

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at 6pm in Committee Rooms, Council Administration Building, Merrylands.

1. Open of Meeting

Dr John Brodie welcomed all members to the Community Safety Committee of Cumberland Council.

2. Record of Attendance, Introductions and Apologies

Attendance List:

Clr Ola Hamed	Councillor and Committee Member
Clr Suman Saha	Councillor and Committee Member
Dr John Brodie	Committee Member (Chairperson)
Joanne Steinwede	Committee Member
Kevin Horne	Committee Member
Margaret Chapman	Committee Member
Pam Colman	Committee Member
Raj Garg	Committee Member
Robert French	Committee Member

Council Staff in Attendance:

Marion Winkler	Resource Recovery Engagement Officer
Merryn Howell	Acting Group Manager, Community and Culture
Teresa Russo	Crime Prevention Officer

Apologies:

Lilly Verlickovich	Committee Member
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3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 December 2018, were passed as a true and accurate record. Moved by Dr John Brodie and seconded by Robert French.

ITEMS CONSIDERED AND DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE:

5. Illegal Dumping Update (CSCPP Action 6.1/9.3)

A presentation was provided on Council's Waste Strategy, waste services and initiatives to address illegal dumping.

Council provides the following initiatives to increase asbestos awareness and removal:

- Optional waste services are available to all residents, in addition to bin collections. These includes free asbestos collections of small amounts (maximum 10 square meters) of loose, non-friable asbestos that have been laying dormant on residential properties. Residents can find out more and book a free asbestos collection by calling council on 8757 9000.
- During Asbestos Awareness Month (November) Council runs free information sessions and offers house inspections to help raise awareness about asbestos around the house and safety issues.

- Extensive information about asbestos, FAQs, and videos in five community languages (Arabic, Farsi, Hindi, simplified Chinese and Tamil) can be found under the “Asbestos Answers” hotlink from the Cumberland Council webpage here.

Council is undertaking a number of initiatives to address illegal dumping, including the following:

- Council staff are working to manage illegal dumping behaviour through education and regulation.
- Regulation is applied by Council’s Regulatory Officers and the Western Sydney RID Squad Officer.
- Fines are advertised on illegally dumped materials stickers, A-frames, banners and bus shelter posters (\$4,000 for individuals; \$8,000 for businesses).
- Marketing in newspapers, on hotspot street banners, A-frames, bus wraps and bus shelters promote the free Clean Up Service over illegal dumping.
- An education-based “Spring Blitz” Marketing Campaign was held in July to September 2018 targeting known hotspots in Guildford, Girraween, Berala, Wentworthville and Lidcombe. Monitoring data showed less dumping and more booked Council Clean Up Services in some targeted areas, suggesting education-based campaigns can have an impact. Translated information is included on printed materials.
- Council is now partnering with the EPA using \$8,000 of illegal dumping grant funding to further test education-based versus regulation approaches. A more involved face-to-face (door knock) approach will be tested. Known hotspots in Auburn and Lidcombe are being targeted for the 18 week trial. The results of the trial will then be applied to other hotspots in the LGA.
- Lane Street and Station Street, Wentworthville have a tailored approach planned for 2018. Lane Street has received targeted regulation in the past, but the impact was not as noticeable as for other areas. Therefore, a new approach will be applied, based on the most effective intervention revealed from the EPA trial. Five community groups will be offered a Council Waste Workshop over coming months, and Council Clean Up will be promoted through the Wentworthville Community Hub. Together, these efforts aim to promote positive waste management behaviour and mitigate further dumping.
- Council has also commenced a bi-lingual waste education campaign as part of the delivery of Council’s ‘Discover Cumberland’ community education program. The program is delivered by bi-lingual educators who can speak 12 community languages: Arabic, Korean, Mandarin, Persian, Dari, Farsi, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi and Somali. Through the program residents and school students participate in tailored interactive workshops to find out about their local Council services including waste education.

