

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held as an online meeting on

**THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Minutes of the Community Safety Committee**  
**held on Thursday 26 November 2020 as an online meeting**  
**Commencing at 8am**

**ATTENDANCE:**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Cr Candy Bingham          | Deputy Mayor – Acting Chair                              |
| Cr Sue Heins              |  |
| Cr Kylie Ferguson         |  |
| Zali Steggall OAM MP      | Federal Member for Warringah represented by Peta Garrett |
| James Griffin MP          | State Member for Manly represented by Kim Preston-Hiney  |
| Inspector Jillian Walters | 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                                 |
| Michelle Erofeyeff        | Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)              |
| Trish Bramble             | Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre                  |
| Melissa Palermo           | NASLHD Health Promotion                                  |
| Ron Malm                  | Northern Beaches Liquor Accord                           |
| Tony Hilliger             | Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches                  |
| Belinda Volkov            | Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)       |
| Kamal Krishan             | State Transit Authority Northern Region                  |

**Council Officer Contacts**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Ray Brownlee      | 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                 |
| Sue Johansson     | Community Development Officer                           |
| Helen Askew       | Program Support Officer Youth and Community Development |

**Visitors**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Cr Vincent De Luca OAM | Observer  |
| Jacquie Grove          | Manager, Environment Resilience & Climate Change        |
| Kara Taylor            | Senior Sustainability Officer                           |
| Russell Peake          | Manager, Social Planning & Services                     |
| Anita Ugarkovic        | Manager, Building Compliance - Environmental Compliance |

## 1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Deputy 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:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Cr Michael Regan | Mayor   |
| Patrick Sharkey  | Superintendent Northern Beaches Police Area Command |

The following members were not in attendance:

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Cr Stuart Sprott |                           |
| Luisa de Bont    | Community Representative  |
| Stephen Pirovic  | Community Representative  |
| Christina Franze | Manly Chamber of Commerce |
| Drew Johnson     | Manly Chamber of Commerce |

## 3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures 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 8 OCTOBER 2020

#### DECISION

The Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 8 October 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 Ferguson, Seconded Cr Heins

## 5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

### 5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

#### DISCUSSION

| ITEM NO. | ACTION  | ACTION UPDATE  |
|----------|---|--|
| 6.3      | Council staff to provide feedback to Ray Mathieson on whether any actions relating to access paths and lighting safety are in Council's Road Safety Plan and Pedestrian Plan.           | Action taken.<br><br>Council staff contacted Ray Mathieson and discussed issues relating to access paths and lighting safety around Manly.<br><br>An offline conversation will be held between Council and Police to determine an appropriate COVID safe date for a Manly late night safety audit. |
| 6.4      | Council to invite SDECC to attend the November Suicide Response Steering Group Meeting as the focus will be youth, and SDECC can provide alcohol and drug expertise to this discussion. | Action taken.<br><br>SDECC invited to the Suicide Response Steering Group Meeting on 18 November.  |

## 6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 POLICE REPORT

#### DISCUSSION

Acting Superintendent Jillian Walters provided an update on local Police matters.

- Comparison from Sept/Oct 2019 and Sept/Oct 2020 crime statistics continue to indicate a general downward trend.
- Conversely, Police legal action rate (charges) have increased and the Northern Beaches Area Command has the highest legal action rate within the Northern West region which is very positive.
- Break and enters, steal from motor vehicles and stolen vehicles have increased. This reflects an overall metropolitan increase. As a result of a regional response, arrests have recently been achieved in relation to stolen vehicles.
- 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.
- Reported resident concern in regard to Northern Beaches youth issues was discussed. These incidents are 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 are meeting with the Director of Education for the Pittwater network to discuss strategies for a collaborative approach with schools, parents and all agencies to manage youth drug and alcohol and related issues.
- Reminder to the Committee that members of the public need to report specific crime issues to Police when they occur to assist investigations and action.
- Concern from a resident about anti-social behaviour and [Neighbourhood Watch](#) at Glenrose Shopping Centre, Belrose. The Command's Crime Prevention Officer will make contact with the resident to discuss establishing a community led local group.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- The Committee was reminded to be mindful of demonised language regarding young people. The increase in Police statistics and experiences with youth and parents is also being reflected at SDECC. There is a need for implementation of proactive and protective factors, for example at skate parks.
  - Request for crime data in relation to adolescent violence against parents for under 18 year olds – offline conversation between SDECC and Police.
- Cr De Luca commented on youth incidents – Police to respond directly to resident.
- Cr Ferguson commented about recent vandalism in the community and the benefits of CCTV installation. Police indicate that CCTV is a deterrent and is helpful during investigations.

