

Leeton Community Safety Precinct Meeting
Leeton Shire Council Chambers

5:30pm, 30th March 2010

Present: Superintendent Rowan, Commander Griffith LAC
Detective Inspector Smith, Crime Manager Griffith LAC
Inspector Dunlop, Duty Officer Griffith LAC
Sergeant Traynor, Crime Coordinator Griffith LAC
Sergeant Lovett, Leeton Police Station
Sergeant Ryan, Licensing Griffith LAC
Senior Constable McInnes, School Liaison Officer
Micheal Cowdry-Ling, Leeton Community Health
Father Robert Murphy, Anglican Church
Garry Lanham, Lanham Ford
Lisa O'Brien, Yanco Agricultural High School
Brian McKellar, Leeton Shire Council
Peter Hingston, Whitton Public School
Brenda King, St Francis De Sales College, Leeton

Meeting: Meeting commenced at 5:35pm

Apologies: Senior Constable Dunlop, Crime Prevention Officer Griffith LAC
Paul Mayden, Mayor Leeton Shire Council
Sandy Robertson, Roads & Traffic Officer Leeton Shire Council
Lyn Williams, Youth Manager Leeton Shire Council

Welcome: Welcome conducted by Superintendent Rowan, Commander of the Griffith Local Area Command

Previous Minutes: Previous minutes from last meeting on 18/03/2009 read by all attendees and no amendments rose from the floor.

- Sergeant Traynor updated attendees on follow up made in relation to possible use within Leeton of the PCYC van.
 - Contact of made with Sergeant David Cook and the PCYC van is stored in Wagga and would be available for use. However we need to confirm if our police can use it or only PCYC staff. As our Griffith PCYC Officer is currently pregnant and unable to conduct her usual duties. If there were activities that community members would like to use the bus for over the next few months we would require the dates to liaise with Wagga Wagga PCYC to arrange.

- Sergeant Traynor updated attendees on follow up on the question if the PCYC bus could be used to transport youth from Leeton to Griffith for activities.
 - Enquiries were made and the Community would have to sponsor a bus to convey young people to and from Griffith for any functions and programs etc as the Griffith PCYC Bus is sponsored by the Griffith community
- Sergeant Traynor completed a crime review on major crime categories within Leeton over the past 12 months.
- Local business owner, Gary Langham, raised the issue of a group of young persons causing trouble in the main street of Leeton on a daily basis. Mr Langham stated that the young people walk up the back lane behind Country Energy and climb on the roof. Mr Langham has spoken to the young people and stated that they have informed him they just don't want to go to school and believe they are of Primary School age. Raised the question, do we have truancy officers anymore?
- Sergeant Traynor explained the powers that police have under the Education Act to direct students back to school and report to the Department of Education (DET) on non attending students. Sergeant Traynor explained that the DET have a Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) who works from the district office in Griffith. However, this job was vacant for approximately six months till only recently when it was filled by a new HSLO, Allan Casey.
- Peter Hingston of Whitton Public School raise that he knows Allan Casey and he is very keen and focussed, and that he would speak with him RE: Gary Langham's concerns.
- Senior Constable McInnes added that she is aware that Allan Casey has been involved in a mass interview of students and parents at Leeton High School approximately two weeks ago and I have been advised from the school that Allan is seeking to prosecute some parents in this group.
- Sergeant Traynor raised the idea of a community based program where businesses are encouraged not to serve students during school hours without a valid leave pass in their stores, and printing posters that would be displayed in the front window indicating they are a part of the program. This would need to be embraced by the community and have a multi-agency approach from the DET, Police and local businesses to ensure it would be successful.
- Sergeant Traynor conducted a presentation on the break and enter reduction strategy.

Discussion was then handed over to the floor;

- Detective Inspector Smith raised that a similar program was run in Orange and achieved positive results, with a reduction in number of break and enters offences in the Orange Community.
 - Gary Langham stated that a program such as this is needed looking at the figures in the presentation in relation to numbers of BES offences within Leeton.
 - Michael Chowdry-Ling stated that the media would need to be used to entice the community and get them involved in the strategy.
 - Brian McKellar raised the question of funding, how much funding a strategy like this would require.
 - Sgt Traynor stated that there are numerous grants of up to 50K around. However, this is something that would take time in getting the required figures and statistics for the funding applications. It would be a 12 month plan including applying for grants, then achieving the grants.
 - Detective Inspector Smith stated that initially we would be looking for community support.
 - Sgt Traynor stated that forming a committee in relation to the strategy would really assist.
 - Gary Langham stated that he believes it would be something that the Chamber of Commerce would be interested in and he would discuss it with them.
 - Brian McKellar stated that he could not see any problems with council support of the strategy
- Licensing Sergeant, Brett Ryan, conducted a presentation detailing;
 - The role of the Licensing Sergeant
 - Alcohol related crime
 - The Leeton Liquor Accord
 - Supply means supply program
 - Local hotels jointing barring patrons

Discussion was then handed over to the floor;

- Detective Inspector Smith stated that there are rumours RE: Alcohol related crime in the media etc, but in reality alcohol related crimes are down, and the Griffith LAC has some really good support with local licensees.
- Brenda Smith of St Francis College raised the question of how do we get through to parents in relation to supplying their children alcohol that it's a criminal offence.
- Peter Hingston raised that there is pressure on parents from their children to supply alcohol if they are seeing others do it
- Sergeant Brett Ryan discussed that police can take action against parents if they can prove that they were the person that supplied the alcohol. The infringement penalties for these offences are up in order to reduce this happening.

- Peter Hingston raised that older friends and sibling also supply young people with alcohol
- Sergeant Brett Ryan raised the media campaign that has been going in relation to informing people including parents and others about supplying young persons with alcohol.
- Sergeant Traynor stated that the police work with young people regularly through crime prevention workshops to address under age drinking/binge drinking etc and the consequences of this.
- Senior Constable McInnes stated that the NSW Police also have a dedicated website for safe partying where students can register their parties online with local police and download safe partying information. The Schools are encouraged to put this information in their school newsletters to get it out to the parents.

Open Forum:

- Brian McKellar asked what the current status with crime prevention plans is.
- Sgt Traynor explained that the crime prevention plan has been simplified, and no longer required to do extensive consultation and extensive report.
- Superintendent Rowan thanked everyone for their attendance, and asked everyone to report issues at a local level if needed.
- Inspector Dunlop asked for information to continue coming in, so we can address the issues for the community and resource our troops.

Meeting closed 6:23pm