



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE FORCE

Albury Local Area Command
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NSW Police Force
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Albury Community Safety Precinct Committee Albury Police Station 8th December, 2010

Agenda

1. Welcome by Superintendent COMMINS
2. Apologies
3. Quarterly Crime Review – Sergeant GAY
4. Matters Arising
5. General Business – Around the Table
6. Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th March, 2011

Minutes – Community Safety Precinct Meeting, Wednesday 8/1210.

Start: 10:00am

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Title
Supt Gary Commins	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Commander
D/Insp. Brad Blanchard	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Crime Manager
Sgt Paul Gay	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Intelligence Supervisor
S/Cst Matthew Barnes	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Crime Prevention Officer
Mr Peter Prentice	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Intelligence Analyst
Ms Margaret Buntin	Urana Shire	Mayor
Mr Peter Smith	NSW Dept of Education	School Education Director
Ms Heather Webster	Albury City Council	Community Safety Officer
Mr Greg Aplin	Member, NSW State Parliament	Member, NSW State Parliament
Mr Fred Langmire	Corowa Shire	Mayor
Mrs Alice Glachan	Albury City Council	Mayor

Apologies: Tumbarumba Council (other commitments)

Convenor: Supt Gary Commins.

Welcome to attendees by Supt Gary Commins.

Actions arising from meeting:

- Nil.

Business arising from previous meeting:

- Nil.

Minutes of previous meeting (September 2010) adopted by Ms Buntin and seconded by Inspector Blanchard. Carried.

Issues Discussed

- Late night food venues and effect on violence in Albury CBD.

Actions arising from meeting:

- Action: Police staff to be informed that council will provide advice on where to obtain cleaning products but will not clean graffiti.
- Action: Mrs Glachan to ask Mr Mulvey about letter (sent by S/C Barnes) and to check conditions surrounding street furniture with council staff

Presentation by Sgt Paul Gay – Snapshot of business plan target compliance (year end targets)

- Crime categories:
 - Steal from Vehicle: Currently over year to date target, monitoring. Confident actual incidents will be under end of year target.
 - Break & Enter – Non Dwelling: Over target by 27 incidents currently
 - Break & Enter – Dwelling: Under target by 67 incidents.
 - Malicious Damage: Slightly over target, favourable compared to same time last year.
 - Sectors: Recently spike of break and enters in Culcairn and Holbrook and malicious damages in Holbrook.
 - Year to date: No significant crime trends.
 - Warrant list is being disseminated, 5 worse offenders circulated, all warrants executed within 4 days. Break and enter incidents have declined markedly.
- Supt Commins: Attended Compass Performance Review (3/12/10). Results and comments good, nothing adverse. The current crime trends are good. Several targets have been nominated and removed. The period 1-8/12/10 best crime reduction period for some time. Weather may have had an impact but police efforts have had significant impact.

Around Table

Mr Smith:

- Cyber bullying – leading to physical conflict between parties. Now a regional priority.
- Persons hacking Facebook profiles and pretending to be the profile owner and insulting friends etc.
- Attempting to educate broader community regarding volatility of internet and effect on children.
- Year 12 Farewells: Nil problems.
- Supt Commins: DCOP Owens commented on internet related violence at Compass review. If incident is reported Police need to be allowed to investigate incident. Problem needs to be addressed by Police, internal reviews or schools taking internal action is not effective. Bullying effect leads to mental stress and potentially suicides.
- Principal's view: Cyber bullying occurs outside school, parents are causing some of the problem by responding to bully on child's profile. Violence then occurring at school. Parents then raise problem with schools and expect bully will be dealt with harshly.
- There have been several incidents of group violence.
- Unsure about numbers of male and female perpetrators. Anonymity is part of cause.

Mr Langmire:

- Sub PACT was held on Monday.
- Awareness of HWP vehicle increasing, reducing traffic offences.
- Mulwala and Howlong going well.

Mrs Glachan:

- Powderfinger concert: Meeting held day after to review. No problems at concert. Influx of people into Albury CBD caused some problems but nothing significant.

- Relationship between council and police through liquor accord is working well.
- Disappointing that Albury is always highlighted regarding crime statistics. Appreciate that it is due to population.
- Albury Show low key due to poor weather. No problems, organisers appreciate Police presence.
- Councils conference: Very little problem for Police. Supt Commins commented that at dinner he was seated with Mayors of Holroyd and Bankstown Councils and was discussing crime issues. Compared to other Local Government Areas, Albury has no significant problems.

