



Community Safety Committee



Minutes

Wednesday 25 August 2021

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Present: Councillor Isabelle Shapiro (Chair)
Michele Wearn (Double Bay Residents Association)
Don White (HarbourView Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Group)
Carol Freeman (State Member for Vacluse)
Michael Gerondis (Eastern Sydney Suicide Prevention Network)
Marina Tesoriero (Vacluse resident)
Christine Whiston (Queen Street & West Woollahra Association)
Detective Acting Inspector Stuart Thomson (NSW Police)
Jacky Hony (Team Leader Community Development)

Meeting opened: 3.38pm

1. Opening

Councillor Shapiro welcomed attendees, noting that Christine Whiston will now be representing Queen Street & West Woollahra Association *in lieu* of Giles Edmonds and thanked Detective Acting Inspector Stuart Thomson for attending on behalf of NSW Police.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Councillor Shapiro gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from:

Detective Inspector Gretchen Atkins (NSW Police)

Senior Constable Peter Woodward (NSW Police)

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil

5. Late Correspondence

Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

Item No: 6.1
Subject: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
HELD ON 19 MAY 2021
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

(White / Wearn)

Resolved:

THAT the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee held on 19 May 2021 be received and noted, with the following actions arising:

- Media to raise awareness that 7 out of 10 car thefts are made using the car key and to remind people not to leave spare keys in the glovebox has been included in the Mayor's Column. An article on the same topic will also be included in The Village Voice.
 - Cr Shapiro will report back to the November meeting regarding monitoring of the reduced speed limit in William Street / Ocean Avenue after consultation with Council's Infrastructure and Sustainability staff.
 - Cr Shapiro will report back to the November meeting regarding footpaths along Dover and O'Sullivan Roads where tree roots have caused trip hazards after consultation with Council's Infrastructure and Sustainability staff.
 - The availability of Free Home Fire Safety checks by Firefighters NSW were promoted via Council's social media and will also be promoted in The Village Voice.
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- Cr Shapiro to report back to the November meetings regarding Council's Traffic Committee's ruling on Double Bay precinct speed limits and recommendations about the traffic light timing when turning from Old South Head Road into Kent Road, Rose Bay – the latter to be determined by Transport for NSW.

7. Items for Discussion

Item No: 7.1
Subject: **POLICE REPORT**
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT the update from NSW Police be received and noted, as follows:

As a response category, suicide interventions at Gap Park over the last 12 months have decreased from a peak in May to July 2020 when there were three times as many police responses as there are now. These trends include all forms of intervention, including instances when police attend because a person is on the wrong side of the fencing, for example to take photographs.

It is thought that this reduction may be due to Public Health Order travel restrictions as people considering or intending to suicide travel to Gap Park from outside of the LGA.

The Police commended Council on their work towards installing the CCTV, including night vision CCTV, with a recent case of a gentleman quickly located due to CCTV and successfully talked back to safety. Additional cameras are going to be installed between Jacobs Ladder and Lighthouse Reserve.

Anecdotally it was thought that domestic abuse police responses would increase due to COVID, whereas they have dropped by a third over the last 12 months, based on a 12 month average. Responses include police attending domestic incidents ranging from verbal arguments reported by neighbours through to assault.

General crime trends are down, including break and enter believed to be because people are at home, and car thefts because police are using number plate recognition to ensure movements are restricted.

Asked whether a large proportion of police have been deployed to COVID enforcement orders, the Committee was advised that policing responses are business as usual for critical issues: proactive operations continue regarding firearms and child protection operations. Calls made to 000 continue to be triaged and responded to. The Committee was further advised that some police have been redeployed having been freed up due to licensed premises being closed.

Item No: 7.2
Subject: **RESIDENT GROUPS UPDATES**
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT the report from residents groups be received and noted, as follows:

HarbourView Neighbourhood Watch: no particular issues other than a few construction and development concerns.

Queen Street & West Woollahra Association: no on-going concerns. There was theft of expensive ground cover plants the previous week that has been reported to Paddington Police Station.

Double Bay Residents Association: have previously contacted Council requesting the installation of No Stopping signage at two sites in Wallaroy Road to alleviate hazards posed by vehicles parking in unsafe locations. The first location, Wallaroy Road and Wallaroy Crescent, has been approved by the Traffic Committee and FC&S Committee and the installation of No Stopping and Give Way signage as well as line marking has been prioritised for installation by Council's signs and line marking contractors.

The second location, Wallaroy Road near Glencoe Road, is still under examination by Council's Traffic Engineers. Once their investigations are complete, a report will be prepared for the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee and FC&S Committee.

Vaucluse residents: nothing to report.

Office of the Member for Vaucluse: receiving many calls from the community about COVID but nothing to report other than querying what is happening with regards the installation of the Rose Bay promenade cycleway. In response, the Committee was advised and noted that it is on hold due to the extra high volume of pedestrians using the walkway during the lockdowns and that works would necessitate all pedestrians use the opposite footpath, resulting in the inability to socially distance.

Eastern Suburbs Suicide Prevention Network: confirmed that the annual awareness raising walk has been cancelled due to COVID.

The Committee was advised that there is a new [Woollahra Council App](#) that can be used to report many of the issues above. The App enables people to take photographs eg of potholes or damaged pavements and submit them straight to Council. It was asked whether the App is integrated with Council's graffiti removal booking form.

Action: The Village Voice to include an article about the App to raise awareness in the community of its uses.

Jacky to follow up to see whether the Woollahra App and graffiti removal booking system can be integrated.

8. General Business

The Committee was advised that Council has a new Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee who met last week. The role of the Committee is to advise Council on ways to foster inclusion, with some of the discussions also relating to safety. An example that has been raised is that some pedestrian crossings are of too short a duration for people living with disability or those with slower mobility, thereby excluding people from utilising those crossings and also having a safety implication.

The Committee was notified that Council is offering an upcoming '[building your resilience, particularly during COVID](#)' workshop on Wednesday 15 September, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. The workshop is free to attend but bookings are essential.

9. Advising

Nil.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 November 2021.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.20pm.