



Minutes

Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
Date: Monday 25 March 2013
Venue: Hartley Building
Time: 4.00pm

Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee	
Item Number	Minutes
1	Present and Apologies
2	Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting
3	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
4	Crime Prevention Funding
5	Completion of Current Crime Prevention Project
6	Domestic Violence Initiatives
7	Police Report
8	General Business

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Sally Taylor (Lithgow Business Association), John Dauth (Housing NSW), Clr Wayne McAndrew, Clr Frank Inzitari, Mayor Maree Statham and Ray Smith (Licensee Courthouse Hotel)

Apologies: Inspector Chris Sammut, Acting Inspector Jerry Cahill and Sue Rose (Lithgow Police) and Kylie Druett (Area Health Service)

Officers: Matthew Johnson (Community and Culture) and Jennifer Randall (Crime Prevention Officer)

Declaration of Interests: Nil

Moved: Clr McAndrew

Seconded: Clr Inzitari

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 4 February 2013 meeting were endorsed by 3 members by email and reported to Council on 25 February 2013.

Moved: Clr McAndrew

Seconded: Clr Inzitari

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Secure Taxi rank

A report was requested into why the Secure Taxi Rank had not been moved as proposed by the taxis from Cook Street Plaza to the Eskbank Street rank. Matthew Johnson advised that the reasons why Lithgow Taxi Co-Op did not proceed with the move are unclear, but the Co-Op has since had an independent audit undertaken of the Secure Taxi Rank although Council was not consulted during the audit and has not yet received the results. There are some concerns about the future of the Secure Taxi Rank due to the low usage figures. Matthew Johnson is to bring the results of the independent audit to the next crime prevention committee meeting if available.

3.2 Shopfront CCTV

A progress report was asked for on the development of a record of which businesses have CCTV facing the street through their shopfront windows. No progress has been made as yet.

3.3 Emora Park

Mayor Statham reported that some of the steps which posed a public safety risk have been removed from Emora Park, however further maintenance is required on the remaining steps and their complete removal may be required.

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Concern was expressed regarding general maintenance of the park by Council and potential liability issues. It was requested that Council inspect the park and undertake works to ensure that it is safe for people, particularly kids to use.

3.4 Anti-social behaviour in Queen Elizabeth Park

Concern was expressed regarding drug and alcohol use and other anti-social behaviours in Queen Elizabeth Park. The Mayor requested that Council look into the installation of CCTV in this area. It was also suggested that Council look into creative ways of activating this space both during the day and at night, for example installing a bicycle track around the outside of the park or using lighting creatively to attract people after dark.

Jennifer Randall has conducted an after dark audit of the Park and found that lighting along the western side of the park was extremely poor. Additionally along the eastern side, there is an issue with sight lines due to the uneven ground and the shrubs and bushes where kids have been reported loitering and drinking. This creates a primary environment to conduct anti-social behaviour both during the day and at night. It was suggested that Council install lighting over a period of years until the park is sufficiently lit.

The committee asked that Council investigate how other Councils manage safety and anti-social behaviour in their parks.

It was also asked that Council Rangers undertake patrols of the park during daylight hours.

3.5 Roadside Maintenance

Mayor Statham expressed concern that the grass on the medium strip on the Great Western Highway and Barton Avenue intersection at Wallerawang is over grown. It was asked that Council find out whether Council or the RMS is responsible for specified roads in the Lithgow, Portland, Wallerawang area. The Mayor requested that Council write a letter to Tidy Towns suggesting that they do a cleanup of the area.

3.6 Gas Works Lane

Concern was expressed over the issue of lighting in Gas Works Lane following the stabbing incident in the laneway two weeks prior. Jennifer Randall is to do an after dark lighting audit with a view to upgrading lighting. .

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT Business Arising from the previous minutes be adopted.

MOVED: Suzanne McNamara **SECONDED:** Clr Frank Inzitari

ITEM : 4 **Crime Prevention Funding**

SUMMARY

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A submission has been lodged with Attorney General's and Justice seeking additional crime prevention funding.

COMMENTARY

Council has applied for new funding for a Crime Prevention Officer and a new Taxi Voucher Transport Scheme for 2013/2014. This would work through providing a taxi fare discount voucher (perhaps \$5) to people who catch a taxi home from a licensed venue. The advantage of such a system is that people can catch a regular taxi and are not dependant on travelling at a fixed time in a maxi-taxi, as occurred when the previous pilot operated. Concerns were raised however over the potential efficacy of such a program on malicious damage and due to the small number of people using the previous late night transport service. An alternative suggestion was made to spend the grant on CCTV, however this is outside the grant guidelines. It was further pointed out that CCTV is only as good as the people monitoring it, and that more focus should be on preventing crime rather than detecting it after the fact.

It was requested that police increase their presence along Main Street and Queen Elizabeth Park, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

Concerns were expressed over the poor lighting on the Bridge Street railway bridge between Main St and the Workman's Club. It was suggested that Council conduct another lighting audit similar to the one conducted in 2010. Matthew Johnson is to talk to the Provost from University of Western Sydney to determine what areas the university feels will need attention in terms of lighting and safety on campus.

