



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

Shire of Northam

Agenda

Community Safety Committee

22 September 2020

NOTICE PAPER

Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee

22 September 2020

Committee Members

I inform you that a Community Safety Committee meeting will be held at the Shire of Northam Recreation Centre, located at Peel Terrace, Northam on 22 September 2020 at 11am.

Yours faithfully



Jason Whiteaker
Chief Executive Officer

DISCLAIMER

This agenda has yet to be dealt with by the Council. The Recommendations shown at the foot of each item have yet to be considered by the Council and are not to be interpreted as being the position of the Council. The minutes of the meeting held to discuss this agenda should be read to ascertain the decision of the Council.

In certain circumstances members of the public are not entitled to inspect material, which in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer is confidential, and relates to a meeting or a part of a meeting that is likely to be closed to members of the public.

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Northam for any act, omission, statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings.

The Shire of Northam disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement of intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or Officer of the Shire of Northam during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Northam.

The Shire of Northam advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Northam must obtain and should only rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Northam in respect of the application.

The Shire of Northam advises that any plans or documents contained within this agenda may be subject to copyright law provisions (*Copyright Act 1968*, as amended) and that the express permission of the copyright owner(s) should be sought prior to their reproduction. It should be noted that copyright owners are entitled to take legal action against any persons who infringe their copyright. A reproduction of material that is protected by copyright may represent a copyright infringement.

Contents

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING	5
2.	ATTENDANCE.....	5
2.1	APOLOGIES	5
2.2	APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
2.3	ABSENT	5
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.....	6
4.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
4.1	COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 FEBRUARY 2020	6
5.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	7
5.1	Community Safety & Crime Prevention Update	7
5.2	Wundowie CCTV Update.....	18
5.3	Shire Community Response to COVID-19 Pandemic	21
5.4	Agency Updates.....	26
6.	URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION .	28
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	28
8.	DECLARATION OF CLOSURE	28

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

2. ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Chairperson
Councillor
Councillor
Northam Police
Wundowie Police
Avon Community Services
Northam PCYC
Department of Education
Northam Roadwise Committee
LDAG
WA Country Health
DLGSC

Dept. of Communities Housing
Dept. of Communities Child Protection
& Family Support
Community Representative
Northam Chamber of Commerce

Cr Julie Williams
Cr Rob Tinetti
Cr Maria Girak
SSGT David Hornsby
SGT Sarah Clarke
Ms Kristie-Ann Andela
Ms Jane Atterby
Mrs Sharon Bray
Mr Cliff Simpson
Mrs Rose Power
Ms Sonya Furnyvall
Ms Samantha
Cornthwaite
Mr Attila Mencshelyi

Ms Dawn Lamperd
Mr Denis Beresford
Ms Esther Bliss

Committee Ex-Officio Members:

Executive Manager Community Services
Shire of Northam
Shire of Northam
Senior Ranger

Mr Ross Rayson
Ms Jaime Hawkins
Miss Jordyn Budas
Ms Kellee Walters

2.1 APOLOGIES

Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan

Ms Jo-Anne Woodruff

2.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

2.3 ABSENT

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members should fill in Disclosure of Interest forms for items in which they have a financial, proximity or impartiality interest and forward these to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences.

As defined in section 5.60A of the Local Government Act 1995, a **financial interest** occurs where a Councillor / Committee Member, or a person with whom the Councillor / Committee Member is closely associated, has a direct or indirect financial interest in the matter. That is, the person stands to make a financial gain or loss from the decision, either now or at some time in the future.

As defined in section 5.61 of the Local Government Act 1995, an **indirect financial interest** includes a reference to a financial relationship between that person and another person who requires a Local Government decision in relation to the matter.

As defined in section 5.60B of the Local Government Act 1995, a person has a **proximity interest** in a matter if the matter concerns a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land; or a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or a proposed development (as defined in section 5.63(5)) of land that adjoins the person's land.

As defined in 34C of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, an **impartiality interest** means an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest and includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association.

