



Minutes

Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
Date: Monday 8 February 2021
Venue: Committee Room
Time: 4:00 pm

Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Present and Apologies
2	Previous Minutes
3	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
4	Police Report
5	Community Awareness/ Education Initiatives
6	Alcohol Free Zones
7	General Business

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Clr Goodwin, Inspector Chris Sammut, Senior Constable Sue Rose, Jeff Smith, Danny Whitty and Kath Compton

Apologies: Councillor Coleman, Sonia Cox and Jill Cusack

Officers: Matthew Johnson

Declaration of Interests: NIL

ACTION

THAT

That the list of Present and Apologies and Declarations of Interest be noted.

MOVED: Danny Whitty **SECONDED:** Kath Compton

ITEM: 2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

SUMMARY

The previous minutes from 23 November 2020 were endorsed by three members present and were reported to Council on 25 January 2021.

ACTION

That the reporting of the previous minutes to Council on 25 January 2021 be noted.

MOVED: Jeff Smith **SECONDED:** Kath Compton

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

ITEM: 4 POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

A report was provided by the Police on local crime and policing activities.

COMMENTARY

Senior Constable Sue Rose provided data on offending rates for the period November 2020 to January 2021.

Proactive policing including person and vehicle searches were higher in the period.

Domestic violence rates were stable but lock up rates were high for DV assaults and AVO breaches. There were 57 domestic violence incidents in

**Minutes
Crime Prevention Committee Dated 8 February 2021**

December (24 assaults), 38 incidents in December (13 assaults) and 36 incidents in January (16 assaults)

Motor vehicle thefts: 4

Steal from dwelling: 7 offences in January

Steal from motor vehicle: rates were higher than average in the period with 13 in December and 11 in January.

Fail to pay: rates were higher than average

Financial scams are a continuing problem.

In relation to noise in residential areas, the Police will first ask the offenders to turn down the music and if there is a recurrence, a Noise Abatement Notice can be issued.

ACTION

THAT The Police Report be noted

MOVED: Senior Constable Sue Rose **SECONDED:** Danny Whitty

ITEM: 5 COMMUNITY AWARENESS/ EDUCATION INITIATIVES

SUMMARY

The committee discussed ways in which Council could disseminate information on how the community can protect itself against financial scams, motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle offences.

COMMENTARY

It was agreed that the Police would provide content, starting with prevention of motor vehicle theft, that could be disseminated through Council's website and Facebook sites and could possibly be included in programs run at the Library.

ACTION

THAT The dissemination of information on how the community can protect itself against financial scams, motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle offences be noted.

MOVED: Senior Constable Sue Rose **SECONDED:** Inspector Chris Sammut

ITEM: 6 ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

SUMMARY

The current Alcohol Free Zones in Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang expire in early April 2021.

COMMENTARY

The current Alcohol Free Zones in the Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang CBD areas were last extended by a resolution of Council in April 2017. Their operation will cease in early April 2021.

Alcohol Free Zones may operate for a maximum period of 4 years after which Councils are required to consider whether they are still required or if they should be re-established for a further period.

Council has powers under Sections 644 of the local Government Act 1993 to establish Alcohol Free Zones on roads, footpaths and public carparks. The establishment of an Alcohol Free Zone gives powers to the Police to seize, tip out or otherwise dispose of open containers of alcohol. The Police may also issue a warning or where a person does not cooperate with the Police, they can be charged with obstruction under Section 660 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Council may also establish Alcohol Prohibited Areas under Section 632A of the Local Government Act in public places (other than roads, footpaths and public carparks) such as parks, as for example Council has done in Queen Elizabeth Park and a number of other parks. Alcohol Prohibited Areas may operate without time limit. Offences and penalties are consistent with those that apply in Alcohol Free Zones. This report does not deal with the establishment of Alcohol Prohibited Areas.

The committee also discussed the drinking of alcohol at sporting events held on Council facilities and agreed that this matter be referred to the Sports Advisory Committee for consideration.

ACTION

The drinking of alcohol at sporting events held on Council facilities be referred to the Sports Advisory Committee for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. The Committee support the extension of the current Alcohol Free Zones for a further 4 years.

MOVED: Cllr Goodwin

SECONDED: Jeff Smith

ITEM: 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Graffiti:** Council has been notified by the Department of Communities and Justice of Graffiti Removal Day on Sunday 28 March 2021 and asked to promote the event and to work with the community on clean-up sites.

The Committee considered that in view of the low and sporadic level of graffiti in Lithgow, that promotion of and participation in the event is not warranted.

**Minutes
Crime Prevention Committee Dated 8 February 2021**

2. Neighbourhood Watch: The Committee was asked if the Neighbourhood Watch program still exists. The Police representatives advised that Neighbourhood watch does exist and there is information on the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia website. There is no Neighbourhood Watch in the Chifley Command however. Inspector Sammut advised that he is happy to attend meetings in Wallerawang if requested.

3. Queen Elizabeth Park Lighting: Clr Goodwin spoke of a proposal to install new lighting, including up lighting under trees to improve community safety, discourage crime and create a public drawcard to the park.

4. Lighting along Barton Avenue Wallerawang

The Committee agreed to raise this matter with Council's Operations Committee.

ACTION

THAT the discussion under General Business be noted.

MOVED: Clr Goodwin **SECONDED:** Jeff Smith

Meeting closed at 5:15pm

Next Meeting: 4:00-5:00pm on Monday 10 May 2021 in the Committee Room.