

Minutes of Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
Date: Monday 25 June 2012
Venue: Hartley Building
Time: 4.00pm

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Mayor Neville Castle (Lithgow City Council); Natalie Radburn (Lithgow Community Projects); Inspector Richard Maddox (Lithgow Police); Suzanne McNamara (Lithgow PCYC); John Dauth (Housing NSW).

Apologies: Cr Wayne McAndrew (Lithgow City Council) and Kylie Druett (Western Sydney & Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Districts)

Officers: Matthew Johnson and Viktoria Gulabovski

Declaration of Interests: Nil

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 26 March 2012 meeting were endorsed by email by three members and reported to Council on 23 April 2012.

The 14 May 2012 Crime Prevention meeting did not go ahead due to lack of a quorum.

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Items from 26 March 2012 meeting

Item 4 Crime Prevention Plan

See item 4 on today's agenda

Item 5 Late Night Transport

See item 5 on today's agenda

Item 7 General Business – CCTV cameras

See Item 7 on today's agenda

ITEM : 4 CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

SUMMARY

An update was provided on implementation of the Crime Prevention Plan.

COMMENTARY

Council previously interviewed an applicant for the Crime Prevention Project Officer however the offer was declined. Council has readvertised the position

and is hoping to interview new applicants shortly. Applications close next week.

**RECOMMENDATION
THAT**

The Report on the Crime Prevention Plan be received.

MOVED: John Dauth **SECONDED:** Suzanne McNamara

ITEM : 5 LATE NIGHT TRANSPORT

SUMMARY

A progress report was provided on the late night transport scheme funded by the NSW Attorney General's Department.

COMMENTARY

The Late Night Transport Service commenced on the weekend of Friday 30 and Saturday 31 March (Thursday and Saturday nights over Easter) and continued for a 7 week period. The service was operated by Lithgow Radio Cabs Cooperative using an 11 seater Maxi-Taxi and operated between 12 midnights and 4 am.

Patrons were picked up from late night liquor venues only and transported home within the Lithgow urban area, not to other liquor venues or other destinations. Most of the passengers came from the Court House Hotel between 2am – 3am. There were very few problems and regular taxi business was not affected.

Patronage was lower than expected (about 5-6 people per night) with most demand between 2.00am and 3.00am, mostly from the Courthouse Hotel as it is the only venue operating after 2.00am.

Liquor Accord members have reported that the number of people attending liquor venues has been lower than average which would contribute to the low patronage of the Nightrider service.

On balance, the trial has been worthwhile as it takes time for the community to become aware of and to accept new services. Although patronage has been lower than hoped for, the trial has demonstrated that there is potential demand for late night transport and the times and venues where this demand is most likely. The initial trial has also provided useful information on aspects of the service that might be changed when the trial continues in the warmer months of 2012. The Nightrider trial also reflects an important partnership between Council, licensed venues and the taxis to address public safety.

The second part of the pilot is set to commence later in 2012 and is timed to coincide with the warmer weather. This will be promoted broadly in the few months preceding the trial. The Lithgow Taxi and Lithgow Liquor Accord are willing to participate in the second trial later this year.

Inspector Maddox advised that the Police had reviewed malicious damage incidents and that these were lower during the trial period compared to the period before and after as well as compared to 12 months previous.

**RECOMMENDATION
THAT**

The report on the late night transport scheme trial be received.

MOVED: Richard Maddox

SECONDED: Suzanne McNamara

ITEM : 6 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVES

SUMMARY

Natalie Radburn from Lithgow Community Projects, provided a progress report on domestic violence initiatives.

COMMENTARY

Lithgow Community Projects have developed a “Dunny Door Campaign”, to raise awareness about domestic violence. The material has been distributed to relevant organisations and will be stuck on the back of public toilets throughout the community.

Lithgow Community Projects have received additional funding for an Aboriginal Liaison Worker (Domestic Violence) and they hope to employ someone by the end of July 2012.

As part of the “Lithgow Cares” initiative, the Domestic Violence Committee recently received additional funding to manufacture more decals that raise awareness about domestic violence. The decals should be ready in 3 months and will then be distributed to local businesses along with the Information Referral Card.

In addition, Lithgow Community Projects received further funding to develop a book about “personal stories”. The book is intended as a long term resource that will look into the past experiences of DV victims and how they have moved on and embraced a new future. It will be a similar resource to the previous book titled “My sister carried the car, and I carried the teapot”.

**RECOMMENDATION
THAT**

The report on domestic violence initiatives be received.

MOVED: Suzanne McNamara

SECONDED: John Dauth

ITEM : 7 POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

Inspector Richard Maddox did not have the crime stats at hand, however, provided a brief update on recent police activity in Lithgow.

COMMENTARY

- There has been a surge in malicious damage and break and enter in the last 3 – 4 weeks. The two activities are linked and the Police are in the process of targeting the suspects.
- There has also been an increase of break and enter in Portland and Capertee. The police believe the offenders are coming in from Orange and Mudgee.
- Inspector Richard Maddox will be leaving the Lithgow Command and this is his final Crime Prevention meeting. Inspector Christopher Sammut will be taking his place and will be formally introduced to the General Manager on 26 June 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION
THAT**

The Police report on Police activity be received.

MOVED: Suzanne McNamara

SECONDED: John Dauth

ITEM : 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY

There was discussion on the location and operation of CCTV cameras in Main Street Lithgow.

COMMENTARY

Inspector Richard Maddox advised that there appears to be software licensing issues that mean the Police and Council cannot view footage at the same time and that the system must be reset after each viewing. The signal also drops out at times. Matthew to follow up this issue and progress with installation of the new CCTV camera.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the discussion on the CCTV system be received.

MOVED: Natalie Radburn

SECONDED: Suzanne McNamara

Meeting Closed 4.40 pm

**Next Meeting
Monday 13 August 2012 at 4.00pm in the Hartley
Building Meeting Room.**