Item Name	Item No.	Name	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 FEBRUARY 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee meeting held Tuesday, 18 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Community Safety & Crime Prevention Update

Address:	N/A
Owner:	Shire of Northam
Applicant:	N/A
File Reference:	1.3.12.1
Reporting Officer:	Jaime Hawkins Community Development Officer
Responsible Officer:	Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer
Officer Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirement:	Simple majority
Press release to be issued:	No

BRIEF

To update the committee on the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan actions.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Action Plan Update

A. BACKGROUND / DETAILS

The Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) Plan 2017-2021 is a four year strategic outlook for the Shire of Northam that aims to map the issues of primary concern to the community and document the strategies and partnerships to deal with these issues.

Together with key partners, the Shire of Northam is committed to ensuring continual improvements to community safety with a particular emphasis on minimising the occurrence and opportunity for antisocial and criminal activity.

The CSCP Plan 2017-2021 has brought all of the current data together to help the Committee to understand the question: "What is the Northam story?" This will help the committee to reconcile where the facts and the perceptions differ.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

B.1 Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

- Theme Area 2: Safety and Security.
 Outcome: Northam residents are able to pursue the fullest life possible without fear of or hindrance from crime and disorder.
 Objective: Plan and implement strategies to address crime and safety within the Shire of Northam:
- o increase community participation in identifying and reporting of crime
 - o increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent crime and improve community safety
 - o work with key stakeholders and community groups to plan and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives

B.2 Financial / Resource Implications

There is a budget allocation of \$5,000 for Community Safety Plan initiatives

B.3 Legislative Compliance

Nil.

B.4 Policy Implications

Nil.

B.5 Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

There has been ongoing engagement and consultation with stakeholders of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

B.6 Risk Implications

Risk Category	Description	Rating (likelihood x consequence)	Mitigation Action
Financial	Nil	Nil	Nil
Health & Safety	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reputation	Community safety is an area of public concern.	Low(3) x Moderate (3)= Moderate (9)	Cross agency Community Safety and Crime committee work together to

			implement strategies to reduce community crime and anti-social behaviour.
Service Interruption	Nil	Nil	Nil
Compliance	Nil	Nil	Nil
Property	Nil	Nil	Nil
Environment	Nil	Nil	Nil

C. OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Shire of Northam's Community Development Officer provide an update on recent activities.

Criminal or Offending Behaviour

- Crime Statistics – yearly crime statistics per population have been provided by WALGA. Some of the main crime categories are presented in charts.
 - According to the WALGA supplied monthly statistics the number of offences in the Shire were down between March – June 2020 compared to last year and the typical monthly average. This number rose again in July 2020.
- Update to be provided from Northam Police.

Community Awareness

- Various ~~C~~community safety & crime prevention messages scheduled for Facebook [JW1] for the remainder of 2020. These include Keep Australia Beautiful Week, snake season, Neighbourhood Watch Week, Keep Watch drowning prevention.
- Received [JW2][JH3] funding through Bendigo Bank for a community clean-up day. This had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Staff are investigating rescheduling this. Clean-up bags and equipment are available through the Shire if residents wish to conduct their own clean-up. If they do so they should register through Clean-Up Australia for insurance purposes.
- The Trolley Movement [JW4][JH5] – noticed an increase of abandoned trolleys around town once more, particularly in and around the river. Need for new trolley campaign to be launched and promotion of the Coles & Woolworths abandoned trolley reporting methods.

Building Partnerships

- Shire's response [JW6] to the COVID-19 pandemic helped facilitate improved relationships between several local service providers and the Shire.

- A database [JW7][JH8] of local organisations and the services they provide was created so this information was readily available to people via the Shire COVID-19 portal or by contacting the Shire of Northam COVID support line.

Community Design

- Wundowie CCTV. An update on the project is provided as a separate report in this agenda.
- Business Support Grants are currently available through the Shire to local businesses. This can include CCTV.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accepts the update [JW9] of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan provided.

