

MINUTES OF THE CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING

The following are minutes of the Castlereagh Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 September 2011 in the Walgett Shire Council Chambers, commencing at 10.00 am.

1. PRESENT

Superintendent Noble	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Chris Taylor (Chairperson)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Natalie Dunstan (Minute Secretary)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Narelle Andrews	PS and NI Andrews Meat Service Walgett
Simon Logan	Logan Agronomy Service & Walgett Farm and Freight
Jay Ryan	Walgett RSL Memorial Club
John Thomas	MacKillop Rural Services
Brent Richards	Walgett High School
Kristy McDonald	Walgett High School
Melissa Ozoux	Walgett High School
Dick Colless	Walgett Shire Council
Catherine Bott	Aboriginal Affairs
Mark Winch	MacKillop Rural Services
Jacinda Barry	Mission Australia
Joy Horton	Safe Families
Sharon Williams	Barwon Cottage
Bill Murray	Walgett Shire Council
Nick Patel	Walgett IGA
Sandra Dowse	Thiyama-li
Narelle Winters	Thiyama-li

2. APOLOGIES

Paul Clarke	Walgett RSL Memorial Club
John McGovern	Community Representative
Kevin Humphries	Member for Barwon
Georgiana Butt	Walgett Health Services Manager
Darryl Cooper	Ag-n-Vet
Peter Nichols	Walgett Community College
Jim Woodham	Woodham's Petroleum Walgett

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Inspector Taylor welcomed all to the meeting and provided an overview on the purpose of Community Safety Precinct Committees.

4. CRIME STATISTICS FOR CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND

Inspector Taylor provided a presentation on Crime Statistics for the township of Walgett.

- Statistical information relating to the following categories was discussed:-

- Assaults
- Break and Enter
- Malicious Damage
- Stealing
- Stolen Motor Vehicles
- Move On's
- Person Search

Discussions were also held in regards to rural crime and what information was captured in the statistics provided that related also to Rural Crime reporting.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMANDER

Superintendent Noble thanked everyone for attending and provided the following summary:-

- Following the commencement of the new Government, there has been a strong focus for Police on the following initiatives:-
 - Community Engagement
 - Customer Service
 - Transparency
- Superintendent Noble advised that a Community Newsletter has been developed and has been distributed prior and will continue to be forwarded throughout the Command to keep members of the community aware of the happenings across the Command.
- Superintendent Noble informed the meeting that the State Government are looking to revamp the Neighbourhood Watch Program, utilising Facebook as the network tool. This initiative will continue to be addressed and further information will be distributed in relation to this.
- With the change in demographics, there has been a change with recruitment to the New South Wales Police Force which has shown some reservation with matters being dealt with face to face. A continued focus will be placed on the importance of dealing with matters in a face-to-face manner where possible.
- When attending to recruitment of staff to Castlereagh Local Area Command it is always a focus to ensure that the people being selected are aware of the place they are applying to come and work and that they will be best suited to this area.
- There have been some difficulties of late with a number of staff on sick leave and being able to ensure that staff are rostered to cover all areas. Superintendent Noble advised the meeting that he will continue to try and maintain that the Walgett Police Station is open 24 hours where possible.
- A shortage of Police Housing in Walgett has proven difficult in being able to recruit Police to the vacant positions. This matter continues to be addressed with Police Properties.
- The construction of a new Police Station at Walgett has commenced and this project should be completed towards the end of 2012.
- Superintendent Noble advised that the Police have been working closely with the Walgett Shire Council to prepare a submission to bid for a 2.5 Million Dollar Grant for the construction of a PCYC building in Walgett. It was acknowledged that this facility would be a great asset for the community and have a lot of benefits for a number of people.
- Superintendent Noble acknowledged that at times, Police need to have better face-to-face engagement with community members / organisations and that at anytime should agencies, individuals, business houses etc require Police to attend meetings, or if discussions are needed, then Superintendent Noble encourages individuals to contact either Inspector Taylor or himself.
- Superintendent Noble acknowledged that there could be improvement in relation to proactive interventions with things such as youth, truancy etc and that we wish to work with stakeholders on this.
- The compliance from Licensees in Walgett was acknowledged in relation to the Liquor Accord and that this has assisted Police.
- Superintendent Noble informed the meeting that Mr Peter Parsons has recently completed a review of staffing structures within the New South Wales Police Force and that the draft report is currently with the Police Minister. Superintendent Noble said following this review, it might be possible that the allocation of additional Police could be made to the outlying areas in the Command.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE MEETING

PCYC Staffing

Mr Simon Logan asked if the funding submission for a PCYC building for Walgett included the provision of staff.

Superintendent Noble informed the meeting that the provision of staff is included in the funding submission and includes two full time Police Officers and one full time administrative staff member, along with casual staff from time to time and volunteers.

PCYC Bus

Mr Dick Colless enquired in relation to securing the services of a PCYC Mobile Bus.

Superintendent Noble responded by advising that attempts are being made to secure a bus permanently for Castlereagh Local Area Command. It was acknowledged that if the PCYC Bus was secured, it would also be of a benefit to the PCYC building and assist in the lead up to possibly securing this facility.

Clear Up Rates

Mrs Jacinda Barry asked in relation to the statistics that were provided and discussed earlier in the meeting if it was possible to be provided an overview at the next meeting on "clear up rates".

Superintendent Noble advised that this will be included for the next meeting which could show meeting attendees the offences committed and the success or non success of addressing the matters.

Education

Ms Melissa Ozoux of Walgett Community College informed the meeting that the College was currently working to address a couple of students that have been identified "at risk".

A program is being put in place by the Walgett Community College to address this matter and information will be supplied to Police in relation to the identified students and where assistance might be able to be provided by Police in relation to this matter.

As well, Ms Ozoux advised that new arrangements were being put in place with the securing of the gates at the Walgett Community College High School. The gates will be locked, a camera will be installed and a buzzer system installed. This initiative is being installed to assist with truancy issues and other concerns the school has been experiencing.

Domestic Violence Housing

Ms Sharon Williams of Barwon Cottage advised that there have been two homes constructed recently on the corner of Arthur and Peel Streets Walgett which have been identified as "Domestic Violence Residences".

Ms Williams noted that this area is a "common congregation area" and requested that if possible, would Police include this area in their patrols.

Superintendent Noble responded and advised that this information will be passed on following this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50 am

A date for the next meeting will be forwarded once confirmed.