



northern  
beaches  
council

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held in the Northern Beaches PCYC, 40 The Kingsway, Dee Why on

**THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Minutes of the Community Safety Committee**  
**held on Thursday 18 February 2021**  
**in the Northern Beaches PCYC, 40 The Kingsway, Dee Why**  
**Commencing at 8 - 10am**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Candy Bingham	Deputy Mayor - Chair
Cr Sue Heins	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Cr Stuart Sprott	
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah represented by Peta Garrett
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly represented by Kim Preston-Hiney
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Michelle Comito	Catholic Care represented by Alice McCourt
Ray Mathieson	Community Representative
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative
Michelle Erofeyeff	Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
Trish Bramble	Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre
Melissa Palermo	NSLHD Health Promotion
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Tony Hilliger	Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches
Belinda Volkov	Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)

**Council Officer Contacts**

Jeff Smith	Acting CEO
David Kerr	Director, Community and Belonging
Louise Kerr	Director, Place and Planning
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager, Environmental Compliance
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager, Community, Arts and Culture
Rob van den Blink	Manager, Youth and Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer, Youth and Community Development
Paul Crossan	Manager, Rangers

**Visitors**

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM	
Det Insp Michael Boutouridis	Northern Beaches Police Area Command Crime Manager

## 1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

## 2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cr Michael Regan	Mayor
Michelle Povah	Community Representative
Christina Franze	Manly Chamber of Commerce

The following members were not in attendance:

John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches
Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
Stephen Pirovic	Community Representative
Drew Johnson	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Kamal Krishan	State Transit Authority Northern Region

Cr De Luca and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

Kath Young, Council's new Community Safety Officer was welcomed to the Committee. Kath has a background in policy, corporate planning and executive advisory roles in the NSW Police Force, working across a wide range of community safety portfolios. She has also previously worked for Juvenile Justice and Barnardos in policy, program development and direct client work with children, young people and their families throughout Western Sydney.

## 3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

The Chair reminded participants of the Committee's Terms of Reference in relation to confidentiality and privacy.

## 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2020

#### DECISION

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 26 November 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.

Moved Cr Heins, Seconded Belinda Volkov

## 5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

See 6.1

## 6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

1. The Action Updates from the Meeting of 26 November 2020 were noted by the Committee.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ACTION UPDATE
6.1.5	Provide crime data in relation to adolescent violence against parents for under 18-year olds to SDECC	Police/SDECC	SDECC confirmed a meeting was held with Inspector Jillian Walters, NBPAC
2.	Police and Council Operational Meeting - Northern Beaches Police and Council staff met in early February to discuss operational community safety issues and collaborate on a coordinated response. These meetings will continue on a bi-monthly basis. Issues covered at this meeting included introductions of people's roles within Police and Council, and East Esplanade. The Community Safety Committee will be provided with strategic issue updates at each meeting.		

### 6.2 POLICE REPORT - SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK SHARKEY

Superintendent Patrick Sharkey provided an update on local Police matters.

- Crime statistics have been trending down across the board.
- Police have had interactions across the whole of the Northern Beaches area, resulting in good legal action rates.
- Legal actions against youth have increased compared to the same Jan/Dec period last year.
- Northern Beaches Police continue to provide support for the COVID19 response.
- During the Summer Safe Operation stakeholders have worked well together and achieved good results.
- Incidents involving mental health have increased by 25-30%. NSW Health appointed staff within the [PACER Trial](#) support Police when attending incidents. These clinicians have been a great asset and conduit with the Northern Beaches Hospital and mental health services.
- Suicide Response - [Community Care Northern Beaches \(CCNB\)](#) Communication Protocol Response and [Wings of Hope](#) Program continue to play an important role in care navigation, postvention support and resources for next of kin.

## DISCUSSION

### Mental Health

In regard to the Northern Beaches Hospital's mental health management, Superintendent Sharkey advised that the relationship has improved, particularly with the introduction of the PACER trial.

Local NGOs have experienced a huge amount of pressure whilst trying to proactively manage community mental health on the Northern Beaches during COVID19. Coordination and referral pathways to services need resolving.

The Northern Beaches Suicide Response Steering Group continues to meet and is working to achieve clearer pathways.

**Domestic Violence**

Police indicated a reduction in domestic violence reports. NGOs present at the meeting reported that their services have seen a large increase in DV cases and agreed that under-reporting is an issue.

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Dialling 000 in non-urgent circumstances is considered an offence. 000 is for urgent or life threatening cases.

Cr Bingham complimented the crowd management and actions of Northern Beaches Police on Australia Day.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.2.1	Request that an SDECC representative be included on the Northern Beaches Suicide Response Steering Group and be invited to future meetings.	Kylie Walshe	Prior to the next Steering Group Meeting on 18 May 2021
6.2.2	Police Domestic Violence data be reported to the Committee.	Supt Patrick Sharkey	22 April 2021

**6.3 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - POLICE REPORT****DISCUSSION**

Police provided an update on the Neighbourhood Watch initiatives on the Northern Beaches.

Two local Neighbourhood Watch groups are active and a new initiative in Belrose has begun. Groups generally connect via social media which is also used as a method of sharing information.

