

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

The following are minutes of the Castlereagh Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 22 September 2011 in the Coonamble Shire Council Chambers, commencing at 10.10 am.

1. PRESENT

Superintendent Noble	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Andrew Spliet (Chairperson)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Natalie Dunstan (Minute Secretary)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Cherie McDonald	Coonamble High School
Taylor Hind	Coonamble High School
Pru Swansborough	Coonamble High School
Clare Jones	Specialist Mental Health (Older person)
Stephanie Ryan	Coonamble Community Mental Health (adult)
Barbara Goldsmith	Coonamble Chamber of Commerce
Susan Hargans	St Brigid's School Coonamble
Don Schieb	Coonamble Community Safety Committee
Jeff Tym	Anglican Church
Michael Webb	Coonamble Shire Council
Rick Warren	Coonamble Shire Council
Bruce Quarmby	Coonamble Shire Council

2. APOLOGIES

Kevin Humphries	Member for Barwon
Donna Swansbourough	Coonamble Chamber of Commerce
Libby Burnheim	Coonamble Health
Tim Horan	Mayor Coonamble Shire Council

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Inspector Spliet 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 Spliet provided a presentation on Crime Statistics for the township of Coonamble.

- Statistical information relating to the following categories was discussed:-
 - Assaults
 - Break and Enter
 - Malicious Damage
 - Stealing
 - Stolen Motor Vehicles
 - Move On's
 - Person Search
 - Drug Detections

5. COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

Inspector Spliet invited representatives in attendance to ask questions or offer any comment etc following the presentation of the crime statistics.

St Brigid's School

Ms Hargan, Principal of St Brigid's School Coonamble advised that the location of their school on occasions presents some difficulties in relation to people accessing this area and entering the school grounds without reason.

Ms Hargan was just wanting to inform Police of these potential concerns and with the weather warming up and school holidays approaching it would be beneficial if Police could continue to include the school in their day-to-day patrols.

Inspector Spliet responded by advising that this information is important to be conveyed to Police and the same with any other issues of concern or notification from community members, it is important to ensure it is forwarded to Police for inclusion with taskings etc.

Property Offences

Mr Schieb enquired what percentage of the statistics presented today relating to Break and Enters etc were juvenile related.

Inspector Spliet responded by advising that this information was not available at this meeting, however he could say that the majority of property offences is juvenile related.

Local Management Group Meeting

There were discussions held in relation to a meeting that is to be convened with key agencies from Coonamble to identify and work with particular families at risk.

The consensus from this meeting was that this arrangement would be very beneficial and not only address areas of concern, but also act as a support mechanism for agencies trying to address particular matters.

It was agreed that Inspector Spliet will make contact with the convener to set a date for the next meeting and ensure that this notification is forwarded accordingly.

It was recognised that there needs to be a change in culture and the way some people think, however this will only be possible through people becoming leaders and leading the way forward.

Crime Statistics

Mr Schieb noted that the Crime Statistics for the past month would have seen a significant increase following the recent offences that have been committed within Coonamble.

Inspector Spliet replied by advising that whilst there has been some increase in offences, he was confident that statistics would not have increased significantly and certainly not close to those experienced earlier in this year.

Public Awareness

Mr Schieb believed that it would be beneficial if Police were to place some form of article in the local papers with general Community Awareness information – locking cars, removing keys, property safety etc.

The meeting noted that Sergeant Fede was working on something similar to this program and that this matter will be followed up.

ACTION:

That Inspector Spliet liaise with Sergeant Fede in relation to the distribution of community awareness information throughout the Coonamble community.

Drug Intelligence

Enquiries were made in regards to when information is supplied to Police relating to known drug activity and why this information is not acted upon.

Inspector Spliet informed the meeting that whilst it was important for community members to convey information relating to drug intelligence, it may appear that no action is being taken, however the action by Police cannot be shared to the community as this could result in hindering any proposed operations etc.

The process of Police applying for a search warrant was explained and the necessary information that needs to be submitted for this to be approved.

Superintendent Noble also explained to the meeting about covert and undercover operations and that these processes are not only a very expensive process, the requests that are made are prioritised against other requests being made across the Western Region and therefore not always supported / approved.

Assistance to Police

Mr Jeff Tym sought advice from Police if there was any form of assistance that the Community could assist Police with.

Both Superintendent Noble and Inspector Spliet again reiterated the importance of community members and Police working together and ensuring that information is shared.

Summer Activity

Ms Goldsmith noted the comments made earlier in the meeting that there is often a spike in crime related offences during the warmer months. Ms Goldsmith enquired that as summer is approaching, do Police have in place strategies to address these issues.

Inspector Spliet responded by advising that strategies are in place particular for the warmer weather that is approaching and wherever possible, extra Police will be supplied from Walgett to assist Police in Coonamble.

Additional Resources

Superintendent Noble informed the meeting that he has made a number of representations for consideration to be given for additional General Duties Police, Detectives and other resources such as vehicles etc to be allocated to Coonamble.

A review of the New South Wales Police Force is currently being undertaken and it is hoped that positive outcomes are achieved from this review and additional resources are made available to Coonamble.

Rural Watch Program

The Rural Watch Program that is currently being run by Coonamble Shire Council and in conjunction with Rural Crime Coordinator Detective Senior Constable Hutchinson was noted for its success to date.

Inspector Spliet thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reiterated that should community members feel their matters are not being addressed they are encouraged to make contact with the Sergeant at Coonamble and if they are still not satisfied with this response, then Inspector Spliet should be notified of these concerns.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.10 am

A date for the next meeting will be forwarded once confirmed