

AGENDA

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Community Safety Committee will be held at the **Northern Beaches PCYC**, 40 The Kingsway, Dee Why on

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021

Beginning at 8 - 10am for the purpose of considering matters included in this agenda.

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
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Michelle Comito	Catholic Care
John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches
Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
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
Melissa Palermo	NASLHD Health Promotion
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Tony Hilliger	Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches
Belinda Volkov	Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)
Kara Hillier	State Transit Authority Northern Region

Council Officer Contacts

Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Rob van den Blink	Manager, Youth and Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Officer
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer, Youth and Community Development

Visitors

Samantha King	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency Chair
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Quorum

A majority of members plus the Mayor or another Councillor.

**Agenda for a meeting of the Community Safety Committee
to be held on Thursday 18 February 2021
Northern Beaches PCYC, 40 The Kingsway, Dee Why
Commencing at 8 - 10am**

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NEXT MEETING Thursday 22 April 2021

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.0 APOLOGIES

All members are expected to attend the Community Safety Committee meetings or tender their apologies to the Chair or Committee liaison person. If members are unable to attend they may delegate their position to another member of their organisation, with the approval of the Chair.

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members should disclose any "**pecuniary**" or "**non-pecuniary**" interests in matters included in the agenda. The [Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct](#) (the Code) provides guidance on managing conflicts of interests.

A **pecuniary interest** is defined in Section 4 of the Code as:

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.

A **non-pecuniary conflict of interest** is defined in Section 5 of the Code as:

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

If you required further information or guidance about disclosing an interest please contact Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 26 November 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 6.1 ACTIONS UPDATE - MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - 15 MINUTES

REPORTING OFFICER MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TRIM FILE REF 2020/808417

ATTACHMENTS NIL

ISSUE

To update the Committee on actions arising from previous meetings.

1. MEETING OF 26 NOVEMBER 2020

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ACTION UPDATE
6.1.1	To assist with patterns of crime identification staff were requested to include a Council community eNews item in relation to the importance of reporting specific crime issues to Police when they occur.	Community Safety Coordinator	Item placed on Council's media platforms 29 January 2021. Also to be distributed via Disability and Cultural Leaders e-news letters
6.1.2	First meeting of 2021 Agenda to focus on youth	Manager, Youth & Community Development	See Agenda
6.1.3	Police Crime Prevention Officer to contact resident regarding Neighbourhood Watch in Belrose	Police	Resident has been contacted
6.1.4	Provide feedback at the next meeting on local Neighbourhood Watch initiatives	Police	See Agenda
6.1.5	Provide crime data in relation to adolescent violence against parents for under 18-year olds to SDECC	Police/SSDECC	
6.1.6	Police to contact concerned resident re youth issues	Police	Police have been in contact with resident

2. NORTHERN BEACHES POLICE AND COUNCIL OPERATIONAL MEETING

In February 2021 a new bi-monthly meeting will commence between Northern Beaches Police and Council to discuss operational issues in the region. Other services may be invited if required, such as Transport NSW, Surf Lifesaving NSW etc if specific topics require their expertise.

The purpose of the meetings will be to discuss operational community safety issues on the Northern Beaches including; identifying emerging issues, safety audits, potential crime hotspots, upcoming events or activities and to develop coordinated and collaborative responses and actions.

The Community Safety Co-ordinator will report any relevant strategic issues to the Community Safety Committee in the Actions Update at each meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

ITEM 6.2	POLICE REPORT - SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK SHARKEY - 15 MINUTES
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRIM FILE REF	2020/808418
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

This is a standing item on the agenda for the Northern Beaches Police Commander to brief the Committee on relevant crime and safety issues.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

ITEM 6.3	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - POLICE REPORT - 10 MINUTES
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRIM FILE REF	2020/809123
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

Police to give an update on the status of Neighbourhood Watch initiatives on the Northern Beaches.

