



Shire of Northam

*Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle*

**MINUTES OF  
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
05 FEBRUARY 2015**

UNCONFIRMED

# SHIRE OF NORTHAM

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 05 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 2:00 PM

	<b>Page</b>
1. OPENING AND WELCOME .....	1
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.....	1
3. ATTENDANCE .....	1
4. APOLOGIES .....	1
5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	2
6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	2
6.1. PROGRESSION OF DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN.....	2
6.2. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY – PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY.....	3
7. AGENDA ITEMS .....	4
7.1. PRESENTATIONS BY STAKEHOLDERS.....	4
7.1.1 PRESENTATION BY SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION AND ROAD AWARE .....	5
7.1.2 PRESENTATION BY WA POLICE .....	5
7.1.3 PRESENTATION BY ROADWISE COMMITTEE.....	6
7.2. DRUG SUPPLIES IN NORTHAM AND THE TACTICS BEING USED BY THE POLICE TO CLOSE DOWN SUPPLIERS. ....	6
8. OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF COMMITTEE.....	7
9. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING .....	7
10. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE .....	7

## 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair, Ms Rose Power declared the meeting open at 2:08pm. Ms Power reiterated that the Terms of Reference stipulate the Members and Ex-Officio Members of the Committee and that only Members hold voting rights.

Ms Power acknowledged the work of Annique Gray and noted her appreciation of Ms Gray's work with the Northam Safer Community Committee.

## 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

NIL

## 3. ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS

Councillors

D G Beresford

J E Williams

Executive Manager Community Services  
Northam Roadwise Committee

Ross Rayson

Cliff Simpson

Rose Power

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Community Development Officer

Michelle Blackhurst

Department Child Protection and Family Support

Dawn Lamperd

WA Police

SUPT Peter Halliday

Main Roads Western Australia

Barbara Gogan

Department Sport and Recreation

Jennifer Collins

Avon Youth Services

Venessa Miler

Northam PCYC

James West

## 4. APOLOGIES

Department Education

Sharon Bray

Southern Youth Justice Services

Ellen Coshall

Chief Executive Officer

Jason Whiteaker

Northam Police

Snr Sgt Ron Daniels

Wundowie Police

Sgt Mark Johnston

Department Child Protection and Family Support

Shirley Umu

## 5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**Moved: C Simpson**  
**Seconded: D Beresford**

**That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 31 July 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**CARRIED 5/0**

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 6.1. PROGRESSION OF DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

At its meeting held on Thursday 26 June 2014 the Community Safety Committee resolved to hold a workshop to commence the development of a new Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. It also requested that Council appoint a facilitator for that purpose, which was endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 16 July 2014.

The purpose of the workshop will be to identify key community safety issues in the Shire of Northam and the development of strategies to address these. In order to identify the key issues in the communities (demonstrated and perceived), consideration of statistical data and an understanding of the perceptions of safety and crime in the community is required.

Council Officers have held a preliminary discussion with consultant agency "Consult, Innovate, Create", as recommended by members of the Committee and Regional Development Australia - Wheatbelt. This consultant is not available to do a workshop until April and her price would be based on what is required of her.

Mrs Blackhurst updated the committee about the current status of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, explaining that Council Officers are in the process of identifying actions to assist with progressing the plan. These actions will be used to help the Committee to understand the purpose of the workshop so that it can be tailored to suit the needs of the Committee.

Mrs Blackhurst said that in the past the workshops were for stakeholders only, used to brainstorm strategies against the communities identified issues. It had been suggested that the original plan was great but not well implemented. Based on this, the workshop could be used to analyse where the other plan is at and then build on it so that we are not wasting resources rather than using the workshop to start again. Stakeholders could then be coordinated to complete their tasks.

Mrs Barbara Gogan arrived at 2:17pm.

Mr Ross Rayson advised that the Shire of Northam is conducting a 'Community Perception Survey' to seek information from the public about different aspects of living in the Shire of Northam. Some questions have been built into this survey with regard to

safety in the community and this will be used to add value to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. Mr Rayson said that the questions would be reasonably general and it would not be a large section. The survey was being carried out by an organisation called Catalyse and they have the ability to benchmark results against other Local Governments to see where we sit. This process would assist us in determining what direction we need to go in.

Cr Denis Beresford said that the current plan is not achievable because it is too detailed. He suggested that the Committee needs to identify three focus areas and concentrate on dealing with these issues.

