



Shire of Northam  
*Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle*

## **Shire of Northam**

### **Minutes**

### **Community Safety Committee**

**24 February 2017**



**NOTICE PAPER**

**Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee**

**24 February 2017**

Committee Members

I inform you that a Community Safety Committee meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, located at 395 Fitzgerald Street, Northam on 24 February 2017 at 2pm.

Yours faithfully



**Jason Whiteaker**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

Chairperson Cr Julie Williams declared the meeting open at 2.02pm.

The quorum of voting Members is 7. The Committee has reached a quorum.

## 2. ATTENDANCE

### Committee Members:

Chairperson	Cr Julie Williams
Councillor	Cr Denis Beresford
Councillor	Cr Chris Davidson
Executive Manager Community Services	Mr Ross Rayson
Northam Roadwise Committee	Mr Cliff Simpson
Local Youth Service Representative	Ms Jane Atterby
Department of Housing	Mr Attila Mencshelyi
Northam Police	SSGT Geoff Dickson

### Committee Ex-Officio Members:

Community Development Officer	Mrs Michelle Blackhurst
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### Special Guests:

Building Maintenance Officer	Mr Nathan Gough
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### 2.1 APOLOGIES

Department Education	Mrs Sharon Bray
LDAG	Mrs Rose Power
Community Representative	Ms Margaret O'Reilly
Holyoake	Ms Eloise Fewster
Northam Chamber of Commerce	Mr Paul Tomlinson
Health Representative	Mr Greg Bentley

### 2.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

## 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item Name	Item No.	Name	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

##### 4.1 COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11 NOVEMBER 2016

###### RECOMMENDATION

Minute No: CSC.029

Moved: Ms Jane Atterby

Seconded: Mr Cliff Simpson

That Council accepts the minutes of the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee meeting held Friday, 11 November 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 8/0

#### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### 5.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Owner:</b>	Shire of Northam
<b>File Reference:</b>	1.3.12.1
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Community Development Officer
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Manager Community Services
<b>Voting Requirement</b>	Simple or Absolute Majority

###### BRIEF

To update the Committee on the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan actions.

###### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan – Action Plan

###### BACKGROUND / DETAILS

The Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) Plan 2016-2020 is a four year strategic outlook for the Shire of Northam that aims to map the issues of primary concern to the community and document the strategies and partnerships to deal with these issues.

Together with key partners, the Shire of Northam is committed to ensuring continual improvements to community safety with a particular emphasis on minimising the occurrence and opportunity for antisocial and criminal activity.

The CSCP Plan 2016-2020 has brought all of the current data together to help the Committee to understand 'What is the Northam story'. This will help the Committee to reconcile where the facts and the perceptions differ.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan**

Objective: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

Strategy: Provide community services to uphold public safety standards.

Action: Review and implement the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

### **Financial / Resource Implications**

N/A

### **Legislative Compliance**

N/A

### **Policy Implications**

N/A

### **Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation**

N/A

### **Risk Implications**

N/A

## **OFFICER'S COMMENT**

The Shire of Northam's Community Development Officer will provide an update on recent activities.

### **Criminal or Offending Behaviour**

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised that the Lock and Light program was ready to be launched and was seeking permission from the Committee to launch the program.

SSGT Geoff Dickson provided an update, explaining the process of the program and how the vulnerable community members will be identified. Key partners that have joined to deliver the program include Northam Police, Northam Mitre 10, Wundowie One Stop Thrifty Link and Northam Home Maintenance Service.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst noted that we needed to find an organisation to do the Home Assessments in Wundowie. Mr Attila Mencshelyi said he is on the Board of Share and Care and that they do cover Wundowie. He suggested that it could be a possibility for Share and Care to cover this too.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst commented that it was discussed at the Shire of Northam about property not owned by the resident and that these people have the right to be safe regardless of whether they own their house or not. The Shire felt that this program would not change the value of the property and that these people should not be excluded. The Committee agreed. Mr Attila Menschelyi added that the Residential Tenant Act says that the landlord is legally obliged to provide a secure property and this should be considered prior to funding security items for people in rentals.

