



**STRATEGIC COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2013**

Please note these are not minutes, but merely notes from discussions at the Meeting of the Strategic Community Reference Group held on Monday, 4 February 2013.

The Strategic Community Reference Group Meeting opened at 5.04pm.

ATTENDANCES

Committee Members:

Mayor Troy Pickard	Mayor
Cr Russ Fishwick, JP	South Ward
Cr Christine Hamilton-Prime	South-West Ward

Community Representatives:

Mr Bryan Saunders	Central Ward
Mr Ross Grey	North-Central Ward
Dr Susan King	South Ward
Mr Brian Yearwood	South-West Ward

Officers:

Mr Jamie Parry	Director, Governance and Strategy
Mr Mike Tidy	Director, Corporate Services
Ms Glenda Blake	Manager Strategy and Organisation Development
Mr Malcolm Jenkinson	Manager Rangers, Parking and Community Safety
Mrs Sheree Edmondson	Strategic Policy Development Coordinator
Mrs Deborah Gouges	Governance Officer

Guests:

Mr Simon Bowen	Facilitator
Mr Michael Coole	Lecturer in Security, Edith Cowan University
Inspector Geoff DeSanges	Assistant District Officer, North West Metropolitan District Office
Mr Neil McMahon	Acting Sergeant, North West Metropolitan District Office
Mr Peter Lancaster	Heathridge Neighbourhood Watch

Observer:

Cr John Chester

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

Apologies

Dr Lynne Dailey
Dr Zarrin Siddiqui

ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

The Director Governance and Strategy advised that Clause 3.1 of the Strategic Community Reference Group's Terms of Reference provides that the Group will comprise a maximum of three Elected Members with one Elected Member nominated as Presiding Member.

Whilst the Strategic Community Reference Group is an informal Group and not intended to be bound by legislative requirements it is considered appropriate that the election of a Presiding Member be undertaken generally in accordance with the procedure established under the Local Government Act 1995.

The Director Governance and Strategy called for nominations for the position of Presiding Member.

Cr Fishwick nominated Mayor Pickard for the position of Presiding Member. Mayor Pickard accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations at the close of the Election for Presiding Member, Mayor Pickard was declared elected unopposed to the position of Presiding Member and assumed the Chair at 5.06pm.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER

It is advisable that the Strategic Community Reference Group appoints a Deputy Presiding Member, who would chair the meeting in the absence of the Presiding Member.

Mayor Pickard nominated Cr Hamilton-Prime for the position of Deputy Presiding Member. Cr Hamilton-Prime accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Cr Hamilton-Prime was declared elected unopposed to the position of Deputy Presiding Member.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

ITEM 1 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Mr Bowen provided an overview of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. During his overview, Mr Bowen informed members that the purpose of the meeting was to gather members thoughts regarding the themes of the plan and if there were any changes necessary to improve the plan. The discussion of operational matters was to be avoided with the focus remaining on strategic or high-level tactical matters.

The following main points were raised by members:

- Members believed there should be an increasing focus on the use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) within the City of Joondalup. They noted that the use of CCTV does not always stop crime, but can act as a deterrent to opportunistic criminals. It may also assist in successful prosecutions from the evidence gathered. They also raised the issue that the use of CCTV can be a significant budget drain due to the maintenance and upkeep of the equipment and as such, a clear and sustainable policy for the installation and management of CCTV should be adopted.
- Members discussed the use of City Watch and agreed that, despite some dissent for the program over the years, it does act as an important and useful service. They felt that the program could be improved in several areas and suggested that one improvement could include having security cameras installed on City Watch vehicles to support the gathering of evidence.
- Members felt that the City could better leverage the community to connect and engage on matters relating to crime prevention and community safety. It was acknowledged that the current Neighbourhood Watch model could be better adapted and managed at a local level with the City providing leadership in this regard. It was generally agreed the community could benefit from taking greater responsibility in reporting and preventing crime, which was a cultural issue. They believed that by increasing the awareness of crime to residents they could suggest ways in which the community could volunteer to help reduce crime. The question was raised as to how best to utilise volunteers and it was suggested that the 'Adopt a Spot' initiative could be expanded to not only focus on reporting graffiti in an area but also to report other crimes such as vandalism, hooning and suspicious criminal activity to a local representative.
- Members suggested that social media such as Facebook and Twitter could be better utilised to report criminal activity within the City of Joondalup. They felt that social media would be a quick and effective way of keeping residents notified as to an increase in break-ins in a certain area or reporting other important security information to the community.