BACKGROUND

At the November 2020 meeting the issue of a resident request for a new Neighbourhood Watch in Belrose was discussed. This was followed by a request for a general update on the overall Neighbourhood Watch Program and its use on the Northern Beaches.

The NSW Police website provides the following information:

The Neighbourhood Watch program is one of a range of crime prevention and community safety strategies currently in use within NSW. Since 1984, when the program was first introduced, the NSW Police Force has supported the NHW program in those communities that have demonstrated their ongoing support for it. The program itself is not funded at a community level by the NSW Police Force, or any other government organisation. Instead, Neighbourhood Watch is resourced through fund-raising, sponsorships and grants and has at its core, dedicated volunteers in each local community.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community based, crime prevention organisation that aims to reduce localised crime and fear of crime by promoting and coordinating multifaceted approaches to prevention and problem solving. It is part of the broader Neighbourhood Watch Australasia organisation, of which, the NSW Police Force is a participating Board member.

Objectives of the Program

The key operating principles for the NSW Police Force with NHW groups in NSW are:

- The NSW Police Force supports the NHW crime prevention initiative in NSW*
- Local Area Commands are the point of contact with NHW groups*
- NHW groups are not governed or operated by the NSW Police Force*
- NHW groups may engage with the NSW Police Force in crime prevention initiatives through Eyewatch and Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPC) and meetings*
- Local Area Commands will consider NHW as part of their community engagement strategy*
- Operational Programs, Crime Prevention Team will provide advice and support to Local Area Commands regarding NHW*
- Local Area Commands will maintain contact with the NHW groups operating within their Command*

Source -

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/policing_in_the_community/neighbourhood_watch_nsw

DISCUSSION

Police provide an update on the status of Neighbourhood Watch initiatives on the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

ITEM 6.4	COMPLIANCE REPORT - 15 MINUTES
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
TRIM FILE REF	2020/808428
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

This is a standard Agenda Item to brief the Committee on relevant compliance and regulatory issues by the Executive Manager Environmental Compliance.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

ITEM 6.5	YOUTH SAFETY ISSUES
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRIM FILE REF	2020/809116
ATTACHMENTS	1 Northern Beaches Youth Interagency Notes

ISSUE

Action 6.1.2 from the November 2020 meeting requested that the issue of youth safety be discussed at the February 2021 meeting.

BACKGROUND

At the November meeting the following issues were raised –

- Youth issues have increased and become quite prevalent including youth on youth robberies. Those involved generally don't wish to provide statements or progress investigations for fear of retribution.
- Resident concerns regarding Northern Beaches youth issues. The incidents discussed were known to Police. A recent assault investigation in Avalon has not progressed due lack of cooperation from those involved and no CCTV.
- Following a successful October operation, 'Summer Safe' will be reintroduced during December/January. With a focus on youth issues, the operation will involve the Local Area Command, Youth Command, Police Transport Command (PTC) and high visibility regional Policing Unit.
- Police will be meeting with the Director of Education for the Pittwater network to discuss strategies for schools, parents and an all agencies collaborative approach to manage youth drug and alcohol and related issues.

DISCUSSION

Samantha King, the Chairperson of the Northern Beach Youth Interagency (NBYI), has been invited to give an overview of youth safety issues and sector response in the region to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

Northern Beaches Youth Interagency (NBYI) Local Youth Safety Issues Community Safety Committee Meeting

The following feedback was received from members of the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency (NBYI) Executive Committee following a request that a report on local Youth Safety Issues be presented to the Northern Beaches Community Safety Committee at the 18 February 2021 meeting. (Item 6.2.1)

Key Issues

- The ability for young people to go out and socialise in a safe and supportive environment. Social interaction, communication skills with young people and their peers have all been effected by COVID and lock downs that have taken place. This has increased young people's anxiety and wellbeing with local services seeing an increase in demand.
- Significant waitlists for young people to access specialist agencies and a lack of programs and activities for vulnerable young people (as compared to an abundance of sporting and recreation for mainstream and outgoing young people)
- Scaling back of some services based on COVID due to reduce philanthropic funding
- Collaborative spaces for services to support and work with young people. Currently PCYC is an option but previously Youth Reach (closed Oct 2020) was a safe and comfortable space for services to work with young people from education to service related case management.
- There is a definite need for more outreach and engagement activities for young people that is coordinated. This should not be simply just meet and greet or drop in style but work that can provide quantitative and qualitative data to support the advocacy for funding to address core issues for disengagement and negative behaviours.