Mr Rayson suggested that we could use the results of the Community Perception survey to identify which three areas to focus on. He said that comparing this survey with the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan could will determine whether what the community says and what we say are on the same track. If they come back different, we will know that we need to adopt a different strategy.

SUPT Halliday suggested that we should start by tackling the perception of crime itself. It is far greater than reality.

Cr Julie Williams commented that this Committee has been here for 12 months and not achieved anything yet. Mr Rayson commented that this was due to staff changeover and the group not functioning. Cr Beresford said that we need to persist and work hard to make an improvement in the community and the Plan needs to be improved for this to be achieved.

Ms Power said that she would like to see real data incorporated into the Plan and she would like to see the Alcohol Policy completed. Mr Rayson confirmed that the Alcohol Policy is on the priority list for this year. Ms Power commented that DAO will be meeting with Mr Rayson, Mrs Blackhurst and herself on 16 February 2015 to help develop the Alcohol Policy.

**Moved: C Simpson**  
**Seconded: Cr J Williams**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Request that Members and Ex-Officio Members of the Community Safety Committee provide to the Shire of Northam available data to inform the development of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.**
- 2. Consider the results of the community's perception as they relate to safety and crime in the Shire of Northam.**

**CARRIED 5/0**

## **6.2. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY – PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Wheatbelt Police are looking to place a focus on locking vehicles in the Northam area. According to the Wheatbelt Police there has been an increase in thefts from vehicles in

the local area and unfortunately many of these appear to be preventable by simply having people lock their cars and remove valuable goods.

The concept developed by the Wheatbelt Police is to do a mail out to all residents to highlight this issue and providing contact details in the event people notice any suspicious activity. The discussions held with the Wheatbelt Police to date have revolved around the best possible way to have the information put out into the public arena.

Ms Power commented that with Ms Annique Gray leaving the mail out did not happen. Cr Beresford said that he would like to see other locations receive the mailout so that the whole Shire of Northam is covered.

Ms Power suggested that the Committee should include information on e-watch. Mrs Blackhurst explained that e-watch is an online tool that linked community members to current information from the Police. This includes statistics and information on how to protect yourself.

Mr Cliff Simpson reiterated that such costs would not be recurring as a cost from the Road Safety Week's annual budget allocation.

**Moved: Cr Beresford**  
**Seconded: C Simpson**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Partner the Wheatbelt Police in sending a letter to the each household in the Shire of Northam outlining strategies to mitigate motor vehicle theft and break-ins, and include an e-watch flyer;**
- 2. Contribute up to \$950 (to be sourced from job 4660 – Northam Safety Week) to assist in the dissemination of the letter and flier, subject to the letter being countersigned by the President or Chairperson of the Northam Safety Committee and the letter reflecting the support and involvement of the Northam Safety Committee;**
- 3. Place the information pertaining to strategies to mitigate motor vehicle theft and break-ins on the Council Website and social media**

**CARRIED 5/0**

## **7. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **7.1. PRESENTATIONS BY STAKEHOLDERS**

At the initial meeting of the Committee it was agreed that the first important step for the Committee was to begin to develop a clear understanding of the issues and challenges facing the community in relation to safety and subsequent crime prevention. As a consequence the focus of the Committee meetings will be on receiving presentations from key Committee members/stakeholders.

The presentations/briefings are designed to provide the opportunity for the relevant stakeholder to paint their picture of Northam in the context of their specific area of interest/focus.

### **7.1.1 PRESENTATION BY SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION AND ROAD AWARE**

Ms Rose Power presented information about School Drug Education and Road Aware.

Ms Power provided each Committee member with two brochures about the program. She commented that she works with 50 schools including the Catholic schools in the Wheatbelt.

The program is controlled by a board of management and her role is to train teachers and other providers to deliver the topics surrounding road safety and drugs. Her funding requires her to work specifically with parents this year.

Ms Power suggested that the Committee refers to her brochures for more information.

### **7.1.2 PRESENTATION BY WA POLICE**

Superintendent Halliday addressed the Committee at 2:38pm. This address was brought forward before 6.2 as Superintendent Halliday had an urgent matter to attend to.

WA Police measure different crimes however it is unverified data as it is based on what is reported at the time. Based on this data, the Wheatbelt is leading the state on reduction of crime. With this in mind, there are always areas that are not in the green.