Mr Bowen guided members through each of the 13 themes of the plan, asking members to indicate any potential gaps or issues that needed attention.

The following points were raised:

Young People and Families

- Members mentioned that there was not enough focus on providing parents with the tools and information needed to raise young people growing up in society, for example helping parents tackle cyber-bullying.
- Members also noted that there was little specific mention of the needs of seniors within the community that would increase with an ageing population.

Children Safety

- Members queried whether part of this program could focus on providing youth within the community with a link to existing sporting organisations and other interests within the City of Joondalup to enable more active, engaged and healthy youth.

Video Surveillance

- Members suggested that the heading of this theme should be amended to read 'Surveillance' as video surveillance is just one tool that can be used.
- Members queried whether video surveillance used could be mobile, suggesting that this could be an effective tool for combating opportunistic criminals as they are not aware of where video surveillance could be at any given time. It was suggested that the use of video surveillance light poles could be beneficial for managing the surveillance of City events.
- Members felt that a policy for the use of video surveillance needed to be implemented to effectively manage the use of footage gathered and to allow for budget requirements to be accounted for.

Designing out crime

- Members felt that the community was not aware of what designing out crime is, and that focus needed to be around providing education and awareness to residents and ratepayers. They believed it was important that the community and private residences should also be involved in applying CPTED principles, not just the City within public spaces.
- It was acknowledged by members that CPTED fails when the community does not participate in its application and greater awareness was required.

Community Safety

- Members felt that this was a great opportunity for the City to work in a partnership with the Neighbourhood Watch Program and ratepayer groups to provide a coordinated and connected safety group which could help provide support to local police to reduce crimes within the community.

Road Safety

- Members suggested that the ability to localise traffic issues with local police services would be beneficial for the City of Joondalup, as some roads within the City may not have the traffic volume to warrant speed cameras and the like, but could benefit from the presence of police.

Beach and Ocean Management

- Members acknowledged the growing interest within the community regarding shark safety. It was felt by members that the City should play a more proactive role in making beach users feel safe when swimming.

Emergency Management

- Members felt that the community needed to be made aware of emergency management. They felt that information needed to be provided to the community such as fire safety and business continuity plans.

Vandalism

- Members stated that there needs to be a broader focus on vandalism other than graffiti. They mentioned there needs to be a plan to reduce the theft of City infrastructure. They also felt there needed to be better management of non-City assets.

City Watch

- Members believed that the City needed to provide more resources and access more grant programs for the City Watch service as they felt it was a benefit for the community to have this service as it provided a feeling of safety and is a good reporting mechanism for police.
- Members felt that the service needed to be used more creatively, such as installing CCTV cameras on each vehicle.

Ranger Services

- Members discussed the difference in availability of rangers versus City Watch and felt that a review of operating hours would be appropriate to ensure broader coverage and assistance to police for minor matters after hours.

Event Management

- Members questioned whether there was a policy relating to the management of events within the City and suggested that it may be beneficial for the City to establish a policy.
- Members also raised the issue of prioritising themes, as community safety and crime prevention within event management was minor in comparison to other matters.

The Manager Strategy and Organisation Development left the Room, the time being 6.45pm and returned at 6.46pm.

Mr Bowen progressed through the 2022 objectives, asking members to indicate any issues that needed attention.

The following points were raised:

Community Safety

- Members felt that the community needs to take ownership of their neighbourhood and report crime, graffiti and vandalism as it is everyone's responsibility to create a safe community environment.
- Members suggested that having community leaders to take responsibility and lead by example may encourage other community members to get involved and help enhance the City of Joondalup.

Community Spirit

- Members wanted to instil a village feel within the City of Joondalup and empower residents to have a sense of pride for where they live.
- Members believed that the use of social media was very important in connecting and engaging with the community.
- Members generally agreed that the objectives within Joondalup 2022 provided sufficient direction and context to the development of a revised Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.
- Members also agreed that the community spirit objective was integral to achieving positive outcomes for community safety and crime prevention in the future.

Mr Bowen finished the session by asking members, in 25 words or less, to communicate a compelling message they would like the City to hear and asked that that message be provided to the Manager Strategic and Organisational Development at the completion of the meeting.

Mayor Troy Pickard thanked the members of the Strategic Community Reference Group for their valuable and high level of strategic input towards the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

The Strategic Community Reference Group meeting concluded at 7.09pm.