



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON
15 JULY 2016**

SHIRE OF NORTHAM
AGENDA
COMMUNTY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 15 JULY 2016

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Notice and Agenda of the Northam Community Safety Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chambers on Friday, 15 July 2016 at 2.00pm

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairperson Cr Julie Williams declared the meeting open at 2.07pm.

The quorum of voting Members is 7. The Committee has reached a quorum.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Parts of Division 6 Subdivision 1 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Council members and employees to disclose any direct or indirect financial interest or general interest in any matter listed in this agenda. The Act also requires the nature of the interest to be disclosed in writing before the meeting or immediately before the matter being discussed.

NB A Council member who makes a disclosure must not preside or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the disclosed matter unless the procedures set out in Sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Act have been complied with.

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

Chairperson	Cr J Williams
Councillor	Cr D G Beresford
Councillor	Cr C Davidson
Executive Manager Community Services	Mr R Rayson
Northam Police	SNRSGT G Dickson
Northam Roadwise Committee	Mr C Simpson
Health Representative	Mr G Bentley
Department Education	Mrs S Bray

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Community Development Officer	Mrs M Blackhurst
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GALLERY

Councillor	Cr Ulo Rumjantsev
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4. APOLOGIES

Department Sport and Recreation	Mrs J Collins
Local Drug Action Group	Mrs K Grace

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5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION

Minute No: CSC.023

Moved: Mr Ross Rayson

Seconded: Cr Chris Davidson

That the minutes of the meeting held Friday, 06 May 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 8/0

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

Name of Applicant:	Shire of Northam
Name of Owner:	Shire of Northam
File Ref:	1.3.12.1
Officer:	Ross Rayson
Officer Interest:	N/A
Policy:	N/A
Voting:	N/A
Date:	30 June 2016

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) Plan 2016-2020 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 2016-2020 has brought all of the current data together to help the Committee to understand 'What is the Northam story'. This will help the Committee to reconcile where the facts and the perceptions differ.

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STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

N/A

CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

OBJECTIVE: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

STRATEGY: Provide an environment that enhances and builds on the liveability of the Shire.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Shire of Northam's Community Development Officer provided an update on recent activities:

Criminal or Offending Behaviour - Lock and Light program

One of the objectives of the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2016-2020 is to 'Reduce the opportunity for crime or offending behaviour'. The crime statistics together with Police intelligence indicate that one of the most prominent priorities for the Shire of Northam is currently 'target hardening' as community members that are targeted are not often taking precautions to reduce the opportunity for crime in their homes. A collaborative 'Lock and Light Program' has been identified as an action in the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2016-2020 to achieve this.

The proposed Lock and Light Program will support elderly residents who make up the majority of the soft targets in our community to live independently through improving their personal safety when in their homes. The program aims to increase their sense of wellbeing while reducing their sense of vulnerability.

The objectives of the project are:

- To increase the awareness of seniors and the general community regarding safety and security in the home environment.
- To provide senior residents with safety and security assessments of their own homes and upgrade home security in 'priority' homes to reduce the opportunity for crime in our community.

The program will provide the opportunity for our elderly residents to have a home security assessment undertaken which will raise their awareness about what aspects of their homes are not secure. Each senior household will then be able to apply for funding up to an agreed limit for the installation of home security devices such as security doors, window locks, door peep holes, window security screens, sensor lighting, UV pens for property marking and identification purposes and information about crime prevention.

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The installation of home security devices will decrease the opportunity for home burglary related crimes within our community. Publicity undertaken to support the project will also encourage the general community to become more safety conscious with their homes and this will contribute to the reduction of Crime in the Shire of Northam.

Cr Beresford asked SnrSgt Geoff Dickson what percentage of crime he thought this might stop. SnrSgt Geoff Dickson informed that this project would stop a high percentage of crime as the majority of the targets are the elderly or soft targets.

Mr Ross Rayson added that whilst we say that this pilot program is targeting the elderly, it is hoped that it can assist vulnerable residents who meet eligibility requirements in the future.

Cr Davidson suggested that we source security stickers to be placed in the Burglar Awareness Packs.

Criminal or Offending Behaviour - Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan is available on the Shire of Northam website. Each Committee member was emailed a copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting. Mrs Sharon Bray will be the representative from the AODMP Committee sitting on the Community Safety Committee and can assist with any questions that the Committee might have.

Community Awareness - eWatch

The Northam Police and the Shire of Northam are regularly releasing eWatch Newsletters promote community safety and crime prevention information. SnrSgt Geoff Dickson provided an update on eWatch and advised that if members of the Community Safety Committee would like to include community safety themed information in this eWatch Newsletter he would be happy to include it.

Community Awareness - Shire of Northam Website

The Shire of Northam website now includes a tab named 'Community Safety'. This is an information sharing tool to ensure that the public have access to information relating to community safety and crime prevention in the Shire of Northam.

Community Awareness - Bicycle Identification Card

The Bicycle Identification Card is a best practice project idea initiated by a metropolitan local government. Thousands of bicycles are stolen each year and many of these are recovered by the Police. Most cannot be identified and returned to their rightful owner because the identifying features are not recorded. This is a tool for the community to use to record the details of bicycles.

Building Partnerships - Midnight Basketball

Mr Ross Rayson explained to the Committee the concept behind the Midnight Basketball program. It is a youth engagement program that incorporates life skills training with basketball tournaments on a night when young people need to be engaged. Council

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officers contacted Midnight Basketball to enquire about the possibility of using the program in the shire of Northam to engage young people. The program managers are keen to learn more about the Shire of Northam and feel that Northam has high potential for hosting the program.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst acknowledged the input from Mr Greg Bentley for suggesting that the program could be used to engage young people in the Shire of Northam and for sourcing information for initial contact with program managers.

