

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held in the online via TEAMS on

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee

held on Thursday 7 October 2021

online via TEAMS

Commencing at 8am - 10am

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Michael Regan	Mayor – Chairperson
Cr Candy Bingham	Deputy Mayor
Cr Sue Heins	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Cr Stuart Sprott	
Jason Falinski MP	Federal Member for Mackellar
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah represented by Bronwen Regan
Brad Hazzard MP	State Member for Wakehurst represented by Toby Williams
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly represented by Kim Preston-Hiney
Rob Stokes MP	State Member for Pittwater represented by Andrew Johnston
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Angela Whitby	Catholic Care
John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative
Stephen Pirovic	Community Representative
Michelle Erofeeff	Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
Trish Bramble	Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Tony Hilliger	Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches
Belinda Volkov	Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)

Council Officer Contacts

Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Will Wrathall	A/Manager Youth and Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator

Visitors

Cr Vincent De Luca	Attended as an observer
Dr Gary Jacobson	CEO, CCNB
Lynelle Hales	CEO, Sydney North Health Network (SNHN)
Vicki Blaskett	Parks and Recreation, Business Operations

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:

James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly
Melissa Palermo	NSLHD Health Promotion

The following members were not in attendance:

Jonathan O'Dea MP	State Member for Davidson
Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
Michelle Povah	Community Representative
Ray Mathieson	Community Representative
Christina Franze	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Drew Johnson	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Kamal Krishan	State Transit Authority Northern Region

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 5 AUGUST 2021

The Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 5 August 2021, 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

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ACTION UPDATE
6.2.1	A program of safety audits to be scheduled for priority areas.	Kath Young	Audits will recommence when Public Health Orders allow
6.2	Provide a briefing on the joint Council and RSPCA nuisance cats initiative	Azmeena Kelly	Completed at today's meeting
6.5.1	Sydney North Health Network and Community Northern Beaches to discuss opportunities to work together and provide an update on actions taken.	Lynelle Hales/ John Kelly	Committee updated at today's meeting
6.5.2	Sydney North Health Network to share generic vaccine information with the Committee	Lynelle Hales	Completed at today's meeting
6.6.1	Update Council's website with Women and Children First (formerly Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre)	Rob van den Blink	Completed
6.6.3	Share with Zali Steggall and Belinda Volkov the Men's Choice and Change links	Kath Young	Completed

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 SENIORS

Dr Gary Jacobson CEO CCNB provided a presentation on seniors in the Northern Beaches. The presentation will be circulated to the Committee.

[CCNB](#) is a local independent community services organisation that provides impartial information, advice and guidance to the community with the purpose to support people to navigate the social and care systems.

CCNB supports more than 2,000 people and their families at any one time, working with older people, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues, carers, young people and families.

The presentation looked at the impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns on seniors including:

- health (both mental and physical), especially for those with chronic health conditions who are reluctant to seek services
- community disconnection
- an observed increase in elder abuse during COVID-19 lockdowns
- a need for increased digital awareness in relation to scams and fraud.

Key drivers of safety for the elderly include access to clear and impartial information that enables older people to take action, supported navigation of social and care systems, access to good public services such as health care and public transport, positive mental health and community compassion.

It was noted that not all elderly residents have the tools to manage the negative consequences of the pandemic. Positive community contribution and service collaboration during pandemic have assisted. There is a need to ensure the interface between health and community services is built on to effectively support the community over the long term.

Dr Jacobson outlined CCNBs [Stay Well Stay Connected](#) campaign which has engaged and trained over 300 volunteers to support vulnerable members of the community during the pandemic. CCNB has also initiated: the [Belong Club](#) which provides a wide range of connection, education and social engagement opportunities for the community; a Community Capital Foundation to support small agencies; and has increased advocacy through a Community Council and an Elder Council.

Discussion

The process for referral to CCNB was discussed. CCNB has an open door policy and is happy to receive referrals through any communication pathway.

The connection between financial stress of young adults/carers and elder abuse was raised.

The Committee noted that a decrease in face to face service provision during lockdowns means it has been more difficult to detect elder abuse.

6.2 POLICE REPORT

Superintendent Sharkey provided an update on local police matters.

It was noted that crime has reduced in all crime categories over the last quarter.