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT

The discussion on Crime Prevention funding be received.

MOVED: Sally Taylor

SECONDED:

John Dauth

ITEM : 5 Completion of Current Crime Prevention Project

SUMMARY

The current crime prevention project funding expires on 30 April 2013. Jennifer Randall (Crime Prevention Officer LCC) gave a summary of where the remaining funds from the crime prevention grant will be spent.

COMMENTARY

Remaining funds will be spent on measures to increase community safety including CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) audits and implementing CPTED recommendations. Specific areas of focus are the Queen Elizabeth Park, Gas Works Lane, the laneway next to the Lithgow Hotel and the Visitors Centre.

Sally Taylor asked if Council had investigated crime prevention funding available through the NRMA. Matthew to follow up.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

The report on the completion of the current crime prevention project be received.

MOVED:

SECONDED:

ITEM : 6 Domestic Violence Initiatives

There was no representative at the meeting from Lithgow Community projects to give a report.

ITEM: 7 POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

There was no Police representative at the meeting however Matthew Johnson tabled information presented by Inspector Chris Sammut at the February 2013 Liquor Accord meeting.

COMMENTARY

There was no Police report however the following was presented by Inspector Sammut at the February Liquor Accord meeting:

- A new licensing sergeant has been appointed and will attend future Accord meetings.
- Inspector Sammut supports the need for walk-through inspections by Police of licensed premises and believes this has a positive impact on the venues and can positively influence the behaviour of patrons.
- The Courthouse and Tattersall's Hotels are the busiest venues for Police at the present time.
- There were 18 "Walk Through's" by Police at the Courthouse hotel during January 2013.
- In the period July-December 2012 the following "Walk Through's" were undertaken:
 - Courthouse 21
 - Commercial 10
 - Tattersall's 16
 - Lansdowne 4
 - Royal (Portland) 1
 - Lithgow 5
 - Workies 1
- In relation to "**failure to leave when asked**" offences, the onus is on the licensee to first ask the patron to leave. If they don't leave, then the licensee should ring Police who can issue a \$550 fine if the patron remains on or within 50 metres of the premises. Inspector Sammut will encourage his officers to issue these fines where the patron does not leave when asked.

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- Crime Data
 - **Alcohol Related assaults in period November 2012-January 2013**
 - November 3
 - December 2
 - January 2
 - **Alcohol Related Incidents in period November 2012-January 2013**
 - 46 incidents - trending down.
 - 54 incidents in licensed premises – trending down.
 - 29 Crimes after leaving licensed premises - trending down.
 - 6 in registered clubs
 - Intoxicated persons – very few and also trending down.
 - Malicious damage in licensed premises – November 2012, 3 incidents; December 2012, 3 incidents; January 2013, no incidents.
 - 3 incidents within view of a licensed premise
 - **General crime**
 - Assaults domestic violence and alcohol related are trending up but small number.
 - Assaults domestic violence but not alcohol related – steady
 - Assaults non-domestic violence and alcohol related – steady
 - Assaults non-domestic violence related (in the street but not related to any particular licensed premise) are trending up – 8 incidents in December 2012 and 16 incidents in January 2013.
 - Break and enters trending down
 - Malicious damage trending up with 33 incidents in November 2012, 41 in December 2012 and 54 in January 2013.
 - There is a big problem in town with drinking by young people aged less than 21 years.

The Crime Committee then considered the following matters:

- Concern was expressed at the apparent low staff number of Police on patrol on Friday and Saturday nights.
- It was suggested that Council should fund a new CCTV monitor at Lithgow Police station to assist the Police to better able to view footage.
- Concern was expressed over the Police not issuing fines for “failure to leave licensed premises” offences.
- The Committee is requesting increased walk-throughs of licensed premises by Police and an increase in Police staff.
- Mayor Statham requested that Council write a letter to Paul Toole regarding these matters.

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT

The report on Police matters be received.

MOVED: Sally Taylor SECONDED: Suzanne McNamara

ITEM: 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Traffic Matters

Trucks using Hartley Valley Road through Vale of Clwydd and Vehicles, including trucks, speeding along Hartley Valley Road.

This matter will be referred to Council's Traffic Authority Local Committee (TALC) for consideration.

8.2 Housing NSW

John Dauth advised that his position at Housing NSW has been reinstated.

8.3 CCTV

Advice was tabled from Andrew Muir that funds are being sought to update software for Council's CCTV system.

One challenge faced by Council in managing problems with the CCTV at the Police station is the difficulty in obtaining a regular contact at the Police station due to varying rosters of Police staff. .

\$10,000 has been allocated in the 2013/2014 Council budget toward CCTV cameras.

A complete review was requested concerning how much funding is needed, and possible external funding sources to complete the required repairs and upgrades by Council. Additionally, Matthew was requested to follow this up.

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT

The matters considered under General Business be received.

MOVED: Suzanne McNamara SECONDED: John Dauth

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Crime prevention Committee will be held
on Monday 6th May 2013 from 4.00- 5.00 pm in the Hartley
building, Lithgow City Council.