

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held in Manly Town Hall on

**THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

## Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee

held on Thursday 15 February 2024 in Manly Town Hall, 9.00am

### ATTENDANCE:

#### Committee Members

Cr Sue Heins	Curl Curl Ward – Mayor - Chair
Cr Candy Bingham	Manly Ward
Cr Ruth Robins	Narrabeen Ward
Cr Jose Menano-Pires	Frenchs Forest Ward
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Aileen Ogilvie	Northern Beaches Community Drug Action Team
Narelle Hand	Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Interagency
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Nikki Thompson	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency
Kevin Kingsbeer	Northern Sydney Housing and Homelessness Interagency
Melissa Palermo	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Craig Parsons	Northern Sydney Primary Health Network
Libby Paulsen	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Mary Brearton	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Kylie Ferguson	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Meredith Robinson	Representing Dr Sophie Scamps, Federal Member for Mackellar
Nicola Penn	Representing Zali Steggall OAM MP, Federal Member for Warringah
Kim Preston-Hiney	Representing James Griffin MP, State Member for Manly
Gypsy Bryant	Representing Michael Regan, MP State Member for Wakehurst

#### Council Officer Contacts

Scott Phillips	Chief Executive Officer
David Kerr	Director Community and Belonging
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Will Wrathall	Manager Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer Community Development

#### Visitors

Alex Blair	Team Leader Community Development
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## 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

The following representatives and guests were welcomed to the Committee meeting:

Meredith Robinson, Nikki Thompson and Alex Blair.

Apologies were received from:

Rory Amon	State Member for Pittwater
Cr Michael Gencher	Pittwater Ward
Antoin Cullen	Northern Beaches Mental Health Interagency
Lucy Brand	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Sam King	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency
Michele Bell	Northern Sydney Community Network
Wendy Finianos	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward

The following member was not in attendance:

Matt Cross MP	State Member for Davidson
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## 3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest and one non-pecuniary conflict of interest:

Nicola Penn	Item 7.0 Manly Waves Hotel
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## 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD 16 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held 16 November 2023, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved Cr Ruth Robins, Seconded Aileen Ogilvie

## 5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

### 5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

Progress against the actions of the 16 November 2023 meeting, as included in the Agenda, were noted by the Committee.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	STATUS
2.0	Recruitment for community representative for Pittwater Ward to be undertaken.	Kath Young	Completed
6.1	Discussion be undertaken with schools' network regarding opportunities to share e-bike education with the community.	David Kerr	Completed
6.3	Committee members consider sharing information with their networks on emergency preparedness.	Committee members	Completed
6.6.1	Committee members consider sharing information with their networks on the YourGround NSW Project and Council's Financial Hardship webpage.	Committee members	Completed
6.6.2	Committee members to share Sexual Assault Working Group printed resources with local services staff for trialling.	Committee members	Completed
7.1	Advise Council's Traffic Engineers of Committee member concerns for road safety in Collaroy and Collaroy Plateau.	Kath Young	Completed

## DISCUSSION

Item 2.0: Kylie Ferguson was welcomed as the Community Representative – Pittwater Ward.

Item 6.1: The issue of e-bikes has been raised in two meetings with Department of Education representatives. Local schools, in conjunction with Council's Road Safety Team, are conducting bicycle safety awareness and education campaigns with particular emphasis on passengers and the importance of helmets. E-bikes are primarily pedalled by the rider, however a power assist can legally propel the bike to a speed of 25 km/h. Legality of e-bike modifications was discussed.

Superintendent Sharkey advised that e-bike irregularities and legislation has been raised with NSW Members of Parliament. Refer to Transport NSW for more information:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/bicycle-riders/petrol-powered-bicycles.html>

Items 6.3, 6.6.1 and 6.6.2: Committee members were thanked for their sharing of information raised in the November 2023 meeting.

Item 7.1: Pittwater Road, Collaroy is under the control and management of [Transport for NSW](#). As this area falls within the Wakehurst electorate the matter has been referred to the Member for Wakehurst for consideration of raising this matter with the Minister for Transport on behalf of the Committee.

With regard to Collaroy Plateau, Council is currently installing road safety measures on some streets in the Collaroy Plateau area with an application for funding for further traffic measures currently being prepared.

## 6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 POLICE REPORT - SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK SHARKEY

Superintendent Patrick Sharkey provided an update on Northern Beaches Police Area Command matters. It was requested the Committee hold in confidence discussion of Police matters which do not appear in these minutes.

Northern Beaches LGA Recorded Crime Statistics (October 2018 – September 2023) were noted.

Northern Beaches Police Area Command matters include:

- All major crime statistics remain below pre-pandemic levels
- Legal action, charge and juvenile diversion rates remain high, and compare well to like Commands
- Theft from retail stores, particularly from bottle shops, is experiencing an upward crime trend. Police are working with the Northern Beaches Liquor Accord to address stock protection measures and improve theft reporting.
- Break and Enter residential properties on decline. There has been a small upward trend in business premises being broken into for quick cash, especially sports clubs/surf clubs
- Domestic violence related assault increased this quarter which indicates an increase in reporting, however rates are still below pre-pandemic levels
- Policing of 2023 New Year's Eve was largely uneventful
- Incidents on Australia Day resulted in 8 persons being arrested, the majority being locals.

