



Minutes

Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
Date: Monday 6 May 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 Plan and Funding
5	Late Night Transport
6	Domestic Violence Initiatives
7	Police Report
8	General Business

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Mayor Maree Statham; Inspector Chris Sammutt (Lithgow Police); Sally Taylor (Lithgow Business Association); John Dauth (Housing NSW); Natalie Radburn (Lithgow Community Projects) and Ray Smith (Licensee Courthouse Hotel)

Apologies: Clr Frank Inzitari; Clr Wayne McAndrew; Sue Rose (Lithgow Police); Melanie Jones (Lithgow City Council) and Kylie Druett (Area Health Service).

Officers: Matthew Johnson (Manager Community and Culture)

Declaration of Interests: Nil

Moved: Sally Taylor

Seconded: John Dauth

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 25 March 2013 meeting were endorsed by 3 members by email and reported to Council on 15 April 2013.

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Secure Taxi rank

Lithgow Taxi Coop has not yet provided Council with the results of the independent audit of the Secure Taxi rank. Matthew Johnson to follow up again.

3.2 Shopfront CCTV

A survey has been distributed to all businesses in and surrounding the Lithgow CBD asking for information on whether or not they have in-house CCTV, their experiences with this and any other issues of concern. The response to date has been very good with around 25 completed surveys received. Approximately 30% of survey respondents have in-house CCTV and many have also had negatives experiences with malicious damage of their premises. A full analysis of the survey responses will be brought to the next crime meeting.

3.3 Emora Park

The need for further safety improvements has been referred to Iain Stewart for follow-up however John Dauth reported at the meeting that it appears the agreement for Housing NSW to deed the park to Council was never formalised. Further discussions are underway with Council and in the meantime, Housing NSW has been undertaking some maintenance and cleaning including removal of the wooden pergola, improved lighting and general works to maintain public safety.

Matthew Johnson to follow up with Council's executive.

3.4 Anti-social behaviour in Queen Elizabeth Park

Following concern expressed at the previous meeting regarding drug and alcohol use and other anti-social behaviours in Queen Elizabeth Park and a subsequent safety audit by Jennifer Randall, a meeting was held between Council and Lithgow Police where it was agreed that the Police and Council Rangers will increase patrols of the park. Chris Sammut also supported the installation of CCTV if possible. Matthew to find out how many Ranger patrols have been undertaken and any issues identified. While it will be difficult to improve lighting in all areas of the park due to the trees, priority will be given to lighting the children's playground.

3.5 Roadside Maintenance

Concern was expressed at the previous meeting that the grass on the medium strip of the Great Western Highway and Barton Avenue intersection at Wallerawang is overgrown. Council to write to the Roads and Maritime Authority asking them to address this issue.

3.6 Gas Works Lane Lighting

Jennifer Randall undertook an after dark lighting audit in this area. Upgrading of lighting is to be programmed as resources allow.

3.7 Lighting in Bridge St and Around the Hoskins Building

A meeting was held with the Provost of the UWS campus to discuss ideas for maintaining student safety when leaving the campus including walking to carparks and transport hubs. This is to be further followed up.

3.8 NRMA Crime Prevention Funding

The NRMA program has closed.

3.9 Police Levels

A letter was sent to Inspector Sammut regarding licensed premises, Queen Elisabeth Park and policing issues generally and inviting him to address a Councillor Information session on 3 June.

Inspector Sammut advised at the meeting that he would be able to attend the 3 June meeting.

3.10 Funding for CCTV cameras.

See General Business

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Business Arising from the previous minutes be adopted.

MOVED: Sally Taylor **SECONDED:** Ray Smith

ITEM : 4 Crime Prevention Plan and Funding

SUMMARY

Discussion on implementation of the Crime Prevention Plan and an application for funding to the Attorney General's and Justice Department.

COMMENTARY

With the finalisation of the Crime Prevention grant, Council's Crime Prevention Officer Jennifer Randall, recently finished working for Council. Unfortunately a submission to Attorney General's and Justice for further funding was unsuccessful. Further work will continue on implementing the plan using existing staff resources.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

The discussion on the Crime Prevention Plan and funding be received.

