



northern
beaches
council

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held as an online meeting on

THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2020

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee
held on Thursday 25 June 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	
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Michelle Comito	Catholic Care
John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches
Michelle Povah	Community Representative
Ray Mathieson	Community Representative
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative
Stephen Pirovic	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

Melanie Gurney	Acting 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
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:

Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
David Kerr	Director Community and Belonging

The following members were not in attendance:

Christina Franze	Manly Chamber of Commerce
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 14 MAY 2020

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 14 May 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 ACTIONS UPDATE

5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

DISCUSSION

The Agenda included an update on actions from previous meetings.

Homeless Street Count

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.

Council staff to contact Melissa Palermo in relation to Brookvale Community Centre rough sleepers.

Discussions have been held with the office of the Federal Member for Manly in regard to The Constellation Project which advocates for more social and affordable housing across Australia. A local group have recently met with Council representatives. The Homeless Interagency will be doing more work on this project.

Current reports to Council of rough sleepers in public spaces from January to June 2020 total 64, with outreach workers now at capacity. This represents a tripling in reports to Council compared to the past three years.

James Griffin MP is advocating to ensure the Northern Beaches is allocated its share of funding in the \$36 million [Together Home Project](#) announced by the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, Gareth Ward MP. It's a partnership between NSW Government, community housing providers, specialist homeless services and health services. It also links in with the [Start Safely](#) rental relief program to continue and build on rental subsidies in the private rental market as well as access to tenancy support.

COVID-19 Impacts

Council staff to discuss with the Mayor in regard to the proposed grants and provide feedback to community groups.

Council's [COVID-19 Community Response Grants](#) are being awarded on an ongoing basis with \$180,000 being available to community and not for profit groups.

Community Safety Plan

An update will be given on the progress of the Community Safety Plan, including impacts due to COVID-19.

As a result of COVID-19, the Community Safety Plan timeline has been extended. A more detailed report will be presented at the Committee's August 2020 Meeting with a view to reporting to Council and adoption of the Plan by the end of 2020.

Recent locations identified as areas of safety concern were noted and, in conjunction with Police, work to resolve these concerns is continuing. It is important to note that incidents should be reported to Police at the time of the event or a timely manner.

In response to a question in regard to the growing issue of gatherings in parks, particularly East Esplanade and Little Manly, Police noted the concern and will continue to patrol these areas. Police and Council are proactively working together to monitor crowd numbers and COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 WOMEN AND ALCOHOL PROJECT - NORTHERN BEACHES STUDY

DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with a presentation by Michelle Palermo, Manager Health Promotion for the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD).

Northern Beaches represents a 40% higher than State average of alcohol related hospitalisations for women. To explore why, a pilot study began last year with focus groups, followed by an anonymous survey via social media, which had a very high response rate.

A targeted strategy addressing high risk drinkers and to offer alternatives is being developed. Partnering with other organisations and Council was an opportunity that could be explored, particularly with Mother's Group gatherings in non-alcohol environments. Cr Sue Heins indicated

local church groups are looking at ways to activate their spaces which may also be an avenue to explore.

Committee members acknowledged the great study and result data and provided the following comments:

- A creative approach is needed to enact cultural change and to help people reassess behaviour.
- This has intergenerational impacts. Youth services are seeing the consequences of this.
- Northern Sydney Local Health District have submitted a response to the draft Liquor Amendment bill, particularly in relation to same day delivery of alcohol. It would be great if Council could support our recommendations and submit a response also.

6.2 POLICE REPORT

DISCUSSION

Superintendent Sharkey provided an update on local Police matters, including crime statistics that indicate a downward trend overall. A Police report will be distributed to the Committee separately.

In conjunction with the NSW Department of Health, Phase 2 of the [PACER \(Police, Ambulance, Clinical, Early, Response\)](#) trial is progressing, working towards streamlining and improving mental health incident management. This program sees mental health staff working alongside Police, with the trial being extended to the Northern Beaches.

Police have been rostered to enforce the COVID-19 guidelines issued by NSW Department of Health and, in conjunction with Council, are continuing to address issues as they occur.

Identified underage drinkers are being referred to the [Your Choice Program](#) and Police are contacting parents to engage and alert them to their child's activities.

The Your Choice Program was acknowledged and the following comment was provided:

- CatholicCare's DAYSS program delivers Your Choice in conjunction with Police and have three dates coming up in July and August. Although it is a one night band aid approach and might not make significant change in one night, the one thing we do get across to parents and young people is information about services available in the region. One young person who attended the Your Choice night early in the year has now joined the DAYSS youth advisory group and is helping us come up with programs and strategies to promote safe partying.