These statistics relate specifically to Northam and are year to date comparisons:

- The total number of offences in Northam is down by 7.9%.
- Violence is down.
- Domestic violence is down by 1.5% and until now this has been increasing year after year.
- General assault is down.
- Non domestic assault is down.
- Robbery is down by 5.7%.
- Theft is down.
- Property damage is down by 2.3%
- Graffiti is down.

There are areas that have not improved over the last year and these include:

- Burglary which has increased by 65%.
- Motor vehicle theft which has increased by 35%

The increase in burglary is high however, 80% of burglaries occur through unlocked doors and open windows. We need to get this message out to the public. Again with car theft, the majority of those cars do not have immobilisers or the keys are accessible. In many cases the motor vehicle theft is tied in with the burglary because people leave their keys out in the open. People need to adapt.

The Wheatbelt is one of the safest places to live but this is not the perception. You are least likely to be in danger here unless you are in a car, in which case you are in the most danger.

Wheatbelt Police are facilitating crack down operations with lock down RBTs, drugs, speeding and seatbelts, and this will continue to happen.

What works? More patrols, more Detectives investigating crimes and juvenile intervention programs. When youth are engaged in intervention programs, reoffending is lower. We need to focus more on struggling youth and tie them to programs.

### **7.1.3 PRESENTATION BY ROADWISE COMMITTEE**

Mr Cliff Simpson presented information about Roadwise to the Committee.

Mr Simpson said that WALGA runs road safety programs to support Local Governments and they have a mandate to work with communities. Mr Simpson covers the Wheatbelt North sub-region. He commented that the Wheatbelt has the worst road safety in Western Australia. Younger people are getting the message about road safety because the statistics show that older people are taking more risks and having more accidents. Interventions might have worked with the young people.

Mr Simpson provided in depth statistical information about road deaths in the Wheatbelt. He said that Shire of Northam statistics are available on the WALGAs crash reports on their website but access to this is limited to specific people.

Mrs Jennifer Collins commented that deaths on our roads always involve choice. They choose to speed, they choose to drink. Ms Venessa Miller asked why the Wheatbelt is different. Mr Rayson suggested that we need to focus on this and understand why.

### **7.2. DRUG SUPPLIES IN NORTHAM AND THE TACTICS BEING USED BY THE POLICE TO CLOSE DOWN SUPPLIERS.**

A question was raised by Cr Beresford regarding the increasing amount of drug supplies in Northam. This is a topic of interest to the Northam Community and it would be beneficial for the Committee to understand the tactics being used by the Police to close down suppliers.

Superintendent Peter Halliday addressed the Committee.

There has been an increase this year in Northam of police intervention (not crime). Police are more proactive and the hit rate is high on drug affected drivers and this is a great result for road safety and for reducing drugs in Northam.

Intelligence is really important in Northam. When the public report suspected activities this helps to build an intelligence picture which takes us to a judicial bar. This is important because we need evidence to be able to deal with the criminals. The message we want to get out is that it is crucial for the Police to receive this information from the public but they will not always see the immediate action.

Cr Beresford commented that he was prompted to ask this question because people say to him that they report the drug suspicions but they do not see anything happening about it. Do you do sting operations?

SUPT Halliday said that they do sting operations however they need to build the judicial bar prior to taking action. We will never eradicate drugs in Northam. We will never eradicate drugs anywhere in the world. It is a societal issue through the entire western world. We will do all we can to reduce the issue.

Cr Beresford asked if there was a way of seeing if the unreported crime such as antisocial behaviour is improving. SUPT Halliday said that you can look at categories of jobs so yes. It is not as accurate as criminal figures but it can be measured.

Mrs Venessa Miller arrived at 2:55pm.

#### **8. OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF COMMITTEE**

Mr James West addressed the committee and wanted to officially acknowledge the contribution that is given by Mrs Anne Lowe. She is a Police Youth Engagement Officer and she is wonderful with our youth. Lots of burglary occurs because our young people are hungry. Their parents are encouraging them to steal food because they will not be punished for the crime. It is a follow-on effect.

Mr James West and SUPT Peter Halliday left at 3:00pm.

Mrs Jennifer Collins asked to have the opportunity to address the committee about the Department of Sport and Recreation at the next meeting. Mrs Dawn Lampert from the Department of Child Protection asked to do the same.

Ms Power asked that the results of the Community Perception Survey are circulated through the Committee.

#### **9. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next meeting will take place at the Shire of Northam on Thursday, 09 April 2015 at 3pm.

#### **10. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE**

The meeting was declared closed at 3:45pm.