MOVED: Chris Sammut

SECONDED: Sally Taylor

ITEM : 5 Late Night Transport

SUMMARY

The Committee discussed alternative proposals for a late night transport scheme.

COMMENTARY

There was discussion on a proposal to implement a taxi voucher scheme on Friday and Saturday nights which would involve the patrons of late night venues receiving a voucher (\$5 was suggested) to encourage them to catch a taxi home rather than walk or drive. The voucher could only be used to purchase a taxi fare. One of the possible advantages of this approach compared to the maxi taxi trial in 2012, would be that patrons could catch a taxi at the time it suits them rather than having to wait for the scheduled maxi-taxi. The cost to the patron would be higher however. Without Crime Prevention grant funding, such a scheme would need to be funded by Council and the licensees.

The Committee expressed some doubts about the effectiveness of such a scheme in reducing late night malicious damage and violence.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

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

MOVED: Chris Sammut

SECONDED: Sally Taylor

ITEM : 6 Domestic Violence Initiatives

SUMMARY

Update from Lithgow Community projects on domestic violence initiatives.

COMMENTARY

Natalie Radburn reported that Michele Lane is the new Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and that planning is underway for future initiatives including White Ribbon Day on 25 November 2013. Volunteers, particularly men are needed to plan the event.

Natalie reported that the women's and children's refuge is full, and that it mostly receives local referrals. Its capacity is 12 people for a maximum of 12 weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

The domestic violence initiatives report be received.

MOVED: Chris Sammut

SECONDED: John Dauth

ITEM: 7 POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

Inspector Chris Sammut gave a report on Policing issues:

COMMENTARY

For the period February to April 2013:

- Malicious damage - up
- Assaults (all categories combined) – up
- Alcohol related domestic violence assaults – steady
- Alcohol related non-domestic violence assaults increased to 22 over past 3 months
- Domestic Violence assault – February 19 incidents, March 25 incidents and April 32 incidents.
- Break and enter (combined dwelling and non-dwelling) – steady
- Break and enter (dwelling) – down
- Break and enter (non-dwelling) fell from 28 in March to 15 in April
- Drug detection – 14 in March and 11 in April
- Frauds – significantly down
- **Malicious damage** – up. There were 116 incidents in April and 107 in March. Most incidents are minor, most likely kids and they are scattered across the area. Malicious Damage incidents are also up in Bathurst and NSW generally.
- There were 2 robberies in April
- Vehicle searches by Police were up
- Steal from motor vehicle and steal from person - both down.
- Steal from retail store – 8 incidents in March and 17 in April

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- Stolen vehicles – 14 in March and 7 in April
- Street offences – 21 incidents in March and 4 in April

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

The report on Policing issues be received.

MOVED: Sally Taylor

SECONDED: John Dauth

The Mayor left at 5.10pm following Item 7.

ITEM: 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 John Dauth raised concern about speeding along Landa Street. Chris Sammut is to follow up with police patrols and Matthew Johnson will raise with Council's Road Safety officer.

8.2 CCTV cameras

Chris Sammut asked if Council would be able to upgrade the CCTV monitor at Lithgow Police Station. Matthew to follow up. Funding is available from the National Crime Prevention Fund for security related infrastructure that addresses gang violence and street crime. Applications close 29 May.

An application will be submitted by Council. Suggestions included CCTV cameras at the Lithgow and Wallerawang skatepark and Queen Elisabeth Park.

The need was discussed for rubbish bins and a bubbler to be installed at Lithgow skatepark and for Portland skatepark to be cleaned and bins to be installed.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

The matters considered under General Business be received.

MOVED: Sally Taylor

SECONDED: Ray Smith

Meeting Closed 5.15pm

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Crime prevention Committee will be held
on Monday 17 June 2013 from 4.00- 5.00 pm in the Hartley
Building, Lithgow City Council.