



northern
beaches
council

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held as an online meeting on

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2020

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee

held on Thursday 14 May 2020

as an online meeting

Commencing at 8.00am

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Michael Regan	Mayor – Chairperson
Cr Sue Heins	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Michelle Comito	Catholic Care
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative
Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
Michelle Povah	Community Representative
Ray Mathieson	Community Representative
Michelle Erofeyeff	Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
Drew Johnson	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Trish Bramble	Manly Warringah Women’s Resource Centre
Melissa Palermo	NASLHD Health Promotion
Belinda Volkov	Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)

Council Officer Contacts

Mr Ray Brownlee PSM	Chief Executive Officer
David Kerr	Director Community and Belonging
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	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

Peta Garrett	Electorate Office, Federal Member for Warringah
Bronwen Regan	Electorate Office, Federal Member for Warringah
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

2.1 Apologies were received from:

Cr Candy Bingham	Deputy Mayor
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
Stephen Pirovic	Community Representative
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches

The following members were not in attendance:

Cr Stuart Spratt	
Christina Franze	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Kara Hillier	State Transit Authority Northern Region
Tony Hilliger	Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches

2.2 Welcome Luisa de Bont, new Community Representative Frenchs Forest Ward.

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 19 FEBRUARY 2020

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 19 February 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.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 POLICE REPORT

DISCUSSION

The Committee welcomed the new Northern Beaches Police Area Commander, Superintendent Patrick Sharkey and round table Committee Member introductions were provided.

Superintendent Sharkey thanked the Council for the warm welcome and expressed his appreciation for Council's comprehensive plan and staffing to positively action the Health Minister's COVID19 directions.

He reported that Northern Beaches Police continue to monitor and enforce COVID19 regulations and to date, 287 cautions or formal actions have been issued. With the coming phased relaxing of restrictions, more difficult and complex times are ahead as community behaviour changes.

Across all crime categories over the last 4-5 months statistics have decreased. Police statistics for domestic violence have also shown a decrease.

Some committee members working in the sector commented that mental health and domestic violence referrals were increasing for them. Opportunities for more sector communication with Police in this area would assist. Superintendent Sharkey confirmed that with consent, third party referrals can be made and 'concern for welfare' Police checks undertaken.

Northern Beaches Pittwater area has previously experienced high mental health and suicide statistics however, more recently there is possibly a downward number. As part of the Suicide Response Steering Group, the cliff faces along the coast are included in an ongoing program to engage with the community, signage and hotspot intervention.

In response to a question, the Liquor Accord was discussed. It was confirmed the Accord and the voluntary lockout times still exist. As COVID19 phased reintroductions of businesses occur, engagement with the licensees will be undertaken by the Superintendent. The date for the next Liquor Accord meeting is 15 July 2020.

In response to a question about noise complaints, Superintendent Sharkey advised that reports of noise will be attended by Police, particularly ongoing unreasonable occurrences. If offensive, Police will enforce breaches.

The Federal Member for Manly's office has received correspondence about the reduced noise being experienced during the COVID19 period. There is concern about when hotels in the Manly area are reopened. Reassurances that unlawful noise will be monitored by Police was requested.

Extra Police are rostered this weekend in the first phase of reduced lockdown to monitor and enforce compliance, including noise complaints.

James Griffin MP also acknowledged that there is an opportunity for a rethink as we move through different lockdown phases, however, we also need to keep an eye on some restrictions that have been relaxed through this period. For example, regarding takeaway licencing and cafes and restaurants providing home delivered alcohol. On behalf of the community, he thanked Council Rangers and Police for their work during this difficult period.

The Mayor congratulated Council staff for the outstanding efforts during COVID19.

ACTION

Council staff to contact the Liquor Accord to assist with the establishment of an online meeting if required for their meeting of 15 July 2020.

5.2 COMPLIANCE REPORT

DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with an update on Compliance matters and a compliance report presented.

Regular animal management patrols have been undertaken by Rangers, particularly in Avalon and Long Reef beaches in response to complaints. A number of court matters are underway but many have been adjourned, due to current restrictions.

In response to a question in regard to off leash dogs at Harbord Park, consideration will be given to regular patrols of this area and longer term strategies.

Council Rangers have been primarily supporting Police in ensuring compliance with COVID19 restrictions, including Narrabeen Lagoon social distancing and beach closures when numbers have been exceeded.

Reference was made to the Committee's 19 February Meeting, Item 6.2 Storm Pollution and an update was provided. New water/land pollution signs are being designed and developed to protect public health and safety.

In conjunction with NSW Health, Council has undertaken proactive mosquito monitoring. Results detected Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses in the Deep Creek and Warriewood Wetlands areas. Community protection guidelines have been provided to the public via notices, signage and social media.

Trolley management proactive inspections have been carried out in known hotspots and in most cases, retailers are responsive within 48hrs of notification.

Mr Ray Brownlee PSM, Chief Executive Officer addressed the meeting and explained that Council has kept beaches open during the COVID19 restrictions to assist with community mental health and wellbeing. In conjunction with Rangers, reassigned pool staff have assisted with monitoring and enforcing social distancing rules along beaches and nearby walkways, which will continue. The majority of the community have been compliant and Police have been a great support particularly when beaches needed to be closed.