Domestic violence

From July-September 2021 the number of domestic violence offences reported to police was lower than previous years however there was an increase of persons charged (up 6%). There was also an increase of 5% in the legal action rate for charges of Domestic Violence assault, compared to the last quarter. Police increased compliance checks for domestic violence offenders and welfare checks on their victims.

Online fraud

There has been a noticeable number of reports of online fraud involving direct purchasing or telephone contact and the involvement of interstate and international offenders was noted.

Police have published safety tips for the community on Police [social media](#) and [website](#).

It is recommended that the community not give personal details to people not known to them. The community should be wary of websites that ask for the direct transfer of funds and those who do not accept PayPal.

Unlocked homes and cars

The community is advised to lock houses and cars, secure valuables and not leave valuable items in cars.

Reported incidents of Steal Motor Vehicle and Break and Enter have decreased but remain a regular occurrence across the Northern Beaches. Police have arrested and charged an increased number of Break and Enter offenders, with the Legal Action Rate having increased by 10%.

COVID-19

The community should consult the NSW Health website for official advice on COVID updates and [Public Health Order restrictions](#).

Police continue to work closely with Council on Public Health Order compliance and to develop and implement local solutions to identified issues. Beachfront patrols are being conducted, mostly in Manly and Dee Why.

Police have been supporting businesses to set up check-in processes and have been conducting business inspections of retail/hospitality venues and using Public Health Orders to enforce wearing masks and use of QR codes.

Officers are conducting welfare checks on COVID-19 positive cases and have increased Apprehended Violence Order compliance checks.

Emergency operations

Police have conducted multiple rescue operations recently which is resource and time intensive and impacts police response times. A small number of evacuations, mostly in Manly, were responded to during recent earth tremors associated with the Victorian earthquake.

Police are undertaking ongoing bushfire planning with the Rural Fire Service and Council. The COVID-19 Summer Safe Plan is also being reviewed and will evolve to reflect any future changes to NSW Public Health Orders.

Police have been out interacting with and supporting the community, as well as enforcing Public Health Orders. Street offence detections (i.e. move along orders) are high for the July-September quarter (not including COVID-19 actions).

Discussion

The Mayor thanked Police for their services, noting they have been very visible and well received.

6.3 COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Executive Manager Environmental Compliance gave a presentation on compliance matters. The presentation, which includes statistics, will be circulated to the Committee.

Matters raised included statistics on dog attacks, the management of companion animals and Ranger Patrols.

Keeping Cats Safe at Home

Northern Beaches Council is one of 10 Councils working with the RSPCA on the 'Keeping Cats Safe at Home' program over the next 3-4 years. This is a behaviour change program to encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce the impact of domestic cats on wildlife. The RSPCA will provide funding to participating councils for the implementation of this program and Northern Beaches Council will make a \$10,000 contribution.

The RSPCA is currently seeking input from the community via a [survey](#) on their website.

Rangers

Council Rangers are continuing to support NSW Police in monitoring public spaces and popular places within the LGA to discourage public gatherings and to ensure social distancing is being maintained.

Nightly Ranger patrols have resumed following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Discussion:

Ranger patrols of Manly were discussed. It was confirmed that Rangers and Police have been conducting regular physical patrols in Manly and throughout the peninsula, particularly over the weekends and mornings. Rosters are adjusted in response to any overcrowding issues and changes in community activities.

It was requested that the next report to the Committee include longitudinal data and be presented in a line graph so the Committee can see the trends over time.

Anecdotal reports of an increase in the detection of unregistered dogs were raised. The Committee was advised that when Council becomes involved with a dog it is scanned and the majority of the time they are registered. The Northern Beaches has a very high rate of registration and Council is working with vets to ensure people know their dogs need to be registered.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.3	The next Compliance Report to the Committee include longitudinal data and be presented in a line graph.	Azmeena Kelly	18 November 2021

6.4 ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AREAS

Vicki Blaskett, Business Operations, Parks and Recreation gave a presentation on Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs). The presentation will be circulated to the Committee.

The Committee was advised that Council is about to start a full review of APAs. The Committee was provided with a briefing on how APAs are established, the location of [current APAs](#) in the LGA, how they differ from Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ), and how they operate.

Council Officers will be meeting with Police to discuss APAs throughout the LGA and to develop a consistent approach across the Northern Beaches. It is intended to present a report to Council in early 2022 seeking to proceed to public exhibition and seek community feedback.

6.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATOR UPDATE

The Committee received an update from the Community Safety Coordinator.

Community Safety Plan

The Community Safety Plan was endorsed at the September Council meeting. Council is already active under the Plan and will work to achieve Year 1 actions. A monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed.

Alcohol Free Zones

Stage 1 of Council's review of Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) was completed in July 2021 at which time the existing AFZs in Belrose, Brookvale, Cromer, Collaroy, Forestville and Narrabeen were re-established for a period of up to 4 years.

Stage 2 of the review is currently in process and addresses the areas of Avalon, Church Point, Dee Why, Freshwater, Mona Vale Newport and Palm Beach which are all due to expire on 9 Dec 2021. A report will be submitted to the October Council meeting.

In summary, community sentiment has been mixed across all AFZs:

- Community feedback in favour of the proposals noted that AFZs address alcohol related antisocial behaviour and offer increased feeling of safety.
- From those not supporting the proposals there was strong feedback that respondents are not receptive to having their social interactions limited, particularly in light of recent COVID-19 restrictions.
- Feedback was received from some residents on the impact of high density housing and a desire for socialising in public spaces.

Stage 3 (Manly) will be conducted in early 2022. Requests that were received for extensions to boundaries during Stages 1 and 2 will be reviewed with Police and reported to Council. It is intended that any supported extensions will be included in the Stage 3 public exhibition period.

Committee Survey

As the Committee is coming to the end of term a survey of Committee members will be conducted. The survey which will be distributed in coming weeks will reflect against the Terms of Reference and on the achievements of the current term. Responses will be anonymous.

Discussion

Requests that have been received for the establishment of new AFZs during the AFZ review process will also be discussed with Police and included in the report to Council if appropriate.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5	Survey to be distributed to Committee members for completion and discussion of results at next meeting.	Kath Young	ASAP

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Vaccination update

Lynelle Hales provided a Sydney North Health Network (SNHN) Emergency Operations update to the Committee. The presentation will be circulated to the Committee.

Vaccination rates in the Northern Beaches have increased markedly since the last report with 92.5% of residents now having received their first dose and 76.3% being fully vaccinated. It is anticipated that the Northern Beaches will reach 80% next week. SNHN is currently supporting vulnerable members of the community with the provision of vaccinations through GPs, popup clinics and Streetside Medics Clinics.

John Kelly thanked SNHN and staff for conducting a popup clinic at CNB. The clinic vaccinated 83 people with a first dose and scheduled a clinic for second doses. The clinic assisted a number of young people under 18 with many from the local Tibetan community.

Belinda Volkov thanked SNHN for the guidance provided to young people with parents who are anti-vaccination and noted the impact of vaccination status on return to face to face support services. SNHN advised they are also looking at supports/[resources](#) for the community about living with COVID and how to keep safe and noted the older population is also very anxious. SNHN psychologists are providing webinars about looking after yourself.

- The Committee noted Ms Volkov's concerns regarding a lack of frontline mental health staff and the sustainability of the sector. A need for backup for frontline Mental Health workers, debriefing of front line staff, and greater reform rather than short term responses to crises were raised. The pressure on services and frontline workers and that a lack of information, obstacles to information sharing, and under-resourcing compounding stress was discussed.
- Discussed the COVID-19 related issues at Manly Waves temporary accommodation.
- Superintendent Sharkey congratulated Ben Fallowfield who has been formally appointed the Local Emergency Management Officer for Council, and recognised his hard work to date.
- The next meeting has been rescheduled to 18 November 2021 due to the Council elections and it is hoped the Committee can return to a face-to-face meeting. Further advice will be forwarded to Committee members on the location of the meeting closer to the date.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.3	The next Compliance Report to the Committee include longitudinal data and be presented in a line graph.	Azmeena Kelly	18 November 2021
6.5	Survey to be distributed to Committee members for completion and discussion of results at next meeting.	Kath Young	ASAP
7.0	Committee members to note the next meeting has been rescheduled.	All Committee members	18 November 2021

The meeting concluded at 9.35am.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 18 November 2021