

Newcastle Police District Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday August 13th, 2019

Venue: Diggers Club Wallsend

Apologies: As per sign on sheet

Meeting opened: 6.15pm

1. Welcome: Jeff Milton opened the meeting and welcomed members.
2. Superintendent Brett Greentree welcomed everyone and explained the success of the relationship between community and police.
Supt GREENTREE explained that this meeting was to give all the opportunity to discuss what is happening in the area – the good and the bad.
The Newcastle Police District is a busy policing district. There has been a lowering of crime numbers; this is partly because of community education and dialogue.
He is aware that the public wants to see more police about the area. As a response to this the goal is for police to be more interactive with the public with the aim to be the prevention of crime.
There is the hope that there will be 5 more new police in the District after August.

3. Business

1. Police Crime Report. - Sven Harper. – As per power point presentation.

2. Crime Issues: Wallsend on average has a about 7% of the crime of the District.

1. Fail to Pay- prevalent in the area particularly at the Thomas Street Wallsend Service Stations. Many cars display stolen number plates or offenders just drive off.

S/C MILTON has recommended to the petrol companies that the policy be adopted of no hoodies, helmets or sunglasses to be worn in the shop area, particularly at night, or a “Pay before you pump” strategy be implemented.

2. Break and Enter.

In the case of a break and a report is made to PAL line- a report will be made, forensics will be sent out and report sent to Property Crime Team. [Police will not come out unless requested.]

If footage is available this will then be requested and reviewed in an effort to identify the offenders.

OR

If offenders are disturbed on the premises and it is felt to be an emergency situation 000 should be called for an immediate response.

OR

If further assistance required- Ring Waratah Police Station- speak with Duty Officer or Supervisor

Please don't accept poor customer service or substandard service.

Please remember that Police have to prioritise jobs.

3. Shoplifting.

- Shopkeepers must be mindful of the way their shops are set out and in so doing should endeavour to make it difficult for offenders to steal goods.
- Security in shopping centres is bound by policy and the security officers can only act within their store's policies.
- There have been covert operations conducted by the police to catch offenders. These have resulted in arrests. It has been found that many of these offenders have either been on bail, parole or known to police.
- The demography around these shopping centres in some cases also contributes to many of the offenders frequenting these areas.
 - Eg : Market Town & Jesmond have many student and lower socio economic housing.
 - Kotara- has a residential environment.

General Business:

- Cashless Society: Many of the fraud crimes are committed via the Internet or by using Tap and Go.
- Identity Theft: People must be more vigilant in the safeguarding of their personal belongings. Personal identity is often stolen as a result of car or house breaks ins.
- Scams: these are very common and are being used in all forms. Everyone needs to be aware of offenders using the phone or Internet. Personal information must not be given out and reporting is encouraged. The elderly in particular is vulnerable to these sophisticated scams.
- Westfield Shopping Centre: Groups of youths have been hanging around the Centre late at night. Police have been called to move them on. Council has been approached to improve lighting and safety in Hudson Park and surrounds. Management will organise a meeting with Council, police and Centre staff to find a solution.

These groups often go from one Centre to another It was suggested perhaps Security could form a network between the Centre to share information re the groups' whereabouts.
- Newcastle City Police District Facebook page: This has been set up as a tool to assist the police and let the community know about the positives and negative things that are happening in the community. It is an aid to make people more accountable for their actions.

Concluding Statement From D/Superintendent Greentree:

1. All were thanked for attending and contributing.
2. It was stressed that we should not accept poor service from the police. Follow up by contacting Waratah Station or S/C Jeff Milton if not satisfied.
3. Crime Prevention Officers- S/C Jeff Milton & S/C Darren Fleming can assist with enquiries and advice. If there are issues, please speak with them directly as a first point of call.

Meeting Closed 6.55 pm