



Minutes

Crime Prevention Committee Meeting

Date: Monday 24 November 2014

Venue: Hartley Building

Time: 3.30pm

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	Recent Crime Statistics
5	Review of Crime Prevention Plan
6	Safety Audits
7	Domestic Violence Initiatives
8	Police Report
9	2015 Meeting Schedule
10	General Business

ITEM 1: PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Mayor Maree Statham (from 4.10pm during item 4), Cllr Frank Inzitari, Heather Bell (UWS College), Inspector Chris Sammut (Police), Danny Whitty (Community Representative) and Simon Schmitzer (Transport NSW).

Apologies: Councillor Wayne McAndrew and Senior Constable Sue Rose (Bathurst Police).

Officers: Juli-Ann Brozek (Group Manager Corporate and Community) and Matthew Johnson (Manager Community and Culture).

Moved: Cllr Inzitari

Seconded: Heather Bell

ITEM 2: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 29 September 2014 meeting were ratified by email and reported to Council on 27 October 2014.

ACTION

THAT the confirmation and reporting to Council of the previous minutes be noted.

MOVED: Danny Whitty

SECONDED: Heather Bell

ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARISING FROM 29 SEPTEMBER 2014 MINUTES

3.1 Domestic Violence – The Committee was advised that a successful White Ribbon Day Trivia Night event, organised by the Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, was held on 21 November 2014 at the Lithgow Workies Club to raise funds and awareness against domestic violence. The Committee was further advised that Lithgow Community Projects have indicated that they wish to rejoin the Committee and will forward a request letter shortly.

3.2 Crime Data – See item 4

3.3 Safety Audits – See item 6

ITEM 4: RECENT CRIME STATISTICS

SUMMARY

The Committee considered a NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) Recorded Crime Statistics Quarterly Report for the 12 months to June 2014. The Mayor arrived at 4.10pm during discussion under item 4.

COMMENTARY

The latest NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) Recorded Crime Statistics Quarterly Report (June 2014) shows the following:

1. Trends in recorded Criminal Incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over the 24 months to June 2014

The incidence of most offences was stable over the 24 month period although there was a 93.3% increase in Steal from Motor Vehicle offences and a 17.7% fall in Malicious Damage to Property offences.

2. Ratio to NSW rate (per 100,000 population) of recorded criminal incidents for 12 months to June 2014.

- Lithgow rates of Break And Enter Non-Dwelling were 3.6 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow Malicious Damage rates were 2.2 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow Steal From Dwelling rates were 2 times the NSW rate

3. Number of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over 12 months to March and June 2014.

	12 months to June 2014	12 months to March 2014
Break And Enter Dwelling	175	146
Break And Enter Non-Dwelling	136	114
Steal From Motor Vehicle	172	137
Steal From Dwelling	122	108
Malicious Damage	451	476
Assault (Domestic Violence Related)	90	100
Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related)	153	143

ACTION

THAT the report on recent crime statistics be noted.

MOVED: Clr Inzitari **SECONDED:** Inspector Sammut

ITEM 5: REVIEW OF CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

SUMMARY

The Committee considered a review of the current Lithgow Crime Prevention Plan.

COMMENTARY

The current Crime Prevention Plan developed in late 2010, focuses on two priority offences of Assault Non-Domestic Violence Related and Malicious Damage. In view of the current crime data, the Committee discussed undertaking a review of the plan in early 2015 with a view to seeking further funding to implement the plan.

ACTION

THAT the discussion on the review of the Lithgow Crime Prevention Plan be noted.

MOVED: Inspector Sammut **SECONDED:** Clr Inzitari

ITEM 6: SAFETY AUDITS

SUMMARY

The Committee considered a number of issues in relation to safety and lighting in the Lithgow CBD.

COMMENTARY

Late night safety audits of the CBD area were undertaken by the Committee and Police in 2010 and 2011. Some of the recommendations of the audit were subsequently implemented in relation to graffiti and rubbish removal and a number of recommendations in relation to improving the lighting and amenity in laneways and carparks remain to be actioned.

A follow up audit of remaining actions, particularly in relation to lighting, is to be undertaken with a view to informing the current CBD revitalisation program. The Committee asked that improvement of lighting in Burns Lane next to the Lithgow Library be a priority and that with night classes commencing at UWS College in 2015, the assessment of lighting between the College and Lithgow Railway Station precinct also be a priority.

ACTION

THAT the report on safety audits and lighting be noted.

MOVED: Simon Schmitzer

SECONDED: Danny Whitty

ITEM 7: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVES

SUMMARY

The Lithgow Community Projects representative was not in attendance so the report will be carried over to the next meeting.

ITEM 8: POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

The Committee considered a report from the Police on recent crime incident data.

COMMENTARY

A summary of Lithgow crime incident data for the period July-September 2014 was provided by the Police with the number of incidents in most crime categories either stable or going down.

- Break and enter commercial premises went down.
- Malicious damage incidents went down from 35 in July to 15 in September
- Stolen motor vehicle incidents went down.
- Steal from motor vehicles went up with 5 incidents in July to 11 in September. Most incidents occur in residential streets rather than public carparks.
- Shoplifting incidents increased
- Alcohol related domestic violence increased although the number of incidents was low.

It was reported that the Police undertake regular operations outside Lithgow Correctional Centre targeting offences by visitors to the gaol.

It was reported that graffiti is not a significant problem in Lithgow however Transport NSW has experienced occasional serious graffiti of passenger trains within the overnight stabling area to the east of the railway station. This appears to not be local people or associated with other local crime incidents, but organised groups that travel up from Sydney. Transport NSW will soon be

expanding its CCTV infrastructure around the Railway Station and bus interchange.

There was discussion on the problems faced by visitors to the gaol who arrive at the Railway interchange and are unable to afford taxi transport to the gaol. It was agreed that Lithgow Buslines and the gaol be contacted to determine what level of public transport is available to and from the gaol.

ACTION

THAT the Police report and discussion on local crime issues be noted.

MOVED: Clr Inzitari

SECONDED: Heather Bell

ITEM 9: 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

SUMMARY

The Committee adopted a schedule of meeting dates for 2015.

COMMENTARY

The Committee adopted the following meeting schedule for 2015 with meetings to be held from 3.30- 4.30pm in the Hartley Building, Lithgow City Council:

- 23 March 2015
- 29 June 2015
- 28 September 2015
- 14 December 2015

ACTION

THAT the 2015 Crime Prevention Committee schedule of meeting dates be adopted.

MOVED: Heather Bell

SECONDED: Danny Whitty

ITEM 10: GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no General Business

NEXT MEETING

Monday 23 March 2015 from 3.30- 4.30pm in the Hartley Building, Lithgow
City Council