Sector Response to Key Issues -

- Overall capacity to respond to the key issues is varied. Some services are at capacity with a wait list and others are limited in the ability to connect and engage with young people. Work is being done within the sector to be more collaborative in its response. Many services are willing to partner in delivering services but few have the overall capacity to lead, coordinate and deliver on larger scale responses.
- Council received a grant through the Attorney General's Crime Prevention Division. The project had a focus on diversionary activities for young people in and around Mona Vale, Warriewood and Newport. Several activations have taken place so far including a mural in the centre of Mona Vale CBD and a 3x3 basketball competition at several locations in the northern area of the LGA. Remaining funds will facilitate a local youth agency providing an outreach style service on a temporary basis.

Closure of Youth Reach

- Youth Reach, operated by St Vincent De Paul, operated on the northern beaches for many years, targeting many of the most disadvantaged and marginalised young people, from their premises in Brookvale. The service closed in October 2020.
- Youth Reach targeted marginalised and disengaged young people, providing a safe space for workers to meet with their clients. The closure of this service has left a gap in local service provision and places and spaces for young people to go, socialise and receive targeted case management support.
- This gap is not one that can be addressed through relocation to the PCYC as some have suggested. Whilst PCYC provides a quality space and recreational facilities, it is

not attractive to those who are in the more marginalised cohorts of young people in the community, being viewed as a more of a sports club than a youth centre.

- The response from St Vincent de Paul indicated a very poor level of activity however, our own sector/service enquiries establish larger numbers. We feel that there were other drivers in the decision to close this integral service. The closure occurred with no community or sector consultation.

Police Youth Liaison Officers (PYLO) / PCYC Police

- From the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency perspective, we have seen the engagement level of the PYLO's and PCYC Police with the Interagency diminish. This relationship is critical in ensuring services are working harmoniously with the youth sector and that there is an open and collaborative approach to supporting young people.
- It is essential that the PYLO's and PCYC Police have industry knowledge of who and where young people can be referred to for a particular issue or concern.

Council targeted funding for Mona Vale / Warriewood area

- Particularly as a result of the recent lockdown and COVID, it has been identified that the Mona Vale/Warriewood area is an area of concern.
- We appreciate that Council is not responsible for active ongoing facilitation of outreach activities. There is an opportunity to partner Council, Police and local services in some coordinated activities to promote connection and engagement as well as promotion of support services.

ITEM 6.6	EAST ESPLANADE ISSUES
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRIM FILE REF	2021/063151
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

The East Esplanade precinct has presented significant challenges for Council and the Northern Beaches Police, particularly over the summer holiday period, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and increasing crowd numbers. Issues include; large crowds, public drinking, rubbish (including broken bottles), public urination (including in surrounding properties), anti-social behaviour and noise.

BACKGROUND

East Esplanade (colloquially known as 'The Office') has been a long-standing gathering point for many years. This is particularly the case around late afternoon in summer when large crowds can gather to socialise and often consume alcohol. The popularity of the space appears to have increased each year, as a place where take-away alcohol can be consumed.

The grass reserve area is a designated Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) between 8pm-8am (7 days a week), with the promenade and beach area being 24 hours a day (7 days a week).

As part of the East Esplanade Masterplan, Council recently constructed new toilets to provide additional capacity.

DISCUSSION

The area is a priority location and staff across Council continue to work on a raft of strategies to reduce the issues at the site.

Community Safety:

Council has maintained an Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) along the grassed area of East Esplanade Reserve being between 8pm-8am, 7 days a week. The consumption of alcohol is prohibited 24 hours, 7 days a week along the promenade and beach areas.