Cr Julie Williams asked what Council Staff has in mind for the launch. Mrs Michelle Blackhurst suggested a media release with a photo opportunity for partners and a senior. SSGT Geoff Dickson said he would arrange a senior for a photo.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Minute No: CSC.030**

**Moved: Mr Ross Rayson**

**Seconded: Mr Attila Mencshelyi**

**That Council accept that the Lock and Light program be launched in March 2017.**

**CARRIED 8/0**

#### **Community Awareness**

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised that the Committee has provided Share and Care Community Services with all equipment required to facilitate a property marking day.

Community safety messages have been posted on the Shire of Northam's Facebook site and the community response has been good. As this is going well, regular messages will be scheduled. The Committee is asked to send to Council staff any community safety messages that they wish to share and these will be promoted on social media with a footnote saying 'An initiative of the Community Safety Committee'.

As per the direction of the Committee, the Shire of Northam has now purchased a Variable Message Board (VMB) which can be used by the Police

for community safety purposes. Use of the VMB will commence in coming weeks. SSGT Geoff Dickson commented that this will be used for community reassurance and not as a scare tactic.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst explained that the Shire of Northam is provided with a confidential statistical report detailing locations in the Shire of Northam where crime is being committed. Although the Committee cannot be provided with the report, it has been suggested that the Committee could be provided with some detail about locations within the Shire requiring support. SSGT Geoff Dickson commended that this was 'Hot Spotting' and would give the Committee an opportunity to determine where to focus resources. At each meeting, the Committee will now be provided with Hot Spot statistics.

### **Building Partnerships**

Youth Stakeholders from the Shire of Northam have been working with the Shire of Northam to develop the Night Hoops program as this works towards achieving our objective 1.3 – Reduce youth crime. The Shire of Northam applied on behalf of the Community Safety Committee and have been successful with the application. \$20,106 has been received and the next program planning meeting will take place at 10am in the Shire of Northam Council Chambers for any Committee member that would like to be involved.

See Attached – Night Hoops Grant Application

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised that the Shire of Northam Community Grants are now open and close on 13 April 2017. The Committee was asked to promote the funding opportunity to the community if they felt there was an opportunity to encourage community safety initiatives that could be funded.

### **Community Design**

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst provided an update on the Youth Precinct, advising that Convic were appointed as the successful contractor and the community was currently being consulted with.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst provided an update on the CCTV Project, advising that the tender was awarded to Blue Force. Nathan Gough said that the work had commenced with poles currently being prepared so that they could be installed. The community should start seeing the installation of the new clusters soon.

### **Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan**

The actions in the current plan are nearing completion. Mr Ross Rayson suggested that the plan would need to be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Other**

Mr Greg Bentley emailed through information relating to Woolworths appeal to the Liquor Licensing Commission, advising that their appeal had been refused. This information was read to the Committee by Cr Julie Williams.

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>Minute No: CSC.031</b></p> <p><b>Moved: SSGT Geoff Dickson</b> <b>Seconded: Mr Cliff Simpson</b></p> <p><b>That Council accept the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan update.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED 8/0</b></p>
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## 5.2 COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE BRANDING

<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Owner:</b>	Shire of Northam
<b>File Reference:</b>	1.3.12.1
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Community Development Officer
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Manager Community Services
<b>Voting Requirement</b>	Simple or Absolute Majority

### BRIEF

To seek Committee support for finalising the branding of the Community Safety Committee.

### BACKGROUND / DETAILS

At its previous meeting, the Community Safety Committee recommended to Council that Council approve the development of Community Safety Committee branding, including a slogan and logo, to be used in conjunction with the Shire of Northam logo.

Most other Council based community safety groups have a brand so that they are identifiable as the committee and not only as the Shire.

### CONSIDERATIONS

**Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan**

Objective: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

Strategy: Provide community services to uphold public safety standards.