### DISCUSSION

- Recent incidents in Manly discussed.
- High rates of alcohol consumption on the Northern Beaches was discussed.
- Cybercrime currently stable and is included in the fraud statistics. This is an all pervasive issue and can happen to anyone. No demographic is targeted more than others however seniors are more vulnerable.
- Intervention by Council's Environmental Officers and NSW Health in managing vape sales was discussed. Council Rangers continue to patrol retail premises at Collaroy Plateau in response to concerns from the local community about unauthorised signage.

### 6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Executive Manager Environmental Compliance provided an overview and presentation on compliance and regulatory statistics in relation to:

- Companion Animal Management:
  - Statistics on reported dog attacks, categories, locations and compliance action
  - Proactive education campaigns held at Manly and Great Mackerel beaches during January 2024 were well received
  - High visibility and coordinated morning patrols targeting dogs on beaches occurred during November-January as well as actions relating to unregistered and unidentified dogs.
- Parking enforcement:
  - 134 patrols of schools zones undertaken to address traffic concerns.
- Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APA) nightly patrols:
  - Manly area patrols continued over the summer
  - Noted significantly diminished activity compared to recent years.
- Council is co-hosting a Retail Information Session later this year with NSW Food Authority regarding food safety.
- Arbovirus (mosquito) surveillance program has recommenced:
  - Surveillance will continue through to the end of April 2024
  - To date low mosquito numbers recorded.

## DISCUSSION

Superintendent Sharkey extended a thank you to Council Rangers who supported Police with their e-bike safety awareness and education campaign.

### 6.3 LGBTQIA+ WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Council's Community Safety Plan (the Plan) adopted in September 2021 identified an action relating to the local LGBTQIA+ community, to:

*Develop a working group to explore safety issues relating to LGBTQIA+ community, with a focus on younger people.*

The Northern Beaches LGBTQIA+ Working Group (the Group) were formed in April 2023 and have worked towards defining the Group's purpose, outcomes and Terms of Reference.

Representatives from the Group updated the Committee on its progress with key issues and identified primary issues of concern as:

1. Community acceptance and awareness
2. Access to tailored information and healthcare
3. Education and workplace challenges.

The Committee heard that the local absence of queer voices has led to the departure of some community members in favour of the stronger LGBTQIA+ community in the Inner West.

To provide advice and input into a proposed internal operational plan, Committee members worked in small groups to identify potential ideas for the progression of actions and strategies identified by the Working Group under Outcome Area 3: 'LGBTQIA+ community feel increasingly safe and supported'.

Next steps for the Group include:

- Engaging with external stakeholders, including young people, to further test and refine actions
- Finalise actions and consider promotion before implementation, monitoring and review.

The Committee discussed opportunities for inclusion and consultation.

### 6.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN ACTIONS UPDATE

The Community Safety Coordinator provided a mid-term report to the Committee on progress in implementing Council's Community Safety Plan 2021-2026 (the Plan).

While the pandemic impacted the early implementation of some actions due to shifts in service priorities and capacity, early attention was applied to other actions. The original timeframes included in the Plan were impacted however at this stage (Year 3 of the 5 year Plan), implementation of the Plan is progressing well.

The status of all actions was shared and information provided on matters not previously reported to the Committee, including:

- Council is continuing to consult with the Office of the 24 hour Economy Commissioner in the development of our night-time economy (NTE) across the LGA. They have recently launched a toolkit to support Councils to progress their NTE and held masterclasses for key staff to familiarise them with the toolkit. Council is working with Police and local businesses in the development of areas which have received grants under the Uptown project e.g. Brookvale Arts District.

- Assessment of CCTV has evolved with the establishment of a CCTV Oversight Committee and the development of draft CCTV policy and process. In terms of community safety related requests for CCTV, these move through a series of consultation and assessment processes and consider a range of strategies to impact antisocial behaviour at problem locations, progressing to the Committee for consideration where appropriate.
- Council is implementing actions under the [Community Centres Strategy](#), to ensure community centres are meeting community needs and are accessible, flexible and functional shared spaces. Recent technological improvements include an upgrade to the online bookings portal supported by virtual tours of the spaces, and the rollout of Wi-Fi and projectors to community centres.