| ITEM NO. | ACTION  | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER                    | DUE DATE    |
|----------|---|--|-------------|
| 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           | 18 Feb 2021 |
| 6.1.2    | First meeting of 2021 Agenda to focus on youth crime  | Manager, Youth & Community Development | 18 Feb 2021 |
| 6.1.3    | Crime Prevention Officer to contact resident regarding Neighbourhood Watch in Belrose   | Police                                 | Dec 2020    |
| 6.1.4    | Provide feedback at the next meeting on local Neighbourhood Watch initiatives   | Police                                 | 18 Feb 2021 |
| 6.1.5    | Provide crime data in relation to adolescent violence against parents for under 18 year olds to SDECC   | Police                                 | 18 Feb 2021 |
| 6.1.6    | Police to contact concerned resident re youth issues  | Police                                 | Dec 2020    |

## 6.2 COMPLIANCE REPORT

### DISCUSSION

The Executive Manager Compliance provided the Committee with an update on Compliance matters:

- Animal Management.
  - Increase in dog attacks during October.
  - An incident at Long Reef marine reserve where a dog attacked a seal has resulted in

the dog owner being fined. Council Rangers have notified National Parks and Wildlife Service who are also investigating the incident under their powers.

- In October a search warrant was executed in relation to suspected breaches of a dangerous dog order resulting in the dog being seized under powers of the Companion Animal Act. Investigations are continuing.
- Two recent court matters in relation to the Companion Animal Act have resulted in offences being proven.
- Alcohol Free Zone.
  - Patrols are continuing and recent warmer weather has seen an increase in actions.
  - Ranger numbers have doubled enabling numerous patrols at various times until 10.30pm every night.
- Proactive Compliance.
  - Increased dumped waste reports and collections. Continue to work with property managers to improve dumped waste and litter management.
  - Increased communication with shopping centres to ensure proactive trolley management in the lead up to and over the busy shopping period. Trolley incidents should be reported as they occur to enable Council to liaise with shopping centre management and quickly address the issue.
- Environmental Health.
  - COVID safety checks with food premises continuing. Recommencing normal food safety inspection program in the new year.
  - Recently held a small business and community groups waste reduction webinar 'Swap for Good - Contactless Cafes'.
  - Mosquito trapping program to recommence 30 November until April 2021 at Warriewood Wetlands and Deep Creek as part of the NSW Health Arbovirus Surveillance Program. More than likely this will become annual program.
  - 'Get the Site Right' Program recent blitz focusing on site management and sediment control of building sites has resulted in numerous warnings, prevention notices and penalty infringements.

Cr Bingham praised the work of the Compliance Team.

### 6.3 URBAN NIGHT SKY PLACE PROPOSAL FOR PALM BEACH

#### DISCUSSION

Council's Environment and Climate Change staff gave a presentation on the proposal to designate the Palm Beach Headland as an *Urban Night Sky Place*, under the International Dark Sky Places Program.

A working group was established to investigate the proposal and stakeholders include National Parks and Wildlife Service, Palm Beach Whale Beach Residents Association, community members, Pittwater Natural Heritage Association, Palm Beach Golf Club, Boathouse Restaurant, Australasian Dark Sky Alliance and the North Sydney Astronomical Society.

The proposed activities are consistent with the current guiding documents for the area, such as the Plan of Management and in principle support has been provided by a number of stakeholders. Additionally, the NSW Department of Planning & Environment actively support the concept of Dark Night Sky Planning and promote education programs including 'Dark Sky for Teachers' and 'Dark Sky for Kids'.

Community engagement to date has been vastly positive. Council's Youth Advisory Group identified that this is another activity that families and under 18s could get involved in.

Safety concerns raised include neighbourhood and street safety, event safety and general safety of persons at night in the area.

An experienced outdoor lighting design consultant has been engaged to assist with the area's Lighting Management Plan (LMP) which will include consideration of sustainable light upgrades which will increase efficiency and reduce costs.

[Urban Night Sky Place](#) proposal is open for community comment until 6 December 2020.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- Police indicated that the proposal was a positive idea. The lighting will assist Police in their role and also provides an ambient environment. In regard to the likelihood of increased crime, when activities are on, events are generally a deterrent and reduces crime in the area.
- Cr Ferguson has observed a great family environment at similar events.

Cr Bingham complimented the staff on the work to date on this proposal.

## 6.4 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

### DISCUSSION

Council's Social Planning staff presented the *Better Together, Social Sustainability Strategy 2041* that is currently being developed.