Attachment 1 – Action Plan Update

Objective 1.1 Reduce the opportunity for crime or offending behaviour.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Increase the understanding of risk factors for potential victims of crime (including hotspots and prevention).	Promote and support eWatch - public circulation of crime facts and figures.	The eWatch program was ceased by WA Police.
	Market at least one crime prevention tip per month as per the CSCP Communications Plan.	Saturation of COVID safety marketing March – June. Community safety tips have been posted to the Shire's FB under the banner of "Community Safety Corner" and other messages as they arise. Recent push regarding illegal parking around schools/bus zones.
Raise community awareness about the relationship between crime prevention and the physical design of their property.	Educate and encourage community members to improve security measures in residential buildings through the provision of checklists and information.	Information & checklists available on Shire website. Marketing through Facebook scheduled for remainder of 2020.
	Investigate and implement look, lock, leave vehicle safety signage program.	Vehicle security tips and information available through WA Police resources. No generic look, lock, leave signage.
	Promote the Burglar beware program.	Burglar beware message promoted on the VMB. Investigating other communication methods/resources.
	Provide the community with 'Do It Yourself' security audits.	Audits and informative resources available on the Shire's website.
	Market at least one 'designing out crime' tip per month as per the CSCP Communications Plan.	Tips available on Shire's website. Facebook marketing scheduled.
Support the Northam Chamber of Commerce to engage with local business to reduce the opportunity for crime.	Encourage shop owners to ask for identification when suspicious shoppers request to use Pay Wave.	
	Distribute to the Chamber information brochures targeting shop owners to reduce crime.	
	Facilitate business education on appropriate CCTV.	
	Contribute crime prevention tips to the Chambers of Commerce monthly newsletter.	
	Heighten awareness about how to design out crime with appropriate shop layout.	
Deliver the Lock and Light	Promote the Lock and Light	The Lock & Light Program has

program.	Program to potential community members.	ceased as it was found not viable. It was difficult to implement & relied heavily on the availability of Police personnel to conduct the audits.
	Seek additional funding to continue the Lock and Light program.	

Objective 1.2 Increase community engagement and participation in identifying and reporting of crime.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Develop a list of crime reporting and recording avenues. Promote to the community.	Promote the WA Police crime reporting methods.	Information available via the Shire's website. Promoted on an ad hoc basis via Facebook, newsletter & VMB.
	Market the launch of and promote the State CCTV Register - residential and business CCTV register for Police to access.	Shire were liaising with Police State CCTV team; however this project has now been put on hold by WA Police.
	Promote the Dob in a Dealer program.	Dob in a Dealer information available on Shire website. Other methods of promotion to be investigated.
	Market the Crime Stoppers brand.	Crime Stoppers brand promoted within Community Safety resources and messages.
Raise community awareness about how to identify a crime.	Introduce a natural surveillance improvement program - Eyes on the Street.	Eyes on the Street is no longer a program run through WA Police, however the principles of Eyes on the Street are still promoted within the Shire and crime reporting methods available on the Shire's website.
	Promote and support eWatch.	eWatch program is no longer operating.

Objective 1.3 Maintain the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Support the delivery of the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan.	Support and attend AODMP meetings.	The Northam Shire Alcohol & Other Drug Management Plan expired in 2017. A new plan the Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan has since been launched in its place. Shire Officers have been attending Youth Wellbeing Plan meetings and promoting the key messages of the Plan.
	Include AODMP initiatives on the CSCP Marketing and Communications Plan.	

Objective 1.4 Reduce youth crime.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Investigate youth focused night support/security program to service young people in the	Research and report on existing youth focused night support/security programs.	2020 series of Night Hoops Basketball implemented.