5.3 HOMELESS STREET COUNT

DISCUSSION

Committee Members were provided with a presentation on the first Northern Beaches Homeless Street Count, conducted on 17 February 2020.

Following the Street Count, Council has worked closely with Bridge Housing, Mission Australia and Community Northern Beaches and have developed two new working groups:

- The Northern Beaches Homeless Interagency – the key focus is advocacy and information sharing. The first meeting was held on 10 March 2020
- A Rough Sleeping Case Coordination Group - meet monthly to discuss active cases with a view to transition into assisted housing and accommodation.

Currently about 30 people have temporary Government supported accommodation, mostly in Manly and for a limited time. It is currently unknown what options will be available when the current situation has ended.

Compared to last year, Council reports of rough sleepers have increased from 29 to 39 with more women, persons in cars and persons with dogs.

In response to a question from the Superintendent about the impacts since COVID19, indications of current homeless persons circumstances is a real mix. All rough sleepers that agree to accept temporary accommodation have currently been housed. Regular rough sleepers occur when complex comorbidity issues are involved and those who resist temporary housing as only permanent housing will be accepted.

The Federal Member for Manly's office recently met with [The Constellation Project](#) which has 322 cross sector organisations working together with all levels of government for social and affordable housing. Council representatives will undertake an offline conversation with Peta Garrett on this matter.

Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre applauded the formation of a Case Coordination Group having experienced great results in the inner city with good outcomes for rough sleepers.

In response to a question in regard to rough sleepers in the stairwell at Brookvale Community Centre, an offline discussion with Melissa Palermo will be undertaken by Council staff.

ACTIONS

1. Council staff to contact Melissa Palermo in relation to Brookvale Community Centre rough sleepers.
2. Council staff to follow up with the Planning and Place Division in relation to The Constellation Project and update or coordinate a conversation with Peta Garrett.

5.4 COVID19 IMPACTS - INFORMATION SHARING

DISCUSSION

Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre - Trish Bramble

- Alcohol intake during COVID19 and the impact on children will be felt in the next three months.
- Community Group Rapid Response Grants – how are they being progressed as our services are in need of support?
 - Council's Community Care package is yet to be resolved and an offline discussion will be progressed following this meeting.

Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre - Belinda Volkov

- The service has been inundated with mental health, drug, alcohol and take away alcohol of concern.
- Consideration for a future agenda item - vaping by young people.

Department of Communities and Justice - Michelle Erofeyeff

- Increased need for food services from those who have never previously needed support.

Cr Sue Heins

- Community Co-op Northern Beaches, a group of churches, social organisations and volunteers, has been responsive with community food supplies. Referrals are assisted within 24 hours. Transition during the next few months is of concern.

Executive Manager - Community, Arts and Culture - Kylie Walshe

- Supported by Council staff, the Community Co-op initially began with daily donations of 100 boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables from Harris Farm. Council continues to work closely with the Co-op to support the community food drive and ensure the service is provided whilst

there is need, which is anticipated may be many months.

Manly community representative - Ray Mathieson

- Manly Wharf complex public toilets have been closed off to the public, leaving one available which is unsuitable for use due to its unclean state.
 - James Griffin MP advised that there are long standing issues with the plumbing and the lease holder has agreed to a meeting to resolve this issue.
- Fairy Bower sewerage line needs to be addressed as it is breaking down. Manly community representatives have approached the Water Board without any traction.
 - James Griffin MP will follow up his initial enquiries with the Water Board.

State Member for Manly - James Griffin MP

- Post COVID19 presents opportunities to reconsider, reset and improve methods of operation and the Committee is encouraged to consider improvements.
- Thank you to the community and Council for the response to COVID19 pandemic.

Catholic Care - Michelle Comito

- A lot of services have high current demand for support.
- There is a need for ongoing and increased support across the community post COVID19.

Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Centre (SDECC) - Belinda Volkov

- A silver lining for SDECC with Parliamentary grant funding allocated for 4 years.
- Funding helps to recognise the sustainability of keeping qualified people in the sector.
- SDECC would appreciate the opportunity of discussing maintaining capacity and removing blocks in services, with the State Member for Manly.

Frenchs Forest community representative - Luisa de Bont

- Cyber security awareness for children, parents and vulnerable members of the community as worldwide and in Australia there is an upswing in COVID19 related scams and targeting of children using more technology in isolation.
- Consideration for a future agenda item – Cyber security.

ACTION

1. Council staff to discuss with the Mayor in regard to the proposed grants and provide feedback to community groups.
2. Staff to liaise with Committee Member Luisa de Bont in regard to a cyber security meeting with Police.

5.5 GENERAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

The Committee agreed to hold the next Committee meeting on Thursday, 25 June 2020.

ACTION

1. Council staff to email a TEAMS meeting calendar invitation.
2. Committee members are encouraged to email Leanne.martin@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au with Agenda Items for next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.30am

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2020 and confirmed on Thursday 25 June 2020