach will benefit residents who suffer from diabetes or kidney failure and availability of a local free service will be appreciated.

The Committee supported a 12-month trial of a Community Medical Waste (sharps and dialysis

tubing) Collection Program, in the six locations identified by NSW Health.

Note: Meeting Chair Mayor Michael Regan left the meeting and handed the Chair over to Kylie Walshe, Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 The Committee expressed their thanks to Leanne Martin for her commitment and contribution to the former Manly Council Safety Committee and more recently with the Northern Beaches Community Safety Committee and the Community Safety Plan. Leanne has resigned from her position at Council and the Committee wished her all the best as she moves on to a role with State Government.
- 7.2 Report of traffic noise along Barrenjoey Road, Newport was noted.
- 7.3 Fairy Bower Marine Parade dangerous riding of bikes and skateboards along the footpath was raised as a safety issue. James Griffin MP's office alerted Police to this issue.
- 7.4 Sydney Water sewerage line on Marine Parade is in danger of being exposed. James Griffin MP's office noted the comment. Council is addressing storm water line.
- 7.5 Superintendent Sharkey provided the Committee with an update on McCarrs Creek Road. Residents have reported an improvement with the recently installed traffic management devices, however an increase in noise due to the road calming devices is noted. The area will continue to be monitored by Police.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1	Council staff to discuss the Suicide Response Protocol offline in relation to SDECC and information sharing.	Kylie Walshe Belinda Volkov	
6.3	Michelle Comito to circulate the Northern Beaches Youth Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) Interagency webinar information to the Committee when details are finalised.	Michelle Comito	
6.3	That the representations about access to Nitrous Oxide be revisited with a view to further committee advocacy on this issue.	Community Safety Co-ordinator	

The meeting concluded at 10.13am

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 6 August 2020 and confirmed on Thursday 8 October 2020