Shire of Northam.	Investigate youth drop-in opportunities and after hours support services that exist in the Shire of Northam and develop a 'map and gap' report to understand the requirements.	Service mapping occurred during Shire's COVID response. This information to be used for map & gap exercise. Headspace now in Northam.
	Support Northam PCYC and/or Avon Youth to extend/develop drop-in services.	
	Investigate street chaplaincy service.	https://www.streetchaplain.com/ https://www.nyoongarpatrol.com.au/ https://redfrogs.com.au/
	Seek funding to implement youth focused support/security programs.	Community Crime Prevention Fund currently open. Investigating alternative projects.
Support and facilitate collaborative youth engagement initiatives.	Work with stakeholders to plan collaborative youth engagement initiatives.	Ongoing. Upcoming youth anti-graffiti initiative in Wundowie. PCYC Night Hoops program.
	Provide information about services and activities for youth within the community.	Dedicated page on the Shire's website for Information & Activities for Youth
	Forward plan and support the provision of school holiday activities for youth.	Limited school holiday activities in July due to uncertainties re COVID-19 & limited funds, programs planned for upcoming October holidays.
	Implement youth engagement activities at the Northam Youth Precinct to activate the space.	Activities planned for the youth precinct during the October school holidays. Anticipated use of the park will increase with the installation of a toilet block.
	Implement youth engagement activities at the Wundowie Skate Park to activate the space.	As above. Further development occurring at Wundowie skate park.
	Drive the Keeping Kids in Schools program.	Keeping Kids in Schools Program is ongoing through participating businesses and with the support of the Chamber of Commerce.
	Create annual Youth Week activities and apply for funding to implement them.	There were no Youth Week activities in 2020 due to youth week occurring during the height of restrictions in April. Worked with youth service providers to help ensure the wellbeing of young people during the lockdown period.
	Development of a Shire of Northam youth leadership network to provide ideas for new initiatives, feedback on current initiatives and share information amongst young people.	
Create a Shire of Northam Youth Plan	Development of a Shire of Northam Youth Plan in collaboration with key youth stakeholders.	The Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan 2018 – 2020 has been developed, following on from the former AODMP. This plan was developed collaboratively with key

		stakeholders, including the Shire and these stakeholders hold regular meetings to progress the plan and report back.
--	--	--

Objective 2.1 Improve the community perception of crime in the Shire of Northam.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Implement the actions of the Shire of Northam CSCP Marketing and Communications Plan.	Promote community safety and crime prevention information on the Shire website and social media sites.	Community safety & crime prevention information is published on the Shire website & on social media on an ad-hoc basis.
	Contribute articles to eWatch monthly.	eWatch program is no longer operational.
	Implement monthly messaging on the variable digital messaging sign.	Ongoing. Most recently it has displayed COVID safety messages and promotion of Shire's COVID hotline.
	Include articles in the Shire of Northam monthly newsletter to be published in the Avon Advocate.	Avon Valley Advocate no longer being published.
	Schedule monthly social media posts following each CSC meeting.	Social media posts have been occurring on an ad hoc basis. Posts scheduled for the remainder of 2020.
Reduce untidy surroundings such as litter, abandoned vehicles, graffiti and damaged buildings.	Promote Trolley Tracker program to report abandoned shopping trollies.	The Trolley Movement occurred prior to COVID-19 disruptions. Increase in abandoned trolley's noticed recently.
	Promote litter reporting procedures through placement of signage in highly littered areas of the Shire of Northam.	Signage investigated. Lack of evidence to support its effectiveness.
	Promote Designing Out Crime Principals.	Designing out crime tips available on Shire's website
	Encourage community ownership of places (e.g. adopt a spot programs)	Some promotion of adopt-a-spot, with some community groups/members signing up.
	Anti-litter social media marketing	Keep Australia Beautiful Week currently being promoted. Clean Up Australia Day initiatives also promoted.
	Participation in Keep Australia Beautiful campaigns.	Keep Australia Beautiful Week currently being promoted. Shire registered to participate in Clean Up Australia Day, however event was cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. To be

		re-scheduled. Funding obtained through Bendigo Bank.
	School engagement and education in anti-litter.	
	Clean up Your Yard marketing	
	Promotion of support agencies that can help with improving living standards.	Facilitated the connection of vulnerable residents with home help and yard clean ups during covid lockdown period. This information is now available to share.
Increase community confidence in the police.	Promotion of Police social media sites.	
	Promotion of Police initiatives	
Promote the positive	Promotion of positive local stories to counteract the heavily promoted negative stories. Include these in the Marketing and Communications Plan.	Promotion of Night Hoops program with Police involvement.

Objective 2.2 Enable greater awareness of activities and projects across the Shire of Northam which address safety and security.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Promote existing community education initiatives that target safety and security.	Implement relevant State Government programs - Burglar Beware, Neighbourhood Watch, Eyes on the Street, Goodbye Graffiti.	Goodbye graffiti education program planned for Wundowie during October. Eyes in the street no longer active, although message still promoted on Shire vehicles. Shire's Neighbourhood Watch needs reactivating.
	Promote the AFP ThinkUKnow cyber awareness safety program.	