The aims of the Strategy are the provision of:

- a long term social direction that builds upon existing services, resources skills, strengths and protective factors
- a framework for building skills and knowledge so the community can support each other and respond to social challenges through strong partnerships
- community strengthening to recover from unexpected social, political, environmental or financial impacts so the Northern Beaches is able to respond and bounce back.

The current development phase is an opportunity to gather new information from stakeholders with community consultation being launched in the coming weeks.

[Better Together - Northern Beaches Social Sustainability Strategy 2041](#) begins the conversation with the community and will identify priority focus areas.

The Strategy Vision "The Northern Beaches is a safe and resilient place to live, work and visit where there is a collective feeling of comfort and security" will be tested in the next couple of months and refined and built upon based on community feedback.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The draft strategic framework is very solid and thorough and the themes Safety, Connection and Inclusion were particularly liked.
- How will the Strategy come to fruition and actions implemented? Staff confirmed that Police will be included in co-design sessions planned for February 2021.
- Questioned if the Strategy should include need for CCTV as this may assist with future funding applications. Staff advised that tangible, operational issues, such as CCTV, are more appropriate in the Community Safety Plan.
- DA compliance building issues need to be addressed as they impact social sustainability, such as issues of safety and fire protection.

## 6.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2020-2025

### DISCUSSION

An update on the progress of the *Draft Community Safety Plan* was provided.

Data analysis including local Police, BOCSAR and health related data continues. Emerging issues that help inform the Plan are also being considered.

Outcomes have indicated:

- Northern Beaches is a very safe place with relatively low crime statistics
- Community perceptions of safety are high
- Results correlate with key focus groups and targeted local service consultation.

As circulated with the Agenda, the Plan's new structure was discussed and has been reframed to reflect common themes:

#### 1. Safe Places

- 1.1 Safe open spaces
- 1.2 Safe at night

#### 2. Safe Online

- 2.1 Safe for children & young people
- 2.2 Safe against scams, fraud & gambling
- 2.3 Safe use of language

#### 3. Safe at Home

- 3.1 Safe relationships

#### 4. Health & Wellbeing

- 4.1 Improved mental health responses
- 4.2 Reduced harms associated with alcohol and other drugs
- 4.3 Improved response to public health & safety issues.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- Action 1.1.1 - Include a specific action regarding CCTV.
- Action 1.2.7 - Public open spaces and liquor licences - NSLHD Health Promotion would like to be more connected in this space to gain better outcomes for young people.
  - CDAT is proactive in making submissions in regard to liquor licence applications.
  - Update was provided to the Committee on the recent changes to how retail premises and food premises can operate. Smaller venues can apply for a Complying Development Certificate via a different planning mechanism. Applications still come to Council and in conjunction with Police Licensing, are reviewed for community impact or compliance concerns to ensure all matters are addressed.
- Action 2.1 - Northern Beaches Child & Family Interagency could also be a partner. CatholicCare Family Support service touches on online safety with parents and could look at doing more with other family support services in the area.
- Action 2.3. -5 - Proactive parental education is also needed to raise awareness of online safety issues.



- Action 3.1.4 - Women's Domestic Violence and Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) capture a lot of data relating to this point.
- Action 3.1.6 – CatholicCare's Family and Youth services supports a lot of families in this space.
- Action 3.1.6 – [Primary Ethics](#) also does a lot of work in this area in schools.
- General comment that State and Federal mental health reform is required to make significant change. Also, lobbying the Attorney General to re-fund the Violence Against Women (VAW) Coordinator would be a positive outcome.

Committee members were encouraged to submit any further comments to Council.

In summary, the Community Safety Plan is broad to capture as much as possible. It is also the intention to develop and integrate a Crime Prevention Plan which will allow Council to apply for funding from the NSW Attorney General (Department of Communities & Justice).

The next steps;

- Council endorsement for the Draft Plan to go on public exhibition - early in 2021
- Submission reviews and reporting to Council for final adoption by June 2021.

Cr Bingham complimented staff on the Draft Plan.

## **6.6 MEETING DATES FOR 2021**

### **DISCUSSION**

The following 2021 meeting dates were accepted:

- 18 February
- 22 April
- 17 June
- 5 August
- 7 October
- 25 November.

It was noted that until further notice, meetings will be held online.

## **7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Bingham acknowledged the valuable work of the Community Safety Committee and thanked all Committee members for their commitment during 2020.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

| ITEM NO. | ACTION  | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER                    | DUE DATE    |
|----------|---|--|-------------|
| 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           | 18 Feb 2021 |
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*The meeting concluded at 9.45am*

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 10 pages numbered 1 to 10 of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020 and confirmed on 18 February 2021.