Ms Webster:

- Recent crime prevention program, Arrive Home Safe. Albury Council is contributing \$4 of a \$5 taxi voucher to businesses, business contributes \$1 and vouchers are given to staff. Aim is to reduce incidence of drink driving.
- Albury Council participated in White Ribbon Day.
- Safe party, drinking ads being broadcast of The River radio station, ads directed at young persons.
- Xavier High School: Council staff have visited to discuss alcohol related crime; road safety; response to alcohol affected persons in night clubs; and zero tolerance of binge drinking. Beer goggles were used to show students effect of alcohol.
- Alcohol free events being held at Retro Café for youth.
- Training of council staff regarding graffiti removal occurring.
- To Police, council will not remove graffiti on private property. Police staff have been informing people to contact council to have graffiti removed. Discussion regarding responsibilities; what advice is being given; and when council will remove graffiti. Action: Police staff to be informed that council will provide advice on where to obtain cleaning products but will not clean graffiti.
- International Sustainability Audit to occur in Dean St, Albury. Purpose to determine number and types of different businesses open at 7pm and at 11pm. Types of businesses open affects amount and type of crime that occurs in an area. Currently reviewing costs of alcohol related crime (litter, cleaning costs).
- Youth Council taking lead on anti graffiti day and on Clean Up Australia Day. Youth Council planning to paint signal boxes throughout town. Comment from Supt Commins that Youth Council representative Rachael Armstrong is very impressive. Mrs Glachan commented that Youth Officer is very proactive.

Mr Aplin:

- Trailbikes, is a photo of trailbikes possible for publication in paper. When community are informed that Police have trailbikes, member's office will receive fewer letters and offenders may curb activities. Supt Commins responded that 2 bikes have been received and are being minded at present. Unable to make any official statement yet, trailbikes not yet operational.
- Reporting of officer using bike to patrol would be great PR and would act as deterrent to offenders.
- Albury CBD: Possible that alcohol related crime will increase going into summer, will inspections of licensed premises (including liquor stores) increase? Supt Commins responded stating that Beats operation is in place, patrols of the Albury CBD will increase, and licensed premises (liquor stores) have been subject of stealing recently.
- Commented that media focus on Dean St, Albury is increasing.
- Corowa Police residence is up for sale (later corrected to listed for sale), will it be replaced? Supt Commins stated that Albury LAC has forwarded a submission regarding provision of second residence for lock up keeper in Corowa. Gave a brief history of reasons for providing police residences. Corowa residences are in disrepair due to shifting foundations. Instead of repairs, the purchase of another property has been proposed. May not occur as capital expenditure and maintenance costs are taken from different budgets.
- There will be a large concert in Mulwala (Jimmy Barnes, Thirsty Merc and INXS, as mentioned in T&D minutes 7/12/10, operational orders already submitted).

- Supt Commins commented on pamphlet sent from member's office regarding speeding and other traffic matters.

Ms Buntin:

- Thanks to Vince Salsone regarding road management due to flooding. Vince attended some meetings and his handling of some volatile situations surrounding moving of barriers resolved situations calmly.
- Mayor's office sent a letter of support to Scott WEBBER (Police Association President) on subject of late night venue reforms. Referred to statements (attributed to Scott Webber) regarding alcohol related incidents and their effects on emergency services and community.
- A letter was sent to minister relating to Young Offenders Act raised. Response received from Mr Hatzistergos (Attorney General's Department), comments in letter that government had recently tabled legislation regarding young offenders, proposing youth conduct orders for up to 12mths. Offenders would undergo counselling and management to resolve underlying issues.
- Supt Commins commented that Police have a responsibility to uphold law/legislation not to change or interpret it. Submissions to change legislation are not outside purview of the CSPM however, should members of meeting wish to act.
- Response on behalf of Last Drinks coalition received regarding letter of support send to Scott Webber.
- Ms Glachan commented regarding process, suggested giving up on current regime and work with shadow ministry. Commented that current legalisation surrounding alcohol consumption not having any effect, current government even removed the paltry \$22 fine for alcohol consumption in alcohol free zone (now alcohol in open containers is tipped out), fines should be greater. Majority of population are not law breakers, she believes the majority of population would welcome more draconian legislation regarding law breakers. Proposed that local government organisations take action. Letter received from Attorney General's Department should be sent to shadow ministry.
- Mr Aplin commented that Albury is leading way regarding managing alcohol related crime and licensed premises behaviour.
- Supt Commins commented that Albury doesn't have a massive problem. Problem is the seriousness of assaults not number.
- Ms Webster stated that State legislation regulates licensed premises closing hours, not council or police. Can Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing have an impact on factors surrounding alcohol consumption?
- Supt Commins stated that Albury LAC makes submissions to licensing court regarding liquor license applications. Some licensees making changes, doing right thing.