Objective 3.1 Support and facilitate the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Bi-monthly community safety meetings including a representative from the Northam Police station.	Monitor progress on Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.	Ongoing. Plan due for full review.
	Host bi-monthly meetings.	Meeting delay due to coronavirus. Meetings to be held at least quarterly as per committee Terms of Reference.

Objective 3.2 Identify and promote service providers, community groups and other key stakeholders that implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Promote all service providers, community groups and other stakeholders that offer programs aiding in crime prevention and deliver their service in the Shire of Northam.	Develop a current list of service providers and their programs and undertake a map and gap exercise to identify where gaps and/or double ups in service exist.	Quick information capture occurred for COVID-19 hotline. This information to be built upon.
	Encourage existing service providers to step into the gap.	
Establish working groups to initiate new collaborative activities to target relevant issues.	Seek internal and/or external funding assistance to assist in enabling the implementation of new community safety and crime prevention initiatives.	Ongoing.
	Encourage community ownership of places and community responses to local problems.	Community Plans. Neighbourhood Watch needs to be reactivated.

Objective 4.1 Adopt and implement 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED26) principles.

Strategies	Actions	Progress / Comments
Create and implement a Designing Out Crime Plan to be completed by December 2016.	Undertake a lighting audit and install lighting in areas poorly lit and in known hotspots.	Seeking grant funding to undertake lighting audit as part of a broader CPTED audit.
	Conduct a Designing Out Crime Shire of Northam study to review current public places.	Seeking grant funding to undertake audit.
	Embed the principles of Designing Out Crime as a working practice in the planning and building responses of the Council.	CPTED Principles used in CBD Strategy and Community Plans.
	Seek funding opportunities to improve the design of the community.	Ongoing
Upgrade the community CCTV system.	Apply for funding to upgrade the CCTV system in Wundowie and Northam.	Funding granted for Wundowie system. Further funding to be sought following the completion of Wundowie.
	Install security cameras in known 'hot spots'	Shire investment in CCTV in Council facilities. Funding being sought for future public camera's.
	Apply for funding to purchase a mobile CCTV covert camera for Police use.	Ongoing
	Align the Community CCTV with the State CCTV Strategy.	Uncertainty regarding the future of the State CCTV Strategy.
Promote community participation with the State CCTV Register.	Promote the State CCTV Register to the community.	Uncertainty regarding the future of the State CCTV Strategy.
	Encourage community to register their private and business CCTV on the State CCTV Register.	
Investigate traffic calming options for Wundowie for hooning prevention.	Map problem areas and advocate for appropriate traffic calming devices for each area.	Traffic calming infrastructure in Wundowie is planned, but has been delayed due to budget constraints. It is likely to be implemented in 2021/22.

5.2 Wundowie CCTV Update

Address:	N/A
Owner:	Shire of Northam
Applicant:	N/A
File Reference:	1.3.12.1
Reporting Officer:	Jaime Hawkins Community Development Officer
Responsible Officer:	Colin Young Executive Manager Corporate Services
Officer Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority
Press release to be issued:	No

BRIEF

For the Committee to receive a progress report on the Wundowie CCTV including the modified locations.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

A. BACKGROUND / DETAILS

The Wundowie CCTV installation has been ongoing since grant funding was secured^[JW10] in May 2018. At the last Community Safety Committee meeting, CCD Alliance had been appointed to provide technical advice and assist in the development of the tender documentation. Camera^[JW11]^[JH12] locations were discussed, as well as the need to remove the oak tree in the centre of the roundabout at the intersection of Boronia and Banksia Roads.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

B.1 Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

Theme Area 2: Safety and Security.
 Outcome: Northam residents are able to pursue the fullest life possible without fear of or hindrance from crime and disorder.
 Objective: Plan and implement strategies to address crime and safety within the Shire of Northam

- increase community participation in identifying and reporting of crime
- increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent crime and improve community safety
- work with key stakeholders and community groups to plan and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives

B.2 Financial / Resource Implications

Nil.

B.3 Legislative Compliance

Nil.

B.4 Policy Implications

Nil.

B.5 Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

Wundowie Police Officer in charge.