Feedback from Committee:

- Many issues with illegal dumping arise from short term tenancies - there is a need for a clause to be added to residential tenancy agreements regarding the liability of tenants.
- Regular kerb side clean ups seem to be more effective than the pre-booked service.

6. Business Arising

- Feedback was sought on the new template used for the Merrylands Town Centre Safety Audit.
- Further work needs to be undertaken to track progress against each of the 356 actions arising from the 6 safety audits undertaken to date. This includes pulling out the safety from the access-related items, to focus only on the safety items.
- The police have been monitoring the Kingsway public toilets in the Wentworthville Town Centre and reported no incidents.

- Discussion was made on the proposed change of name of the Committee to the 'Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee' to align with the name of the *Cumberland Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2018 - 2022*.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 6.1 Council to send out the two versions of the safety audit template for feedback from Committee members.
- 6.2 The Committee recommends that the name of the Committee be changed to the 'Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee' and that the Terms of Reference be amended accordingly.

7. Update on Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (CSCPP) Projects

An update was provided on key safety projects currently underway:

[CSCPP Action 9.3]: Town Centre Graffiti Removal Pilot

Council has started rolling out its Business Graffiti Removal Pilot Project which provides all businesses who are the victims of vandalism, with a graffiti removal kit free of charge. The kit contains materials required to remove graffiti from their own shop fronts if their property is defaced and aims to enable business owners to remove graffiti as soon as they are targeted which in turn will minimise continued graffiti incidents. The pilot has been rolled out in town centres where safety audits have been completed in Pendle Hill, Guildford and Wentworthville and will be rolled out in Granville and Merrylands.

[CSCPP Action 5.7]: Domestic and Family Violence Initiatives

During the 16 Days of Activism, Council delivered or supported a number of initiatives:

- Four internal information sessions were delivered to Council staff to raise awareness of Cumberland Council's Domestic and Family Violence Policy. Over 300 staff members across the organisation attended the four sessions delivered by a local survivor and DV advocate and Police, with local resources distributed. Council will continue to implement initiatives and training to build on this session to increase awareness and support internally across the organisation.
- Council's website was updated to include information about DFV and who to contact: cumberland.nsw.gov.au/council/my-community/domestic-violence-crime.
- A 'Raising Strong Families: Day No to DV' March, organised by the Parramatta Cumberland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, was held in Granville Park. There was a low turn out at the event and the impact on broader community in terms of raising awareness was not clear. Evaluation of the event by the planning committee that a targeted public awareness campaign, rather than a march, would be more effective for 2019.
- Council rolled out a 'Dunny Door' campaign which installed stickers promoting the NSW Rape Crisis line on the back of all public toilets, library and community centres across Cumberland.
- Two DFV Training sessions were delivered for community leaders and workers to increase awareness and knowledge of how to recognise and respond appropriately was well received.

[CSCPP Actions 1.1 & 2.1]: Personal Safety Community Education

Living Safely in Cumberland Personal Safety Workshops - Council received a grant from the NSW Attorney General (\$75,000) for the design and delivery of interactive bi-lingual community safety education programs that aim to:

- Raise awareness and educate community members on how to be safe
- Encourage reporting of issues to Police

- Forty workshops will be delivered (in English and community languages) targeting different demographic groups
- Six bi-lingual community educators (12 languages), Crime Prevention Officer and 2 Police Area Commands.

Feedback from Committee:

- Members are interested in being involved in attending the pilot programs and providing feedback.

[CSCPP Actions 1, 3 and 4]: Personal Safety Factsheets

Personal factsheets with key information about staying safe on key crimes including fraud, motor vehicle theft and home safety are available in a range of community languages from the NSW Police website www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/safe_and_secure/resources_-_fact_sheets_and_videos. A total of 300 packs have been distributed to seniors across the LGA during Seniors Festival.