Sen Cst. Barnes:

- To Mr Smith: Police will assist when possible regarding cyberbullying. Have already stated speaking with mother's groups, internet behaviour and cyberbullying outside group's knowledge, never thought about cyberbullying as an issue. That victim isn't isolated from bullying, even in home was highlighted. Schools, Kandeer School and Fruit Fly Circus spoken to. Regarding issue, more talks to follow.
- Rotary has expressed an interest in issue and will provide support.
- As member of Crime Prevention group it is good that councils are getting involved regarding youth issues and alcohol related issues. Police Association members appreciate support.
- When Sydney City venues are granted permission to open outside hours, permission is temporary, for 12 months and then possibly for 2 years when no adverse issues are detected. Information to be raised at Crime Prevention meeting and referred to Albury Council planning group. Discussion regarding Crime Prevention meeting, decision made to postpone meeting as most members were not going to be available.

Discussion regarding issues surrounding alcohol issues in Albury CBD:

- .Short discussion regarding liquor licenses; ease of closing pubs and managing behaviour and effect of unlicensed premises on crime and anti-social behaviour followed by:
- Supt Commins stated that a submission had been sent to council regarding late night dining venues. Venues were not breaking regulations or laws. People are using the tables to sit on and congregate around and the venues are like moths to the flame for late night patrons. Street furniture and congregation of people this is causing is causing vehicles and pedestrians to avoid area or detour past premises or be intimidated/in fear. Request made for consideration of removal of outside furniture, not necessarily venue closure. People that have been refused entry to or have been removed from licensed premises are attending premises and waiting for rest of group before starting up again. Police are at end of string in attempts to manage problems arising at one premise in Dean St, Albury. Police can't ignore problem but are unable to devote all resources to manage one problem premises when patrols of entire sector required.
- Ms Glachan stated that council is hamstrung by legislation too. Can't act outside legalisation. Commented that licensed premises are required to provide food, food believed to have beneficial impact on alcohol effects. Premises is providing food, presence of street furniture doesn't have significant impact on food supply.
- Sen Cst. Barnes commented that licensed premises are required to remove outside seating at 12 midnight.
- Ms Glachan asked if not there, where will they go (speaking about persons in Albury CBD).
- Discussion regarding causes, effects, possible remediation and street furniture allowing congregation of persons.
- Question and answer between Mrs Glachan and Insp. Blanchard.
 - Insp Blanchard commented the seriousness of incidents is the problem.
 - Mrs Glachan asked why pizza seller is being blamed for alcohol consumption.
 - Insp Blanchard responded, its not, licensed premises assaults are steady, Liquor Accord doing tremendous work in reducing effect of alcohol in Dean St as Mr Betteridge has stated as president of Liquor Accord. Mr Betteridge as business owner (Sweetheart Pizza) has been saying alcohol related crime in Dean St is going up.
- Sen/Cst Barnes: A system similar to Sydney City Council's system would work, venues required to be responsible. Temporary permission acts as incentive. Approval being renewed every year is continuing to have beneficial effect on crime. McDonalds Albury and Lavington operate 24hrs, window service only late at night, rarely report problems. Police are asking for a trial (removal of outdoor furniture from 12 midnight), the majority of members of CSPM concurred. Raised letter sent to Mr John Mulvey offering Police assistance as he had received no reply. Action: Mrs Glachan to ask Mr Mulvey about letter and to check conditions surrounding street furniture with council staff.
- Mrs Glachan stated that McDonalds, George St, Sydney would surely have alcohol related problems.
- Supt Commins started to close discussion, stating Police have made all attempts to affect problem. Submissions have been made to council. Confirmed that council rangers were making checks of premises.
- Sen. Cst. Barnes suggested licences being renewed every year should be considered for all Albury LAC.

Sgt Gay:

- Raised Bhutanese community visit to Albury Police Station. At start of visit, visitors were timid; at finish they were more confident. One attendee applying to join NSWPF. Ms Webster commented that council is assisting with swimming lessons. Short discussion regarding Bhutanese.
- Upcoming South African community visit.

Supt Commins:

- Region Advisory Committee making favourable comments regarding attempts to integrate migrants/refugees.

Meeting end: 11.40am

Next meeting: 9th March, 2011