There is relevant APA signage at entry points and spread regularly throughout the area. In addition, during COVID-19 there have been mobile electronic Variable Messaging Signs located at either end of the reserve with COVID-19 safety and alcohol prohibited messaging.

Permanent CCTV cameras were installed at the location in January 2019, following a trial of temporary cameras.

This issue is regularly discussed at the Community Safety Committee, with the October 2020 Minutes noting that; *Regular Police patrols occur at East and West Esplanade in conjunction with Council Rangers until 10pm, including afternoon patrols. The recent (October) long weekend feedback from Police and Rangers is that those approached in relation to social distancing and gathering numbers, responded in a positive manner.*

Council continues to work with the Northern Beaches Police to ensure the safe management of East Esplanade. Matters relating to anti-social behaviour, public urination and threats to local residents are matters for the Police to respond to. As noted, Council Rangers have support plans in place with the Police to deal with matters of this nature.

For consideration are points raised during discussions at Community Safety Committee meetings in 2018 regarding the implementation of a 24/7 alcohol prohibited area. At the April, June, August and October 2018 meetings the Local Area Commander raised the concern that this action could shift the problems to other more distant and isolated areas, making the problem more difficult to manage.

This includes areas such as Shelly Beach, Collins Beach, Little Manly Point and Beach, Manly Point, West Esplanade, Delwood Beach, Fairlight Beach and the promenade, parks and rock platforms along the Manly to Spit walk, such as Federation Point and Kay-Ye-My Point.

Many of these areas do not comply with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principals (CPTED), as they have limited natural surveillance opportunities, little lighting, poor pathways and access, limited garbage receptacles, no toilet facilities and close proximity to cliff top areas. Some are also adjacent to endangered penguin nesting areas. This will make enforcement and safety issues far more complex than having this large group concentrated in one area, under a level of supervision and close to the amenities of Manly CBD, with the ability to move people on to licensed premises after the 8pm alcohol ban.

Rangers:

Significant Ranger resources are allocated to the area, with afternoon patrols at 2pm, 4pm and 5pm every day of the week. The night service starts with patrols nightly at 7.20pm (initial walk through with warnings prior to 8pm restriction). The first enforcement run commences at 8.15pm, with a further and last patrol at 9.30pm. The Rangers enforce tip out and confiscation powers and in times of need, request the Police for assistance.

Waste and Cleansing:

Cleansing Services provide daily cleansing service to East Esplanade and its surrounding public spaces. In addition, during the Christmas/Summer period, additional shifts are allocated in the area until 10pm to remove litter and glass left by users of the reserve. Additional bins are placed in the reserve over the summer holiday period and further additional bins were added to cater for the very high level activity expected and occurring in the lead up to, and on Australia Day as NSW Covid-19 crowd restrictions were eased.

Social Media:

Council monitors social media and would seek to correct the record if identifying any posts which encouraged drinking in areas where it was prohibited. However, it should be noted that many individuals have privacy settings which prevent others who they are not 'friends' with seeing their posts. Council seeks to disseminate key messages through our social channels with a reach of around 1million people every month.

Parks and Recreation:

As part of the East Esplanade Masterplan, Council constructed new landscaping and amenities to provide additional toilet capacity. Additional direction signage to the toilets is being put up this week.

In response to recent resident concern, Council's Parks and Recreation section will reinstate the irrigation practices previously used in 2019 to deter people from staying on the reserve after 8pm. The sprinklers will be programmed accordingly from Friday 5 February 2021, on a random sequence.

On the weekend commencing 5 February 2021 the use of mobile CCTV and security guards was trialled to monitor the residential side of East Esplanade and Victoria Parade on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from 3pm to 10pm. The following weekend (12-14 February) the mobile CCTV will remain in place. The effectiveness of this strategy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the Community Safety Committee:
- a. receive and note the information.
 - b. discuss further possible strategies to reduce issues at this location.