[CSCPP Action 4.2]: Neighbour Day - 31 March 2019

Neighbour Day is an initiative led by Relationships Australia which encourages people to get to know their neighbours. Council is promoting the event across the LGA to encourage community cohesion. Five Neighbour Day events are scheduled:

- Council's Senior Units in Auburn & Lidcombe - 28 and 29 March 2019
- Guildford Community Centre - 25 March 2019
- Auburn Centre for Community - 27 March 2019
- Berala Community Centre - 29 March 2019

Feedback from Committee:

- Consideration to be given to an expanded campaign in the future in areas particularly with high density areas such as King Park.

[CSCPP Action 9.5.3]: Alcohol Free Zone Stage 2 Roll Out

Alcohol Free Zones in the former Holroyd Council area are due for renewal in June 2019. Currently AFZs are being reviewed in Town Centre and key parks in:

- Greystanes
- Girraween
- Guildford
- Merrylands
- Pendle Hill
- South Wentworthville
- Toongabbie
- Wentworthville
- Westmead

[CSCPP Action 10.4]: Improve safety and security of Council's public toilets and amenities buildings

Council is currently developing a Sharps Disposable Unit Register and cleaning teams are auditing toilets across the LGA. Council's Open Space Maintenance Crews will also maintain a daily log of any parks and reserves they find sharps or other drug paraphernalia or evidence of

alcohol consumption in open spaces. This will assist to form a heat map of areas that are hotspots.

[CSCPP Action 6.2]: Police and Youth Footy Game

On Friday 15 March, Council will be hosting a Police and Youth Footy Game at Granville Park in partnership with local Police Area Commands as well as the local Pacific Islander community members. Teams will be made up of young people and plain clothes police with the aim of building trust, rapport and breaking down barriers between the two groups.

[CSCPP Action 7.4]: Road Safety Education

Council's Road Safety Officer will deliver a safety talk to parents and residents in Wentworthville. This is a trial method of reaching community members. Council is also engaging with local schools to promote the support and education provided by Council's Road Safety Officer.

[CSCPP Action 10.1]: Safety Audits

- Evening site safety inspections will be undertaken on 2 April in Phillips Park and 16 April in Coleman Park following issues of anti-social behaviour.
- Council will be undertaking an evening safety audit on Tuesday 26 March 2019, 7pm - 9pm. Participants will meet at Toongabbie Community Centre (George Mephram Hall) 244 Targo Road, Toongabbie for a short briefing before going out to the audit area.

[CSCPP Action 9.4]: Improve perceptions of safety through increased Police presence in Town Centres

An increase in the High Visibility Police team has also been implemented in the Toongabbie town centre in response to concerns raised by Centre Management during initial consultations regarding the upcoming safety audit.

[CSCPP Action 2.2]: CCTV in Public Spaces Program

- CCTV relocations this quarter: 7
- CCTV Footage extraction requests: 12

Homelessness support

Eight people have been assisted this quarter.

Upcoming Projects in Progress:

[Action 3.1]: Steal from Motor Vehicle

A campaign is in development to roll out an awareness campaign to address Steal from Motor Vehicle crime. This will consist of media coverage via newspapers, Council social media platforms and safety newsletters in rates notices as well as signage in key hotspots.

8. Police Updates

The following updates were provided by the two Police Area Commands:

- Auburn Police Area Command reported significant crime drop targets achieved. Break and enter offences are down by approximately 30%. Robbery offences are also down. Break and enter from caged areas is still a concern and steal from motor vehicle offences are rising but proactive policing team are getting good results.

- Cumberland Police Area Command reported issues with people are leaving cars unlocked with property inside or house doors unlocked. There is an increase of 'Fail to pay' fraud incidents. No further break and enters and steal from motor vehicles in Pemulwuy have occurred following apprehension of the offenders on 7 March.

9. Other Business

The Committee has requested the next meeting's agenda include a presentation from Council's Environmental Health Protection Team.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 9.1 Council to organise a presentation from Council's Environmental Health Protection Team at upcoming meeting.

10. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 in Committee Rooms, Council Administration Building, Merrylands.