Superintendent Sharkey encouraged Committee members to share with their networks the importance of calling Police at the time of an incident.

ACTION: Following discussions around mental health responses, a separate offline meeting to be arranged between James Griffin MP, Northern Beaches Hospital, Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC) and Community Northern Beaches (CNB) to discuss the challenges experienced by clients with local frontline mental health services.

6.3 COMPLIANCE REPORT

DISCUSSION

Azmeena Kelly provided Committee members with an update on Compliance matters and a compliance report was presented.

Targeted animal management patrols are being undertaken by Rangers to ensure animals are kept under effective control in hotspot areas. This will be an ongoing program and future meetings will include an update.

Nightly patrols at East Esplanade are continuing from 5.30 to 10.30pm in the winter months, ensuring that alcohol restrictions are being adhered to, and assisting Police to enforce social distance requirements. East Esplanade alcohol prohibition has reverted to 8pm following the COVID 24 hour ban. Shelley Beach remains a 24/7 alcohol prohibited zone. It was noted that it is a decision of Council for any change to alcohol prohibition and would only be at the request of Police. It was agreed that Police and Council's Compliance team will further discuss this issue and ongoing logistics separate to the meeting.

Food Hygiene Spot Checks are being undertaken to ensure businesses are complying with COVID-19 requirements, general hygiene and food safety.

Dumped waste and litter concerns are predominately occurring in multi-dwelling precincts and are being addressed.

6.4 SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with an update on the Suicide Prevention Protocol and the Progress Report was highlighted, including the recent success of the Safe and Sound webinar series. The final report will be forwarded to all members. The next step is establishing a [local suicide prevention community network](#) with an initial meeting scheduled for 8 July.

Addressing concerns in how to navigate the public health system blocks was noted.

It was noted that Lifeline has received a huge spike in calls and notifications during COVID-19. James Griffin MP confirmed that in March the State Government provided an additional \$6million in funding to Lifeline.

North Head Triangulation - James Griffin MP advised that the phone tower at the former Manly Hospital site was temporary and has now moved to Marshall Street. Another tower will be installed on the eastern side of water treatment facility which will assist with reception.

6.5 COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF COVID19 ON NORTHERN BEACHES AREA

DISCUSSION

The Committee noted the information provided and will be further discussed at the Committee's August meeting.

Cr Sue Heins acknowledged there is a growing concern within community groups who are supplying food and basic necessities to those in need that demand with increase after September's reduction in Government financial support. A review of assistance that is available to the community was requested.

The [Big Ideas Forum](#) - Beyond COVID-19: Social Impacts and Community Responses webinar, with presenter Dr Norman Swan, is being held on Thursday 2 July 2020 via ZOOM. The Committee was asked to share with networks.

ACTION: Council will undertake further work on this issue, including available financial institution support and projections of worst case scenarios. The community organisations that were contacted as part of Council's Community Care Package will be surveyed again to assess their current and future needs.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Community Northern Beaches anticipate transitioning into their new Raglan Street, Manly premises from 6 July with a view to the organisation operating from this site by mid-July.

James Griffin MP advised that the Wentworth St building being vacated by Community Northern Beaches will be repurposed and utilised by Manly Village Public School and the Department of Education. A press release is being prepared to advise the community.

2. Cr Stuart Sprott thanked the Police for the great job they are doing. The community's full support is extended to the Northern Beaches Area Command and colleagues.
3. Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre are excited to announce they are beginning a new partnership with a local agency. From 6 July homeless women and children experiencing violence will have supported accommodation for 6 months. Thank you to Council, State and Federal representatives for your support to get this initiative going.
4. Concern was expressed by the NGOs and the Domestic Violence Network about the issue of communication and responses between services, clients and Police. More regular opportunities to give appropriate feedback on unhelpful barriers for treatment with the Police Superintendent and Police DVLOs is welcomed. Trish Bramble and Belinda Volkov will liaise directly with Supt Sharkey on this issue.
5. The value of undertaking a new late night Manly Safety Audit was considered and will be arranged with a date to be advised after Covid19 restrictions are reduced.
6. The impacts of small venue liquor licences was discussed.

ACTION: Council to arrange a late night Manly Safety Audit in partnership with Police, agencies and community members, towards the end of the year, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

The meeting concluded at 9.51am.

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages
numbered 1 to 7 of the Community Safety Committee meeting
held on Thursday 25 June 2020 and confirmed on Thursday 6 August 2020.