B.6 Risk Implications

Risk Category	Description	Rating (likelihood x consequence)	Mitigation Action
Financial	Nil	Nil	Nil
Health & Safety	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reputation	Community safety is an area of high public concern.	Possible(3) x Minor (2) = Moderate (6)	Ensure methods are put in place to increase safety.
Service Interruption	Nil	Nil	Nil
Compliance	Nil	Nil	Nil
Property	Nil	Nil	Nil
Environment	Nil	Nil	Nil

C. OFFICER'S COMMENT

Tenders [JW13][JH14] for the implementation of the Wundowie CCTV network have now closed. The tender submissions have been narrowed down to two submissions, with further information and costing breakdowns being sought from these.

There may be the need for modifications of the original plans, with a pole possibly to be removed (most likely from Hawke Avenue), however infrastructure will be built to accommodate additional poles/cameras in the future.

It is expected that the tender will be awarded within the next two weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accepts the Wundowie CCTV update.

5.3 Shire Community [JW15][JH16] Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Address:	N/A
Owner:	Shire of Northam
Applicant:	N/A
File Reference:	1.1.9.16
Reporting Officer:	Jaime Hawkins Community Development Officer
Responsible Officer:	Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer
Officer Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirement:	Simple majority
Press release to be issued:	No

BRIEF

For the committee to receive an update on how the Shire of Northam supported the vulnerable in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

A. BACKGROUND / DETAILS

11 March 2020 - World Health Organisation declared Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a pandemic.

23 March 2020 – The Western Australian Government Declared a State of Emergency

27 March 2020 - The Premier and Minister for Local Government addressed the local government industry and in the strongest possible terms expressed the following key points to the sector:

- The pace of change associated with COVID-19 is incredibly fast
- This requires Councils to make quick decisions
- We are not in a business as usual environment
- Clear that all energy and effort needs to be put into this pandemic
- Priorities around looking after our communities' health
- Priorities on supporting our local economies
- Local government will play a critical role.
- Premier asking Councils to fast track approvals (any approval that will result in economic development) - building and planning approvals critical

- Asking Councils to keep our workforces employed
- Use budgets to stimulate our local economy and create jobs
- The State Government will be unable to support local government financially, they are committing all their available financial resources, and more, to fighting this issue

30 March 2020 – Special Meeting of Council held. Council declared Shire of Northam to be in a State of Emergency.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

B.1 Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

Theme Area 2: Safety and Security.

Outcome: Northam residents are able to pursue the fullest life possible without fear of or hindrance from crime and disorder.

Objective: Plan and implement strategies to address crime and safety within the Shire of Northam

- increase community participation in identifying and reporting of crime
- increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent crime and improve community safety
- work with key stakeholders and community groups to plan and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives

B.2 Financial / Resource Implications

The effects of COVID-19 have had and will continue to have a significant and lasting financial impact on the Shire of Northam

B.3 Legislative Compliance

Nil.

B.4 Policy Implications

Nil.

B.5 Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

An initial meeting was held where all known Northam and Wheatbelt service providers were invited. Following this meeting two small working groups were established for both general community and youth response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

B.6 Risk Implications

Risk Category	Description	Rating (likelihood x consequence)	Mitigation Action
Financial	Community support initiatives were implemented with very low budget contribution.	Possible (3) x medium (3) = Moderate(9)	2019/20 Budget review 2020/21 Budget developed in this context
Health & Safety	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reputation	Nil	Nil	Nil
Service Interruption	There was significant service disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic	Almost certain (5) x Major (4) = Extreme(20)	Service disruptions were necessary to comply with government implemented restrictions.
Compliance	Nil	Nil	Nil
Property	Nil	Nil	Nil
Environment	Nil	Nil	Nil

C. OFFICER'S COMMENT

Immediately following Council's declaration of the Shire of Northam's State of Emergency, Community Services staff began to coordinate the Shire's support for the community, particularly those most vulnerable.

Online meetings were scheduled for all service providers who operate within the Shire of Northam and an additional meeting for those who provide services to young people. Following these meetings two small working groups were established to work with the Shire to implement support for the community. One group focused on general community concerns, adults and the elderly, the other group was focused on youth. At the height of the pandemic these groups connected online 2 – 3 times per week. These groups identified a number of concerns arising within the Shire during the pandemic. In particular was the issue of homelessness, with the number of visible rough sleepers appearing to increase. Staff consulted with local and Perth-based organisations working within the field, and implemented some initiatives to assist rough sleepers, however unfortunately this was a difficult issue to address.

