



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

Shire of Northam

Minutes

Community Safety Committee

12 May 2017

NOTICE PAPER

Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee

12 May 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 12 May 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 2.07pm.

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

2. ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Chairperson	Cr Julie Williams
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
Department Education	Mrs Sharon Bray
LDAG	Mrs Rose Power
Health Representative	Mr Greg Bentley

Committee Ex-Officio Members:

Community Development Officer	Mrs Michelle Blackhurst
Local Youth Service Representative	Mrs Tricia Chrimes

Special Guests:

2.1 APOLOGIES

Community Representative	Ms Margaret O'Reilly
Holyoake	Ms Eloise Fewster
Northam Chamber of Commerce	Mr Paul Tomlinson
Wundowie Police	SGT Jamie Cresswell
Shire of Northam Councillor	Cr Denis Beresford

2.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor	Cr Chris Davidson
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3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2017

RECOMMENDATION

Minute No: CSC.033

Moved: Mr Attila Mencshelyi

Seconded: Ms Jane Atterby

That Council accepts the minutes of the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee meeting held Friday, 24 February 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 9/0

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

Address:	
Owner:	Shire of Northam
File Reference:	1.3.12.1
Reporting Officer:	Community Development Officer
Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Community Services
Voting Requirement	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 provided an update on recent activities.

Criminal or Offending Behaviour

Lock and Light

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised that the Lock and Light program was launched and our vulnerable community members were now receiving support from the program.

SSGT Geoff Dickson provided an update, explaining the process of the program and how the vulnerable community members are being identified. Four properties have now been through the assessment process, with two assessments being approved for support. SSGT Geoff Dickson suggested that a follow up call to the participants would be effective to monitor the progress of their referral, as well as a follow up call with the hardware stores to keep the program progressing. Mrs Michelle Blackhurst will call the participants and the hardware stores. The Committee agreed that a communication strategy is required, with Shire staff to develop this.

SSGT Geoff Dickson noted that the Police are targeting the low level repeat victims and will move through their lists as each level is complete. Mr Ross Rayson asked if it was worth more widely advertising the program. Mrs Michelle Blackhurst noted that people are hearing of the program and contacting the Shire for assistance, and these people are being referred to the Police. These calls are coming from both the Northam and Wundowie communities.

SSGT Geoff Dickson said that he has been in contact with Sgt James Cresswell, the new Officer in Charge of the Wundowie Police Station and has explained the process involving the Police with Lock and Light and Sgt Cresswell is eager to be involved. SSGT Geoff Dickson said that the program is being well received by the community.

The Committee agreed that the program should be marketed more widely on social media sites and on the Shire's website. The Committee has been asked to actively refer community members that they believe could benefit from accessing support from Lock and Light.

Bernard Park Toilets

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised that the potential solutions for the Bernard Park toilet issues that were raised at the previous meeting have been presented to Council staff for investigation and implementation. Mr Ross Rayson explained that staff will need to consider the logistics of each potential solution and budget implications.

Community Awareness

Communications Plan

Council staff have created a draft Community Safety and Crime Prevention Communications Plan and the Committee is asked to contribute ideas to the document.

As per the direction of the Committee, the Shire of Northam has now purchased a Variable Message Board (VMB) which is now available for use by the Police for community safety purposes.

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 however, with the crime being so opportunistic in the Shire of Northam, this will not necessarily help. SSGT Geoff Dickson will bring some crime mapping to the next meeting to demonstrate the crime pattern issues. SSGT Dickson was able to identify vacant houses as an issue.

Building Partnerships

Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan

The Committee discussed the Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan Committee. Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised the group that the Committee do focus on alcohol and drugs however, their focus is more on the user and not community safety, suggesting that the Community Safety Committee needed to understand that community safety with drugs and alcohol was not necessarily covered and not assuming the Community Safety Committee did not need to be active in this area.

Mr Cliff Simpson agreed that the community safety aspect of AODMP is not currently covered and the Community Safety Committee should consider doing more in this space. Ms Rose Power said that SDERA is about to commence some marketing initiatives that could be used around this area. Mr Ross Rayson noted that there needs to be a clear delineation between the two groups so that there is not a duplication. A process to allocate each issue to the correct Committee is required.

Night Hoops

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 first 6 week tournament is due to commence at the Northam Recreation Centre on 22 July 2017.

Community Design

Youth Precinct

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst provided an update on the Youth Precinct, advising that Convic, who were appointed as the successful contractor had developed an initial report which identifies the two preferred locations for the community. Council will make a decision on the final location and the project will then proceed to the next stage which is creating a detailed design.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst provided an update on the CCTV Project, advising that the installation of the new clusters has commenced. The project should be complete within the next 2 months.

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. This will initially be done via an email group where Committee Members will be provided with the opportunity to provide input. Mrs Michelle Blackhurst to organise.

RECOMMENDATION
Minute No: CSC.034
Moved: SSGT Geoff Dickson Seconded: Mr Cliff Simpson
That Council accept the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan update.
CARRIED 9/0

5.2 HOME BREAK-INS

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

BRIEF

To seek Committee support in developing actions to reduce the opportunity for home break-ins.

BACKGROUND / DETAILS

RAC has recently released a list of WA's worst suburbs for home break-ins. This list identifies Northam as the ninth worst overall suburb, and as the worst performing regional suburb.

The list has been developed from data gathered from only 4000 insurance claims, and only from customers of RAC Insurance.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

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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

Although the data is captured using a small pool of people who predominantly live in the Shire of Northam, 'Home Break-ins' is a current topic of concern to the community.

SSGT Geoff Dickson address the Committee about the current issue advising that the Shire of Northam is way under the 5 year averages for home burglary. Home burglary is everywhere he said and agreed that Northam had experienced a peek however, RACs figures did not depict an accurate picture of the situation here.

SSGT Geoff Dickson said that this report from RAC is damaging to the community's perception of crime in the Shire of Northam. As a Committee we need to work towards changing the perception with positive messaging and promoting the good things that are happening. This should be considered when further developing the Communications Plan.

Mr Greg Bentley enquired as to whether we could access data from similar communities to enable the Committee to do a comparison. SSGT Geoff

Dickson said that this can be dangerous due to the difference in opportunities and difference in population.

The Committee has been asked to assist to complete a Targeted Prevention Strategy for the development of additional actions to be included in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. This will be circulated by email.

This item requires more input from the Committee to further develop the plan and as such will be re-presented for recommendation at the next meeting.

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, 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 3.20pm.