

Minutes

Affordable Housing Community Committee

Held on 30 April 2014, commenced 6.15pm.
At the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre

1. Attendance & apologies

Attendance

Andrew McAnulty (Chair)
Councillor Harrison (from 6.30pm)
Warren Welsh
Andrew Ellery
Tom Hazell
Linda Coskerie
Mark Shanahan (Minutes)
Adrian Nixon
Luke Richmond

Apologies

Councillor Regan
Councillor Daley
Councillor Moskal
Jacqui North

Guest Presenter

Geoffrey Evans -Younger Veterans advisor
RSL LifeCare

2 Introductions

Introductions were done.

2.1 Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

2.2 Confirmation of Minutes

No previous minutes

2.3 Business arising / Action items

No previous action items

3.1 Homes for Heroes Presentation & Discussion: Geoffrey Evans – RSL LifeCare “Homes for Heroes” program.

Mr Evans gave a detailed account of the “Homes for Heroes” (HfH) program which he initiated after returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the points he made include:

- Many vets experience chronic mental health, addiction and PTSD issues and struggle to establish careers after discharging from service.
- It can take Veterans Affairs 2 years to process vets’ claims. In the meantime, they have no financial support. Some vets do not even make claims.

- Defence Housing Authority only provides accommodation for serving personnel.
- 2009 report “Vets at Risk” identified 3,000 homeless vets (not in stable, secure, safe accommodation – many couch surfing, living in cars, living rough).
- There are 70,000 contemporary vets (from 1990) compared to 55,000 Vietnam vets, suggesting this figure will rise. Anecdotal evidence suggests it is already significantly higher.
- DVA study suggests that grandchildren of vets still experiencing effects from service. Need to stop effects at first generation.
- HfH provides transitional accommodation until vets can restore their sense of purpose (although some are expected to require long term accommodation and support).
- Homes for Heroes has taken 50 vets off the streets. Facility at Narrabeen accommodates 30 vets but no formal exit strategy is in place.
- Arrangement with St John of God, Richmond to provide rehabilitation before entering HfH and for RSL to provide social services. Peer support works well at start but needs to be integrated into local community.
- HfH has been fundraising since November 2014. Looking to initiate a scalable model utilising community housing, therapy providers and RSL social services.
- HfH need to build public awareness.

Open discussion by Committee — Considered important to support vets in their local community; crowd funding opportunities; collective model; example of Forty Winks supplying furniture through informal network contact; building awareness & support through sharing real-life stories; extension of HfH model to other groups in housing need such as transitional housing and key workers.

The Chair thanked Mr Evans and noted that Link Housing were open to offering access to housing for HfH and would be willing to lobby other community housing providers to do likewise.

Action item:

The Chair to work with Mr Evans to produce summary of HfH and a potential press release and referral to Council’s Connected Environment Strategic Reference Group.

4.1 Recap on Scope, Terms of Reference and Objectives of the Committee

Mark Shanahan spoke about the paper he circulated during the week through the Chair. The paper is a marked-up copy of the Housing Affordability in Warringah – Community Engagement Report issued by Council in May 2014. The Report identifies a wide range of actions that were proposed in the community forums.

Mark suggested that as the forums led to the formation of this Committee, the Report is a logical starting place to start in identifying actions that the Committee may want to initiate. The mark-ups identify items that Mark suggested had potential to make an impact within the timeframe of the Committee.

Discussion: The Chair noted that the actions identified by Mark are primarily technical/planning items and fit within a spectrum of broad areas in which the Committee may seek to be involved.

Following discussion the following heading areas within this spectrum were highlighted

- Technical / planning issues
- Housing need / categories of impacted groups (ie. Police; Youth; Elderly; Retail worker etc)
- Information required
- Opportunities / solutions
- Marketing/promotion, education, advocacy
- Other issues

- Potential expert speakers who may be approached to address Committee – eg, Chris Johnson Urban Taskforce; John Daley from Grattan Institute; Tim Williams Committee for Sydney; Local senior Police official.

Action items:

Chair to produce a template for recording the range of areas in which the Committee could be involved.

Mark Shanahan to circulate the list of items he marked up in the Community Engagement Report.

4.2 Frequency of meeting

Agreed every 2 months (28/05/15, 30/07/15, 24/09/15, 05/11/15) commencing at 6:30pm

4.3 Options for Accessing and Sharing Reports / Information:

- Council to explore options

5. Items for Next Meeting

5.1 Workshop Ideas / Priorities for Future Discussion at the Committee

Following discussion the Committee considered that the next meeting should focus on discussion and evaluation relating to the affordable housing needs and impact relating to the new Northern Beaches hospital.

Need to identify groups in housing need – key workers, seniors, youth; obtain income-by-occupation data from ABS; the 25% of Warringah's low-moderate income earners in housing stress; benefit to higher income groups of affordable housing.

Action Item:

Seek report / high level presentation from Council staff at next Committee meeting on status of planning for increased resident and worker population around the new hospital, opportunity for affordable housing, staff accommodation etc

6. Other business

The Chair thanked the Committee for a very engaging first meeting.

7. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting is to held on Thursday 28th May 2015 commencing at 6:30pm. at the Centre

Summary of Actions of Meeting

Committee Actions

Item No	Committee Action	Actioning Member
3.1	The Chair to work with Mr Evans to produce summary of HfH (for potential press release) and referral to Council's Connected Environment Strategic Reference Group.	Andrew McAnulty
4.1	Chair to produce a template for recording the range of areas in which the Committee could be involved.	Andrew McAnulty
4.1	Mark Shanahan to circulate the list of items he marked up in the Community Engagement Report.	Mark Shanahan

5.1	Seek report / high level presentation from Council staff at next Committee meeting on status of planning for increased resident and worker population around the new hospital, opportunity for affordable housing, staff accommodation etc	Andrew McNulty referral to Council Planning / Strategy Team
-----	--	--

Council Action –Customer Request

Actions to report damage or minor facility repairs, to Council facilities these should be assigned to either the Chairperson/Secretary to report to Council via council@warringah.nsw.gov.au or by calling 9942 2111. A customer request number will be given and can be followed up for a progress report.

Item No	Council Action – Customer Request	Actioning Member

Council Action – Councillor Request

Actions that are requests for Council staff to provide information or an update on a subject where the information is currently available within Council. This action should be assigned to a Councillor present at the meeting to submit a Councillor Request and a response will be provided to the Councillor within 10 days. If the information is not available in Council currently, the Councillor will be advised directly and this may require a Notice of Motion to be submitted (see below action)

Item No	Council Action – Councillor Request	Actioning Councillor

Council Action – Notice of Motion

Actions that are requests for Council staff to undertake research or compile a report. This would be information not currently within Council and would require staff resources to be committed. A Notice of Motion must be raised by a Councillor and dealt with at the next Council Meeting.

Item No	Council Action – Notice of Motion	Actioning Councillor

Recommendation to SRG

Minutes of Community Committees are circulated to SRG members and entered onto the agenda for the next meeting for noting. However if you want the SRG to consider a particular issue please detail it below and it will be discussed by the SRG members at their next meeting. If the recommendation is supported by the SRG it will be submitted as a recommendation to Council.

Item No	Recommendation to SRG	Appropriate SRG
	The Chair to work with Mr Evans to produce summary of HfH (for potential press release) and referral to Council's A Connected Environment Strategic Reference Group.	Connected Environment

Meeting Closed at 8.00pm