Action: Review and implement the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

### **Financial / Resource Implications**

N/A

### **Legislative Compliance**

N/A

### **Policy Implications**

N/A

### **Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation**

N/A

### **Risk Implications**

N/A

### **OFFICER'S COMMENT**

The Community Safety Committee resolved to develop a slogan and a logo to brand the Community Safety Committee to be more inclusive of the Committee's participating organisations at its meeting held on 11 November 2017.

The Committee agreed to adopt the slogan 'Working together for a safe community'. The Committee is supportive of Council staff proceeding with the designing a logo on behalf of the Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Minute No: CSC.032**

**Moved: SSGT Geoff Dickson  
Seconded: Mr Attila Menschelyi**

**That Council accept the Community Safety Committee slogan of 'Working together for a safe community', with a logo to be developed by Council staff.**

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 5.3 BERNARD PARK TOILETS

<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Owner:</b>	Shire of Northam
<b>File Reference:</b>	1.3.12.1
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Community Development Officer
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Manager Community Services
<b>Voting Requirement</b>	Simple or Absolute Majority

#### BRIEF

To seek feedback and direction from the Committee regarding reports from the cleaners of the Bernard Park toilets who are indicating that the behaviour of the users is getting worse.

#### BACKGROUND / DETAILS

Reports from the cleaners of the Bernard Park Toilets indicate that the behaviour of the users is getting worse. There are increasing reports of events such as:

- People intentionally dropping excrement on the floor and wiping it over the walls
- Broken glass, also in the park
- Almost daily all the toilet paper is emptied into all the toilets
- Drunk/Drug affected people sleeping it off in the toilet
- Empty alcohol bottles and syringes in the toilets
- People drinking in the park

Bernard Park is an alcohol free area and with the construction of the Water Playground it is frequented by families.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

##### Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

Objective: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

Strategy: Provide community services to uphold public safety standards.

Action: Review and implement the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

##### Financial / Resource Implications

N/A

##### Legislative Compliance

N/A

### **Policy Implications**

N/A

### **Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation**

N/A

### **Risk Implications**

N/A

### **OFFICER'S COMMENT**

Special Guest Nathan Gough and SSGT Geoff Dickson addressed the group.

Mr Nathan Gough asked the Committee if they could suggest preventative steps that the Shire could take.

SSGT Geoff Dickson advised that the park does not rate as a place of significant issue, meaning that people are not reporting the crime. People need to be encouraged to report crime for the Police to take action.

SSGT Geoff Dickson commented that free WiFi at night attracts people and he has suggested that this should be turned off at night or at specific problem times. Also that the Shire should consider restricting access to the toilets at night. Turning off the power to the Sound Shell at night would also discourage homeless people sleeping in there.

SSGT Geoff Dickson advised that the Police do not tolerate street drinking. Street drinking is considered anti-social behaviour and it is against the law.

The Committee agreed that we need to increase reporting. Mr Nathan Gough mentioned that there was a fear of reporting crime with people feeling that the people being reported will react to the reporting. Mr Nathan Gough asked if there was a possibility for the Police to do a drive through the park and SSGT Geoff Dickson said he would arrange this.

SSGT Geoff Dickson said that controlling this from a Police perspective is science based. We need evidence which can be provided through increased reporting. SSGT Dickson suggested a social media push with the key message being 'Report Crime'.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst mentioned the Night Security program that Share and Care are trying to initiate. Mr Attila Mencshelyi spoke about the program and how it could help to direct people loitering in the park to receive support, such as encouraging them to access services such as the Men's Hostel.

The Committee suggested:

- Lock Bernard Park toilets at night
- Turn off WiFi at night because it attracts these people
- Turn off power in the Sound Shell at night
- Police to increase patrols in the park
- Social media push/marketing about reporting crime and drinking in the park
- Install signage along the lines of "Street drinking is illegal" and "Report Crime"

## **6. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION**

No urgent business was introduced.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meeting dates for 2017:

Friday, 21 April 2017 at 2pm  
Friday, 16 June 2017 at 2pm  
Friday, 18 August 2017 at 2pm  
Friday, 13 October 2017 at 2pm  
Friday, 08 December 2017 at 2pm

## **8. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE**

The meeting was declared closed at 3.35pm.