Centre upgrades and improvements are being implemented to address the needs of the community, including:

- Completion of a new accessible bathroom and accessible car park and walkways at North Curl Curl Community Centre and surrounding reserve (completed in 2022)
- Playground upgrade at Harbord Literary Institute in January 2024 which will benefit the Harbord Community Kindergarten 5 days per week and children's birthday parties
- Nelson Heather Centre closed on 31 January 2024 and will soon be demolished to make way for the new Warriewood Community Centre (building due to commence in April 2024).
- Council staff have engaged with local businesses and provided an extensive range of initiatives to support them through the pandemic and through the changed business environment that has followed lockdowns.
- In addition to the Scams and Fraud Awareness Webinar for seniors conducted by Police and Council, Libraries have been implementing a digital literacy program to build community awareness and confidence in the areas of online safety, privacy, and to uplift skills with digital technologies. Some examples include:
  - Weekly one-on-one [technology help sessions](#) to assist people to use equipment (phones, tablets, laptops), applications or online portals.
  - Tech help drop-in sessions for events like the Seniors Festival, Privacy Awareness Week, Get Online Week and Scam Awareness Week.
  - Digital support sessions targeting the use of government services, apps and websites as well as scam awareness delivered by Services NSW and Services Australia. The Services Australia Series has sessions delivered in languages other than English.
  - In 2023 the Police delivered Cyber Safety talks at each Library branch.
- The Northern Beaches Suicide Response Steering Group partnered with the [Everymind Mindframe Team](#) and delivered 4 Mindframe training sessions for community members and local media between 2020 and 2023. This training gives participants the confidence to use appropriate language online when creating a post, sharing someone else's post, or responding to someone who might be experiencing suicidal thoughts.
- The [It Takes a Village Program](#) was initiated in Year 1 (2021/22) and continues to rise in popularity. The program encourages community members to build stronger bonds with neighbours and to get involved in their community. To date 70 Meet Your Neighbour events have been held across the LGA, and community members are accessing the Meet Your Neighbour Challenge and Quiz.
- Council's Dementia Friendly Organisation Plan is currently with Dementia Australia for endorsement and we are currently supporting the Northern Beaches Dementia Alliance as they develop a revised Dementia Friendly Community Plan.
- Council developed a [Community Wellbeing Framework](#) in 2022 to measure and monitor the holistic wellbeing of the community. This document is available on our website along with the 2022/23 baseline report. The Framework is organised around four domains that represent the different aspects of wellbeing for the community - Health, Liveability, Participation and Connection. Outcomes and indicators provide a holistic overview of wellbeing for the Northern

Beaches that will measure change over time.

Actions to be initiated over the next 2 years were identified.

It was noted that improvements have been made to community safety messaging to support communication of initiatives under the Community Safety Plan and the work being done by the Committee.

## DISCUSSION

PowerPoint slides will be shared with the Committee, along with the Minutes.

Business crime prevention was discussed. The Committee was advised that Police follow up with businesses affected by theft and provide resources.

[Forestville Library 24/7](#) operates 24 hours, 7 days a week for ages 16 years and above after completing an induction. Council is currently reviewing options to extend this service to a second site.

## 6.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Community safety matters, as included in the Agenda, were noted by the Committee.

- The Community Safety Update Summer 2023 was circulated with the Committee Meeting Minutes of 16 November 2023 and readership suggests community messaging is reaching a wider audience. A second edition is currently being compiled for distribution to the Committee with the Minutes of this meeting. Committee members are encouraged to share the Updates with their professional and community networks.
- A Police/Council Operational meeting was held on 8 February 2024. Arising issues and locations of concern were highlighted in the presentation. A proposal for CCTV at Walter Gors Park, Dee Why, is being considered.
- The Sexual Assault Working Group met on 1 February 2024. A professional development webinar "Supporting victims and survivors of sexual assault" for service providers will be hosted on 21 February 2024.

A sexual assault information hub can now be accessed via Council's website

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/community/safety-and-wellbeing/sexual-assault>

- The P&C Federation NSW is holding a Vaping webinar on 22 February 2024. A link will be forwarded to Committee members to the invitation, which encourage sharing amongst networks.
- The Suicide Prevention Working Group met on 15 November 2023:
  - The Northern Sydney Working Group is progressing its governance as a Collaborative
  - The Northern Beaches Working Group meets twice a year with Dr David Gordon, clinical lead specialising in child & adolescent and addiction psychiatry with the Northern Sydney Local Health District, presenting the new ACACIA Model of Care (Alcohol other drugs Consultation, Assessment, Care & Intervention for Adolescents).
  - Lifeline Northern Beaches has developed a Northern Beaches Men's Group Directory as well as future resources and forum.
  - The Northern Sydney Local Health District recently established a process to share suicide monitoring data with partner organisations. It was noted that the coordinator of this data could be invited to a future Committee meeting.



ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5	Share link to the P&C Federation NSW webinar on vaping	Kath Young	ASAP

## 7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Manly Waves Hotel was discussed. Police have worked closely Bridge Housing and have experienced a reduction of calls to the location in the last two months.

In response to increased demand, local housing service providers, including Bridge Housing, are working towards alternative housing options including those with wraparound support services. It was noted that there has been a 30% increase in homelessness over the last 2 years and local housing service providers have a waitlist, with 30 people currently registered including families and elderly.

Local temporary accommodation options and arrangements were discussed.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
7.0	Invite Bridge Housing to a future Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting	Kath Young	TO BE DETERMINED

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5	Share link to the P&C Federation NSW webinar on vaping	Kath Young	ASAP
7.0	Invite Bridge Housing to a future Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting	Kath Young	TO BE DETERMINED

*The meeting concluded at 11.03am*

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 9 pages  
numbered 1 to 9 of the Community Safety Advisory Committee  
held on Thursday 15 February 2024 and confirmed on Thursday 16 May 2024