Mr Greg Bentley asked if the program had a funding component. Mr Ross Rayson explained the budget provision of \$10,000, and the budget requirement which could be subsidised with in-kind support from youth stakeholders. Mr Greg Bentley said that the program looked good however hard to navigate when using volunteers to manage the program.

Although keen to look further into the program, Mr Greg Bentley suggested that the Community Safety Committee look into supporting existing youth engagement programs in the Shire of Northam such as the Avon Youth Basketball program which is very popular with the young people.

Mr Cliff Simpson asked SnrSgt Geoff Dickson how the timeslot relates with crime. Snr Sgt Geoff Dickson said that there was no data specifically on this but reiterated that busy kids do not commit offences. SnrSgt Geoff Dickson said that the percentage of who commits crime changes.

Building Partnerships - Safer Northam Committee

Postponed until agenda item 6.3

Community Design - CCTV Infrastructure

Postponed until agenda item 6.2

Community Design - Youth Precinct

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst advised that the Shire of Northam applied for a grant to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of developing a youth precinct in Northam. The grant was successful and the feasibility study would be commencing soon.

Mr Ross Rayson provided an update about the project. Mr Greg Bentley asked what the timeframe of the project was and Mr Ross Rayson advised that the commencement date would be approximately four weeks and it was hoped that it would be completed by December 2016.

Mrs Sharon Bray offered to assist in putting the project together. A meeting will be arranged.

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Stakeholder Actions

Stakeholders have been asked to indicate which actions that they are able to assist to achieve on the CSCP Plan 2016-2020.

6.2 STATE CCTV INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – GRANT APPLICATION

Name of Applicant:	Shire of Northam
Name of Owner:	Shire of Northam
File Ref:	1.3.12.1
Officer:	Michelle Blackhurst
Officer Interest:	N/A
Policy:	N/A
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	07 July 2016

PURPOSE

To update the Committee about the State CCTV Infrastructure project.

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Northam has secured funding through the State CCTV Strategy Infrastructure Fund to install new CCTV equipment and infrastructure throughout Northam. Securing additional funding will boost the overall functionality of CCTV in Northam, giving the Shire access to new state of the art technology.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

N/A

CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

OBJECTIVE: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

STRATEGY: Provide an environment that enhances and builds on the liveability of the Shire.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Grant funding of up to \$220,000.00 together with Council contribution of \$15,000.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

SnrSgt Geoff Dickson provided the Committee with a brief overview of the State CCTV Infrastructure program and how the Shire of Northam together with the Northam Police identified Northam as a location of high priority and what the locations of the cameras would be.

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SnrSgt Geoff Dickson told the Committee that the Police needed to develop an intelligence picture about which communities would benefit from accessing funding through the State CCTV Infrastructure Fund. Community specific heat maps were developed through the Police and this indicated which communities were experiencing high crime. Based on these heat maps, the Northam Police together with the Shire of Northam were able to identify what was needed in the Northam community. This was the basis of the grant application.

Committee members were provided with a map indicating the placement of the new infrastructure and each location was discussed in detail.

Cr Chris Davidson requested that the Northam Police start to monitor the Wundowie CCTV footage. SnrSgt Geoff Dickson advised that each Office In Charge is responsible for their own community. Their time needs to be spent monitoring their own areas. He said that the Police do not commit to monitor any of the CCTV but it is a useful tool for the Police to have access to.

SnrSgt Geoff Dickson invited members of the Community Safety Committee to make an appointment with him and come to the Police Station to have a look at the viewing platform. He said that this project is pure community policing and a very valuable asset to this community.

SnrSgt Geoff Dickson wanted to formally congratulate the Shire of Northam on behalf of the Police, saying that of all of the Local Government Authorities who have received funding for a CCTV infrastructure upgrade, he had been told that the Shire of Northam is at the front of the pack with the way that they are facilitating this project.

6.3 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE – SAFER NORTHAM COMMITTEE

Name of Applicant:	Shire of Northam
Name of Owner:	Shire of Northam
File Ref:	1.3.12.1
Officer:	Michelle Blackhurst
Officer Interest:	N/A
Policy:	N/A
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	07 July 2016

PURPOSE

To update the Committee about a request from the Safer Northam Committee to be represented on the Community Safety Committee in the vacant Community Representative position.

BACKGROUND

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The Safer Northam Committee is made up of community members who meet regularly to discuss safety issues in the Shire of Northam. The Committee would like to be involved in the Community Safety Committee.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

N/A

CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

OBJECTIVE: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

STRATEGY: Provide an environment that enhances and builds on the liveability of the Shire.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Safer Northam Committee is an organised community Committee that is willing to take on community safety projects. The Committee has not completed a project in the past two years as they want some direction. This Committee would be a great addition to our Community Safety Committee and working with them would encourage community collaboration.

This group also focuses on Wundowie, Bakers Hill, Clackline, Wundowie and Grass Valley which are communities within the Shire of Northam that require our attention.

SnrSgt Geoff Dickson said that he could see a duplication and he thought that working together would be a positive move forward.

RECOMMENDATION

Minute No: CSC.024

Moved: SnrSgt Geoff Dickson

Seconded: Mr Cliff Simpson

That Council endorse that a representative from the Safer Northam Committee be appointed to the vacant Community Representative position on the Community Safety Committee.

CARRIED 8/0

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7. OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

There was no other business discussed.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 2pm on 16 September 2016.

9. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

The meeting was officially closed at 3.20pm.