



## Minutes

Thursday 11 March 2010

10:00am – 12:30pm

**Attendance:** A/Supt. Keane (F'field Police), Det. Insp Gary Bailey (F'field Police), Insp. Glenn Allen (F'field Police), Nancy Frangelli (Office of Joe Tripodi MP), Frank Carbone (Councillor, FACC), John Orlando (Real Estate), Alex Karaki, Alex Sentana (F'field Police), Stacey Hurst (F'field Police), Alana Woodbury (F'field Police), Saithya Tuy (Newleaf), Derek Walters (B'rigg Plaza), John Zeitoune (Stockland Wetherill Park), Dan Favotto (FACC), Claudia Guajardo (FACC).

**Apologies:** Helen Pijaca (FACC) Karina Connelly (Manager Youth and Disabilities) Glen Boyd (General Manager, Community First Step), Tony Walker (FACC), Lesley Unsworth (FACC), John Faker (F'field Forum), Lawrence White (Councillor, FACC), George Marando, David Niven (FACC) Claudia Stevens (Newleaf), Kylie Wilson (St George Community Housing).

**Meeting Open:** 10:15am

**Welcome and Introduction:** Acting Superintendent Keane, Commander, Fairfield Police

**Local Crime Review:** Detective Inspector Gary Bailey, Crime Manager, Fairfield Police. Break and Enter offences remained the main concern from mid December and throughout January and February, particularly in the Bossley Park area. Due to a great deal of effort from all sections and units of Fairfield Police, pro-activity statistics for the Fairfield LAC (person searches & move on directions) are the highest in this region. This, along with a number of arrests has had a major impact which has resulted in a significant decrease in Break and enters. Residents of Bossley Park have raised some concerns. As a result, Police conducted a letter box drop, circulating descriptions of possible offenders. S/C Woodbury is also working with the residents to implement a Neighbourhood Watch Committee in the Bossley Park area.

**Claudia Guajardo** – A letter was received from Bossley Park residents in relation to having parks lit at night due to a number of issues. Generally, parks are not lit at night to discourage use after dark, however a number of audits are being carried out and the instillation of lighting is being considered.

**Sarithya Tuy** – Has any assessment been done as a result of the audits conducted in Bonnyrigg?

**Claudia Guajardo** – It is important to assess the outcome of audits once they are conducted, however, the time frame since the audit is less than twelve months and it is not yet feasible to conduct an assessment. This will be addressed at a later date.

### **Fairfield Youth Facility:**

**Claudia Guajardo** - Report on discussion between members of the Fairfield Town Centre Committee regarding strategies to address issues in relation to youth anti-social behaviour.

A proposed model titled 'Way Forward' has been developed and was presented for consideration as an interim measure until the Fairfield Youth Facility is finalised and developed. The proposed 'Way Forward' model recognises a link between various government and non government organisations and proposes the implementation of a 'Youth Worker' position to form a central contact point between those organisations.

**Dan Favotto** - Emphasised that the proposed "Youth Worker" model was only an interim solution until the new Youth Facility is established and operational, hopefully by the end of 2011 or early 2012. Council will be seeking funding from DOCS for this temporary position.

**Councillor Frank Carbone** – Originally the Youth Facility was simply a location to house all existing services and was not offering anything new in the way of facilities or services. The Youth Committee visited other similar centres around the country as well as consulted young people to find out what would best suit their needs. As a result, Council decided to develop a facility not only housing existing services but to also include facilities for recreational activities and ongoing programs for young people.

Mt Pritchard Community Club have showed support by approving a grant of \$2 million as well as the possibility of ongoing financial support. Further grant approval will be announced sometime this month. Another proposal is to develop the facility in stages depending on the funding available. That way the facility will be developed over a number of years and can be developed depending on the needs of the young people and the area as required.

**Derek Walters** - How will young people in Bonnyrigg for example become engaged in the centre? There are a number of issues regarding a lack of parental/guardian support. Most of these young people have no positive role models.

**Claudia Guajardo** – There will always be some young people that we will simply not be able to engage. Council are looking at developing a better relationship with Juvenile Justice to assist in engaging young people with issues.

**Nancy Frangelli** – There is funding available for programs to engage young people at risk.

**Stacey Hurst** – Discussion at the last Fairfield Youth Workers Network meeting regarding strategies to improve services in Bonnyrigg. It is a consensus that drop-in from 3:30pm to 5:30pm is not working.

**Councillor Frank Carbone** – We want to avoid the situation of the facility becoming a 'child minding' centre. Young people need to be motivated to access services etc... We don't want parents thinking they can just dump their kids at the centre and do their own thing. We want the main attraction to be access to services to increase skills and motivation with the added benefit of programs and recreation rather than recreation being the main focus.

**Gary Bailey** – Police have a program in place to curb behaviours. (see 'Profiling the Command')

**Alex Karaki** – We should be targeting parents and put funding into educating the parents and force them to be more accountable for their children.

**Claudia Guajardo** – The difficulty is the high number of nationalities, languages and cultural differences. Council's core business is not normally service delivery however Council is making a big exception with this centre and are committed to it.

**Gary Bailey** – Is everyone happy to endorse the proposed 'Way Forward' model?

**Nancy Frangelli** – Mr Tripodi MP is not opposed to it, he just believes that consideration should be given to including other aspects/projects.

**\*\*All in attendance agreed that the 'Way Forward' model should be endorsed as an interim model. Funding options for the Youth Worker Position is currently being explored. DoCS is one possible option.**

### **Profiling the Command – Constable Stacey Hurst, Youth Liaison Officer, Fairfield Police.**

Constable Hurst spoke about the role of the Youth Liaison Officer and the Young Offender's Act. Constable Hurst is commencing a program aimed at curbing anti-social behaviour. A number of young people between the ages of 12 to 16 years, at risk of becoming involved in gang activity are being identified. Police will then attend their home address and speak with their parents/guardians informing them of concerns and possible risks. The program is aimed at young people who have come under notice of Police, however have not yet been subject to a legal process. The aim of the program is to involve parents/guardians in the process of curbing behaviours and encouraging positive associations and role models.

Constable Hurst has also been working with a number of young repeat offenders to ensure they are complying with their imposed conditions and to encourage them to stop committing offences.

### **Break Free Project – The Potter House Christian Church**

The Potter's House is a Christian Church situated in Ware Street Fairfield and is headed by Pastor James Blair. Pastor Blair has established the 'Break Free' project which is an amateur dramatisation DVD based on the true life story of Tony Hoang, a previous gang member who managed to 'break free' of the destructive gang lifestyle when he joined The Potter's House Church. Pastor Blair is attempting to produce the same DVD but on a more professional level of higher quality. He is going to make an application through CDSE funding grants to cover the cost of the production of the DVD. He is then hoping to release the DVD as an educational training package to schools and other educational facilities.

Paster Blair has asked the CSPC for support by way of a letter to accompany the funding application. The proposal was put to the committee for discussion.

The main concern of the committee was that the project is going to be used a 'recruitment drive' for the church.

**Alana Woodbury** – Another concern is that if this project was supported by the CSPC, how much input would we have into the content. It appears that the script and story line is already set. We do not want to be placed in a situation where the end product is something we are not entirely happy with or that would cause a conflict.

**A/Supt. Keane** – It is likely to cause a conflict in regards to the Police Force sponsorship and endorsement policy.

**Claudia Guajardo** – I have spoken with Tony previously and I believe his main motivation is to draw more people into the church. If told without the religious element, it would reach a much wider scale. Also, as Council is co-ordinating the CDSE funding process, it may be seen as a conflict of interest if Council endorsed the proposal.

**\*\*All in attendance agreed that although the concept of the project is positive, due to a number of concerns, the committee is not prepared to formally support the project.**

**Meeting Closed:** 12:30pm

**Next Meeting:** 10 June 2010 – To be confirmed

All enquiries regarding the CSPC, please contact Senior Constable Alana Woodbury on (02) 9728 8459 or 0403 113 492 or [wood1ala@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wood1ala@police.nsw.gov.au)

Thank you for your participation in the Fairfield Community Safety Precinct Committee.

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