**6.4 COMPLIANCE REPORT**

The Executive Manager Compliance provided an update on Compliance matters and agreed that the Statistics Powerpoint could be circulated with the Committee Minutes.

COVID Safe Ambassadors are working in conjunction with Council Rangers until end of February 2021.

The Mosquito Surveillance Program held during December 2020 and January 2021 has detected no arbovirus on the Northern Beaches.

**DISCUSSION**

Cats in residential areas nearby National Park areas was raised. Council's Biodiversity Team have had some success eradicating feral cats. For more information, go to [Cat Control Program](#) on Council's website or contact Customer Service on 1300 434 434.

Cr De Luca complimented Council Rangers for their work over the summer period, particularly the personal approach taken by Louise Kerr in relation to a dog attack.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.4.1	That at the next meeting, dog incidents include location of incidents, particularly if related to a dog park.	Azmeena Kelly	22 April 2021
6.4.2	That at the next meeting, the number of registered dogs be reported.	Azmeena Kelly	22 April 2021
6.4.3	Circulate the Compliance statistics Powerpoint with the Minutes.	Kath Young	March 2021

## 6.5 YOUTH SAFETY ISSUES

Samantha King, Chairperson of the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency (NBYI) provided an overview of youth safety issues and regional sector responses.

The Interagency Executive's main concerns were highlighted:

- Safe areas for youth socialisation – YouthReach service in Brookvale recently closed without notice. This closure has displaced a number of young people who utilised this service. Youth services have attempted to address and capture this need within existing services. YouthReach was a non-threatening and safe meeting area known to youth where drop-in services and activities were available. Its closure highlights the lack of available local service provision and space for targeted case management support with young people.
- NBYI would welcome a Police representative at its meetings to assist networking with all stakeholder groups.
- Case workers are critically needed in the youth sector to provide continuity of care.
- Links to Learning has carried out an initial survey with youth at risk students in the upper Northern Beaches area to frame a response to recent areas of concern. Key results were the specific timing and location of activities. Youth Week in April will include a calendar of events with services undertaking outreach before and after the Youth Week events to promote connection and engagement and available support services.
- NBYI are trying to link with events like the Vissla Surf Pro and other existing events of interest to youth to better connect, collaborate and provide opportunities for ongoing facilitation of outreach activities.

## DISCUSSION

Lack of youth activities and outreach

Youth outreach is not usually included in sector funding and is a choice services make to engage with their youth cohort.

Discussed need for facilities for youth, for example, services to be co-located with skate parks to assist with engagement and safety of young people. It was noted that youth were consulted in the design of the Mona Vale skate park and indicated that they did not want those facilities included.

Groups coming to Manly will be monitored and Police will respond where incidents occur.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5.1	Samantha King and Patrick Sharkey to meet offline	Samantha King Supt Sharkey	Prior to next meeting
6.5.2	Coordinate review of the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency mail list for correct addresses and add DCJ's Michelle Erofeyeff email address.	Kath Young	Prior to next meeting

## 6.6 EAST ESPLANADE ISSUES

### DISCUSSION

The East Esplanade precinct and the challenges experienced in this area by Council, Police and residents were discussed.

Since the inception of the (previous Manly Council) Community Safety Committee in 2012, East Esplanade has been of concern. A high level of activity and concerns have been noted this summer, however it is likely the increase in activity is a response to COVID19 restrictions.

With the significant increase in Council Ranger patrols, statistics have shown a major increase in preventative actions. Staff experience has shown that the majority of problems have been with adults, not youth. Council has the capacity to continue this level of Ranger Patrol service.

Before 8pm, Police and Rangers work together to monitor the Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) which has proven successful. The re-introduction of the reserve sprinkler system being activated after 8pm has assisted groups to move on and will be refined to improve crowd disbursement.

When COVID19 restrictions are lifted it is anticipated that patrons will return to licenced venues. This will alleviate the pressure of crowds in public spaces.

Police advise crime in this area generally relates to antisocial behaviour, not serious crime. Police met with Council representatives last week and discussed sprinkler timing and the installation of toilet location signage. Roadside fencing was also suggested to decrease access to private residences and guide crowds toward toilet facilities.

General excessive consumption of alcohol was discussed. Northern Beaches Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) and Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) are investigating further strategies to address community attitudes surrounding alcohol use.

It was noted that the international surfing competition to be held at North Narrabeen in April 2021 will bring large numbers of visitors to the Northern Beaches area, including Manly.

Under the Local Government Act, the matter of alcohol prohibition at East Esplanade will be considered by Council's elected representatives at an upcoming Council meeting. At that time Police will be further consulted.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.6.1	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord Chair, Doug Brooker, offered to meet offline with interested Committee members to consider realistic alternatives to East Esplanade management.	Doug Brooker, Committee members	

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

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6.2.1	Request that an SDECC representative be included on the Northern Beaches Suicide Response Steering Group and be invited to future meetings.	Kylie Walshe	Prior to the next Steering Group Meeting on 18 May 2021
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*The meeting concluded at 10.19am*

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 18 February 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 22 April 2021