

Central Coast Community Safety Partnership Committee

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers

Wednesday, 23 August 2023 – Commencing at 10.00am

1 PRESENT

Council Representatives: Cr Cheryl Fuller (Mayor)
 Barry Omundson (General Manager)
 Cr Kate Wylie (Councillor)
 Paul Breaden (Director Infrastructure Services)
 Chris Clark (Manager Community Development)
 Melissa Budgeon (Community Wellbeing Officer)
 Tracey Clark (Administrative Support)

Community Representatives: Garth Johnston (Community – Penguin)
 Lynn Norton-Smith (Community – Turners Beach)
 Alex Bonde (Tasmania Police)
 Simon Douglas (Ulverstone Neighbourhood House)
 Simon Dent (Ulverstone Secondary College)
 Robert Tucker (CCCCI)

2 WELCOME

The Mayor, Cr Cheryl Fuller, welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

The Council acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners of lutruwita (Tasmania), the palawa/pakana people. We acknowledge the Punnilerpanner tribe of this Northern Country, and in doing so, we celebrate one of the world's oldest continuous cultures.

3 APOLOGIES

Sam van der Meulen (Housing Choices), and **Jenelle Wells** (Health Promotion Consultant).

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

■ Garth Johnston moved, and Lyn Norton-Smith seconded, “That the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday, 26 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record”.

Carried

5 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Barry Omundson introduced himself to the Committee as the new General Manager. Barry shared with the group his passion for effective leadership and his vision for creating a positive culture within the Central Coast Council.

Mayor Fuller reported that all staff attended a reset meeting when Barry started and the senior leadership team and councillors will hold meetings soon to reevaluate the goals for Central Coast.

6 RED BENCH PROJECT

Melissa reported that Council has been approached through the family violence unit of Tasmania Police to seek interest in participating in the Red Bench Project.

The program raises awareness of domestic violence and how the reoccurrence of non-fatal strangulation can become fatal. The benches, which are installed in public locations and have a plaque with information about the project, are a conversation starter for members of the community who may not be aware of the impacts of non-fatal strangulation and ongoing domestic violence.

It had been proposed to install a bench in the Sensory Garden which is planned for Tobruk Park. Mayor Fuller suggested that this might be too isolated to spark a conversation, and finding a location where there is already a bench in a prominent location that could be repurposed would be a quicker way of progressing the idea.

The following suggestions were put forward by the committee:

- The Wharf Precinct
- Apex Park
- Queens Garden
- Penguin Foreshore
- Park next to Ulverstone Neighbourhood House

Alex advised that from a Tasmania Police perspective, the focus is on changing the culture at a young age, so having the benches installed near parks or locations where families gather is a good option.

Paul asked if the intention was to have just one bench, or to install them in multiple locations. Melissa confirmed that only one would be required.

Barry suggested that as a regional council we should consider taking a regional approach rather than focusing on a single area. Cr Wylie suggested that we could have a different campaign in each location, such as a Red Bench in Ulverstone, a Blue Tree (mental health) in Penguin, and so on.

The Committee agreed that repurposing a bench that is already installed would be the best way to move forward.

ACTION: Paul Braden to identify suitable locations in Ulverstone and Penguin and plan for the project to be undertaken – progress to be reported back at the next meeting.

7 REPORTS

7.1 Crime Report.....**Tasmania Police**

Alex Bonde reported that discussions have taken place between Tasmania Police and the Mayor about the perceived gang activity in Ulverstone. Police have intervened quite heavily with the youths involved, and the issues have since reduced. Whilst problems will always occur in some form, the current group seem to have settled down.

Alex also reported the following:

- Hooning activity previously reported in and around John Street and Main Street, Ulverstone has settled down after the offenders moved on.
- Vandalism continues to be an issue around public toilets. Council staff and the public are reminded to report any incidents that occur so Police are aware and can follow up.
- Break-ins have been occurring at the Family Learning Centre building site in West Ulverstone. Police have increased patrols in the area.

Paul advised that hooning activity had occurred at Anzac Park over the weekend resulting in damage to the grass. Infrastructure Services are looking at different fencing options to prevent this type of activity.

Cr Wylie asked if there was a point where youths loitering in the street became a crime. Alex advised that whilst this would not necessarily be considered criminal activity, the Police do have powers to move them on if they believe they may commit a crime, and shop owners are encouraged to contact the Police if they feel this is necessary.

Cr Wylie also asked if there is anything members of the public can do in these situations to avoid tying up police resources, to which Alex advised that calling the Police is still the preferred option as these situations have the potential to become violent, and it is important for Police to show a presence in the community.

Mayor Fuller noted that publicly role-modelling positive youth engagement can minimise the stereotype of young people being troublemakers and with that in mind, the Council will be working on promoting the positive youth role models who make up the majority of our youth community.

Mayor Fuller also reported that she has received a request from the PCYC for a meeting in the near future.

7.2 Education (all schools) Report.....**Simon Dent**

Simon Dent reported that thank you packs are being prepared by the school for Tasmania Police for the support offered to the school and the efforts to engage with the youth involved in the recent gang activities. He reported that there has been a real sense of optimism around the work done by police, which has really made some young people and their families take things seriously and educated them on the outcomes of this behaviour.

Simon noted that getting these kids engaged in the community and belonging in the community with a purpose is the goal, and it is hoped that the recent announcement of grant funding you existing or new infrastructure that creates recreational or social opportunities for young people will create more opportunities for engagement. Chris advised that Council's Community Development officer has forwarded details of this grant to local organisations.