The following community initiatives were implemented by staff with the support of these working groups:

- An information capture was conducted over a couple of days to obtain information on agencies providing support within the Shire of Northam and their scope of service provision during the pandemic. A database was created with this information which was a useful tool for assisting the community with their queries. This information was also uploaded to the COVID-19 portal established on the Shire of Northam website.
- COVID-19 Community Support Hotline. A dedicated phone number was established and staffed between 8am – 5pm, Monday – Friday to answer coronavirus-related questions from the community and to connect people who needed assistance to service providers or volunteers who were able to help.
- Neighbourhood Assistance program where residents registered to volunteer to support vulnerable members of the community with a range of daily tasks, such as picking up groceries, collecting the mail or just making a phone call to check that they were ok. Those who required assistance could register through the Hotline and were partnered with a volunteer. Approximately 40 residents volunteered to help the vulnerable and 25 requests for help were made.
- A COVID-19 online portal was created and regularly updated by staff with the latest health information, local and state information, such as travel restrictions. The portal was accessible through the Shire of Northam website.
- A mail out was conducted with an information flyer and neighbourhood assistance card being delivered to every mailbox within the Shire.
- Phone calls were made to pensioners residing within the Shire to check that they were okay and to let them know about the Neighbourhood Assistance program. A call prompt sheet was created which led the staff who were making the phone calls through questions to ask depending on the responses received. Feedback from this initiative was very positive. Few pensioners said they required assistance, but the majority thanked the staff calling them and appreciated that the Shire was making an effort to check on residents.
- Meals & Showers for the homeless was trialled at the Recreation Centre in partnership with Bridgeley. This was initiated after it was discovered that Share and Care had been providing the homeless with a shower voucher to use at the Northam Visitors Centre, however during the pandemic the Visitors Centre was forced to close. Unfortunately, despite homeless being identified as a major concern during the pandemic this service was not utilised. It is thought a contributing factor to this is that the Recreation Centre is located too far away from the town centre.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accepts the update on the Shire's community response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.4 Agency Updates

File Reference:	1.1.9.16
Reporting Officer:	Jaime Hawkins Community Development Officer
Responsible Officer:	Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer
Officer Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirement:	-
Press release to be issued:	Nil

BRIEF

To provide an opportunity for staff, and external groups/agencies to discuss pertinent matters relating to the safety of the local community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

A. BACKGROUND / DETAILS

A benefit of committees such as the Community Safety Committee is the ability for external groups to provide an update on initiatives, challenges and opportunities that the local community is facing, relaxing the burden of reporting such updates during Council meetings.

Relevant external groups and agencies include Chamber of Commerce, Northam PCYC, and Roadwise.

Pertinent matters of discussion may include the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2017-2021, the Community Crime Prevention Fund, State Graffiti Grants, and Criminal Property Confiscation Grants Program, as well as any other programs or activities relating to external groups/agencies.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

B.1 Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

Theme Area 2: Safety and Security.

Outcome: Northam residents are able to pursue the fullest life possible without fear of or hindrance from crime and disorder.

Objective: Plan and implement strategies to address crime and safety within the Shire of Northam

- increase community participation in identifying and reporting of crime
- increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent crime and improve community safety
- work with key stakeholders and community groups to plan and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives

B.2 Financial / Resource Implications

Nil.

B.3 Legislative Compliance

Nil.

B.4 Policy Implications

Nil.

B.5 Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

External groups and agencies such as Northam Chamber of Commerce, Roadwise, and Northam PCYC are encouraged to provide an update during committee meetings.

B.6 Risk Implications

Refer to Risk Matrix [here](#).

Risk Category	Description	Rating (likelihood x consequence)	Mitigation Action
Financial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health & Safety	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service Interruption	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment	N/A	N/A	N/A

C. OFFICER'S COMMENT

It is recommended that standing orders be suspended to allow for discussion of pertinent matters by staff and external groups/agencies.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council suspends Standing Orders 8.5 and 8.9 to allow further discussion pertaining to group/agency updates.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resumes Standing Orders 8.5 and 8.9 to progress with the remainder of the items on the agenda.

6. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

Nil.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 11:00am.

8. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE