Tamworth Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting
7 July, 2009 – Tamworth Regional Council Chambers

Present: Mr Peter Draper, MP, Mr James Treloar, Mayor Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Patrick O'Connor, Tamworth Regional Council, Ms Pat Varley, Centre Manager/Programs Coledale Community Centre, Mr Jeff Mills, Department of Housing, Mr Keith Sammon, City Plaza, John Begley, Tamworth & District Liquor Accord, Renee Leigh Yr 11 Peel High School Student, Natalie Nean Yr 11 Peel High School Student.

Superintendent Clint Pheeney, Inspector Philip O'Reilly, Inspector Jeff Budd, Constable Georgia Harvey, S/C John Collins, PCYC, Ms Renae Townsend.

Meeting commenced: 10.20am

Welcome and overview of meeting by Superintendent Pheeney.

Welcome to the two representatives from Peel High School Year 11 students, Renee Leigh and Natalie Nean

Action items from previous meeting

Mr Draper- The survey conducted by Mr Draper's office revealed that 40% of people affected by crime don't report it. Which makes it hard to get an accurate picture of crime and the resources needed to combat crime. He is to include information regarding the importance of reporting all crime in his newsletter that is distributed throughout the electorate.

School visit- Const Harvey to arrange a suitable time this week for Mr Draper to attend a school visit with her.

Alcohol free zone- The majority of the application has been put together awaiting the No Go Zone from Mr Draper.

Housing Minister Visit- Mr Draper, Mayor Treloar and Supt Pheeney met with the Housing Minister David Borger and Jeff Mills from Dept of Housing in Tamworth to address some of the issues from the Coledale estate. The Housing Minister is going to visit the area and meet with Mayor Treloar and Supt Pheeney when in the area. Mills is working on a plan to address the issues.

Maureen Chapman from Dept of Premiers and State will chair a working party to address some of the issues; the meeting will be held in the coming month.

Bike patrols were to be reintroduced in May however the number of new Probationary Constables we were expecting from the May class did not arrive. We will re introduce the bike patrols when staffing allows. We recently deployed mounted police during the NCHA. Oxley funded this initiative.

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

- Domestic assaults & alcohol related assaults are being closely monitored. Alcohol related assaults are down below 15% and the majority are residential. There has been some success with repeat offenders. A new court support officer has been deployed to provide support to dv victims at court, this is an initiative from the Attorney General Departments
- Break & Enter-Dwellings and Break & Enter-Non dwellings are down from February. This is from targeting suspects and conducting bail compliance checks. All incidents on charts are crime reported to police including Police Assistance Line.
- Spikes in crime can also occur when offenders are released from prison or when an offender or group of offenders come into the district. We have a working relationship with other LACS of information sharing.
- Stolen Vehicles were down from seven last month to five. April was three. Targeting offenders. Intel to map where they are stolen from and where they are recovered.
- Fraud – Most fraudulent offences are fail to pay for fuel at petrol stations. Strategies have been suggested to petrol stations to improve this, such as late at night closing down some bowsers and only using ones close to the console and within cctv coverage. Another is to pay for fuel prior to getting the fuel. The main petrol stations that fall victim to this is the United Service Station and Rex Motors
- Major Traffic Crash – Injury & Fatal. 13 in last month. Traffic incidents remain static. Five fatals across the whole Command for the year. Two of these were in Tamworth. Most serious accidents are on back roads and mostly single vehicle accidents. Majority are not alcohol related.

Mr Begley has asked for statistics of PCA to be brought to the next meeting so he can then take it to the Liquor Accord Meetings.

Action: Inspector O'Reilly to include PCA crime charts for next meeting.

General Discussion regarding drug testing of drivers. The drug testing bus is utilised over the CMF. It appears the trend is toward amphetamines and pills. With a moving trend toward the prescription drug Oxy Contin. There is wide spread abuse of this prescription drug across other LACS in the Western Region. Oxley Local Area Command is proactive in conducting person searches and vehicle searches for drugs.

Action: Specific data on drug detection for Oxley Local Area Command.

Malicious Damage – Graffiti.
Commander Pheeney asked the Peel High School Representatives what they believe to be the main cause of youths graffiting property in the area and how do we best stop it. Would it help if we had a legal graffiti wall? The two representatives believe it would help to have a legal graffiti wall somewhere visible.
Council have a graffiti action.
Inspector Budd identified that a group who are believed to be committing the offences have been identified and being monitored.
Councillor Warren Woodley has suggested a group of civilians to drive around and monitor the areas prone to graffiti and report back to police. People are encouraged to report what they see but it could be fraught with danger if the civilians were to intervene. It does work just needs to be set up correctly for community to liase with police.

Mayor – Funding has been allocated this financial year for CCTV to be installed in the main street of Tamworth. The question is now monitoring the footage.
Supt Pheeney reports Dubbo has one central point for monitoring being the Police Station in Dubbo the other option is monitoring the footage 24hrs -7 days a week which is conducted by a private security company as is done in Lismore. The Committee is doing a lot of work with this.
Would be useful for major events to utilise a police officer to monitor for deployment of police

John Collins - PCYC Tamworth
PCYC in Tamworth has two new police. Role of the PCYC police has changed. Youth Case Management System involved taking 12-18 of the youths committing the most crime. Eight youth each to manage. Meeting with the offenders three times a week. Working out what the issues are the youth is facing, is it family problems, mental health issues, financial issues. Introduce them to programs and rehabilitate them back into the Community. Empowering them to return to school or into employment. The role has changed to address the youth committing the crime. Facilities are in Tamworth and are face to face consultation with the offenders.
There is criteria that needs to be met and referrals are made by Juvenile Justice, Schools and the Court.
Jeff Mills from Dept of Housing and John Collins to meet and discuss issues relating to Homeless Youth.

General Discussion regarding the process of Youth Conferencing. Police or the Courts can initiative Youth Conferences. Const Harvey reports police are complying with criteria required for youth conferencing. Statistics reveal reoffending is lower when offenders attend conferences rather than court.

Pat Varley – School holidays are coming up. Boredom of youth in Coledale is a big issue. Police need to break down the barriers with the kids from Coledale as there is no respect. Suggestions to update the parks get the youth involved in sports such as handball/basketball. Sport & Rec are running school holidays programs.

Mr Treloar reports that sporting development officers will soon be headed in one office. Which will be an advantage and something to consider for the next school holidays.

Meeting Closed 11.30am

Next Meeting – 17 November 2009 10am