

## **Gunnedah Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting 9 June, 2009 – Gunnedah Council Chambers**

Present: Mr Peter Draper MP, Mr Adam Marshall - Mayor Gunnedah Regional Council, Cr Colleen Fuller- Deputy Mayor, Cr Gwen Griffen, Ms Ruythe Dufty - School Education Director – NE Region, Mr Greg Thomas - Gunnedah Liquor Accord, Mr Stuart Turner, Namoi Valley Independent Newspaper,

Superintendent Clint Pheeneey, Inspector Philip O'Reilly, A/Insp Byrnes, Sergeant Doug Chester, Sergeant Longworth, Mrs Jill Smith

Meeting commenced: 10.15am

**Welcome and overview of meeting by Superintendent Pheeneey.**

**Overview of crime in Gunnedah given by Inspector O'Reilly, Crime Manager, Oxley LAC. (Handout provided.)**

Stolen Motor Vehicles has been an area of concern. Supt Pheeneey explained how the statistics reflect spikes which look dramatic but may only be an increase of one or two incidents.

**Domestic Violence** - awareness campaign is to be launched shortly. It is anticipated there will be an increase in the reporting of Domestic Violence. Discussion re DV yellow cards being provided to victims of DV. Sgt Longworth assured Committee these cards were distributed on each occasion to victims of DV.

D.V. Ball being held – working together to show support – possibly November –  
Action: Mr Draper to view his diary dates and advise Cr Fuller of his availability.

**Malicious Damage** - Cr Fuller indicated her figures suggest Malicious Damage has doubled since 2008. Mr Draper stated his recent Crime Survey indicated a large portion of people did not report crimes to the police. Gunnedah residents appear to be reluctant to report crime to police other than Gunnedah police and if they are not working, they don't report the crime.

### **Underage Drinking at Hotels –**

Cr Fuller indicated she had four statutory declarations from parents stating their children had been served alcohol at hotels. Supt Pheaney stated these instances need to be reported to the police as soon as possible to enable investigations to be conducted, statements to be taken and CCTV to be viewed. Hotels breaching their licence need to be identified to allow action to occur. If Gunnedah Police Station is not manned, contact can be made through Tamworth Police Station, the Police Assistance Line or Crimestoppers.

### **Licensing – Sport Events**

Discussion re serving of mid strength alcohol at sporting events. Results for Gunnedah show appear positive with more sales and less problems occurring.

Action: Figures re drink driving offences and D.V offences during the Gunnedah Show period requested – 8/9/10 May 2009 to compare with previous year for the next Crime Prevention Meeting – S/C Mel Roberts to provide figures.

### **Staffing levels - Gunnedah**

Strategies are in place to bring Gunnedah onto full strength. Boggabri has been assisting Gunnedah with shifts and this will continue. A new Duty Officer is to commence in July and one Sergeant is to be discharged medically in July. In the next 6 week roster period all shifts have been covered. An application has been made to convert one Sergeants position into a Constables position – awaiting a decision from the Deputy Commissioner.

Cr Marshall, Cr Fuller and Mr Draper all acknowledged the good work being done by Gunnedah Officers and realised they were stretched to the limit.

### **Drug Matters – Gunnedah**

Cr Griffen queried drug crime within the area. Sgt Longworth stated there had been recent arrests by police and some very good results were obtained. Drugs have been located in vehicles travelling through the area – difficult to ascertain if the drugs were meant for this area or travelling through.

Action: Source drug data re needle exchanges from Dept health for the next Crime Prevention Meeting – S/C M. Roberts to provide figures.

### **Reporting of Crime**

Discussions as to the best way to encourage victims of crime to report it to police.

Action:

- Message from Commander to be placed in local Newspaper
- Crimestoppers to be contacted in relation to availability of resources, ie magnets, cards
- Mr Draper will assist with his newsletter
- Mr Marshall to assist with signage and pamphlets in rate notes
- Supt Pheeny and Mr Draper to arrange to meet to review survey results.
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Supt Pheeny acknowledged support of the Gunnedah Council and expressed his appreciation with the offer of assistance with promoting the reporting of crime in the Gunnedah area.

**Dept Education – School Issues**

Ms Dufty spoke about proactive measures being undertaken by the YLO and the implementation of a Dept Education Youth Liaison/Behaviour Officer for the Gunnedah and surrounding areas. Praised the efforts of the SLO – S/C Croger. Dialogue between Police and Principals seems to be working very well. Discussions re street sweeps for truant students during school hours – these seem to be working well in Tamworth.

Action: Const Harvey and S/C Croger – please make contact with Ms Dufty to see if arrangements can be made to assist the Dept Ed YLO in street sweeps in Gunnedah.

Mobile phone bullying is a huge challenge in schools. The SLO is working with schools to increase awareness of this type of behaviour is an offence.

**Next Meeting – TBA**

Minutes: Jill Smith – Executive Officer