Simon also reported that school is currently focusing a lot of attention on issues around vaping. He noted that there is a lot of misunderstanding among young people about the law around vaping, with some of them believing that if the vape did not contain nicotine they were not breaking the law. Simon suggested the possibility of working with sports clubs to help promote the message to young people that vaping is dangerous and illegal.

The Mayor asked if the department of health have a message around vaping? Melissa confirmed that there is a dedicated anti-vaping campaign, and youth workers are available to speak at schools across the state. Melissa also raised the importance of education for parents and providing parents with resources.

7.3 Ulverstone Neighbourhood House.....**Simon Douglas**

Simon Douglas reported that the Ulverstone Neighbourhood House Community Kids program is in development. This program will take place after school on Thursdays and will showcase different groups and activities that are on offer in the community. A representative from the Ticket to Play initiative will also be involved. The program is aimed at children in the mid-late primary age bracket.

7.4 Garth Johnston (Penguin).....**Garth Johnston**

Garth noted that the road markings on the coast road between Ulverstone and Penguin are still a problem, particularly with cyclists on the road. He asked if there are rules governing the colours cyclists should be wearing? Alex advised that there is nothing included in the road rules about cyclist clothing.

8 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chris invited the Committee to share their feedback on the future of the Community Safety Partnership Committee.

The Committee has been around in various guises since prior to 2000, with the first “plan” developed in 2006. Over this time there has been good representation from Tasmania Police, schools, the Central Coast Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as other groups and individuals.

Past initiatives of the Committee have included a One Punch campaign, bike safety, cyber safety and a Chamber of Commerce partnership for a video about shoplifting and the impact it has on the community.

Melissa gave a recap of some of the programs – one punch program after the lighthouse event, bike safety, cyber safety, chamber of commerce partnership for a video about shoplifting and the impact it has on the community.

Accreditation:

Mayor Fuller noted that in the beginning, the discussion around accreditation grew from a desire to be seen as the safest community in Tasmania. There have been a number of roadblocks to this process, including difficulty engaging with the accreditation body, and external costs that outweigh the benefits of accreditation.

The committee was asked for their thoughts on moving away from the formal accreditation, in place of adopting a “safest community in Tasmania” message based on our performance in the space:

- Barry: the accreditation places the focus on the process rather than the outcomes. Part of the new vision for Central Coast could be that we are a safe place.
- Melissa: the current youth survey has so far received over 200 responses with all respondents indicating that they feel safe within our community.
- Robert: can you can find the criteria they use for the accreditation and exceed them?

The Committee agreed to abandon the accreditation process. The Mayor acknowledged the work of Council staff on the process to date.

Purpose of the Committee:

The Committee was asked to share what they believe is the purpose of the Central Coast Community Safety Partnership, and if this is still relevant. This feedback is summarised in the table on the following page.

<p>Simon Douglas <i>Ulverstone Neighbourhood House</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on what is happening within the community and how we can be involved • Crime reports • Engagement opportunities • Sharing ideas and partnering with the other groups around the table <p>Is this still relevant: Yes</p>
<p>Lyn Norton Smith <i>Community Rep (Turners Beach)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a level of awareness of issues that are more important than I previously realised • Opens my eyes to what's going on in the greater community • Provides talking points to take back to the community for discussion <p>Is this still relevant: Yes</p>
<p>Garth Johnston <i>Community Rep (Penguin)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I learn a lot from the people around the table • Raises issues that I might not have been aware with • Provides a space for me to raise community concerns • Provides talking points to take back to the community for discussion <p>Is this still relevant: Yes</p>
<p>Robert Tucker <i>Central Coast Chamber of Commerce and Industry</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of issues • When things are known about they can be fixed <p>Is this still relevant: To a degree – the group has added value to some issues but not others.</p>
<p>Simon Dent <i>Ulverstone Secondary College</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection • We walk away feeling like we are supported • We work in silos in schools and can be unaware of what's going on in a wider sense <p>Is this still relevant: Yes, if we are promoting the same coordinated messages.</p>
<p>Alex Bonde <i>Tasmania Police</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having awareness around issues we might not have seen reported to police • Formulating a plan as a collective to tackle the issues • Tackling issues together provides reassurance to the community <p>Is this still relevant: Yes</p>

Where to from here?

The Mayor suggested moving the focus of the group to sharing, with staff presenting ideas and projects they have come up with since the previous meeting and seeking comments from the group, as well as having a calendar of events that the Committee will support/promote.

Barry noted that he can see benefit in continuing with a face-to-face meetings on a quarterly basis, with a reset of the focus and clarity around what the purpose is so that it better utilises the skills of the group. The Mayor added that attendance at Committee meetings had been an issue in the past, and having less frequent meetings would likely encourage better participation.

Barry added that meetings should have outcomes that can be actioned in between. Cheryl suggested that rather than a plan that staff work towards, the preference should be for the group to tell staff where the priorities are and then work on actioning those.

Cr Wylie commented that the intel gathered around the table is invaluable, but there needs to be a better plan for distributing this information to the community. Mayor Fuller noted that the Council will have a dedicated communications role in the coming months, and part of this will include addressing how information can be better shared with the community.

Overall, the Committee supported switching to a quarterly roundtable format.

Simon Douglas asked if there was anyone missing from the Committee who should be included? Garth also added that there could be an opportunity to include a youth representative.

ACTION: Chris to review the current Committee Charter based on these discussions, and present a vised draft to the next meeting for comment.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

Simon Dent noted that we should be on the lookout for the next Community Safety Champion. The group should consider this and present any nominations at the next meeting.

Action: Melissa to develop criteria for the award and disseminate to the committee.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, to occur in November, will be scheduled at a later date.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.37am.