

Central Coast Community Safety Partnership Committee

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers

Wednesday, 26 April 2023 – Commencing at 10.00am

1 PRESENT

Sandra Ayton (General Manager – CCC); **Daryl Connelly** (Director Community Services – CCC); **Simon Dent** (Principal Ulverstone Secondary College [USC] Schools Representative), **Garth Johnston**; (Community Rep); **Cr Kate Wylie** (Councillor –CCC); and **Lynn Norton-Smith** (Community Rep).

2 WELCOME

The General Manager, Sandra Ayton, 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.

Sandra welcomed Cr Wylie to the committee as the Council representative.

3 APOLOGIES

Sam van der Meulen (Housing Choices), **Cr Cheryl Fuller** (Mayor – CCC); **Alex Bonde** (Tasmania Police); **Paul Breaden** (Director Infrastructure Services – CCC); **Simon Douglas** (Ulverstone Neighbourhood House); **Jenelle Wells** (Health Promotion Consultant [Mersey]; and **Robert Tucker** (Central Coast Chamber of Commerce & Industry).

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

■ Simon Dent moved, and Garth Johnston seconded, “That the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record”.

Carried

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN

5.1 Allison’s contribution to the committee.....**Sandra Ayton**

Sandra acknowledged the hard work of Allison Kable in the preparation of the Community Safety Action Plan accreditation process and formally recognised that

she will be sadly missed following her resignation from Council. A letter of thanks will be sent to Allison on behalf of the committee.

ACTION: Tracey to send letter of thanks to Allison.

5.2 Homelessness in Central Coast.....**Daryl Connelly**

Council’s Director Community Services, Daryl Connelly, presented to the group on the latest data regarding homelessness. A copy of Daryl’s presentation is attached with these minutes.

Homelessness is a growing issue right across Australia, with the 2021 Census data indicating 70 people were homeless in Central Coast on census night although this is likely not an accurate portrayal. Service providers have reported it is more likely double this amount.

Council staff are keen to see what can be done to alleviate the problems people are experiencing. The Council recently held a roundtable session with state government representatives which was successful in opening up lines of communication between the government and the Council. A second roundtable will be held on 11 May, and will provide service providers and invited community representatives with an opportunity to report what they are seeing on the ground, and explore how the Council can work with service providers to facilitate relief.

The Council has already taken some steps in this area. Council staff are developing social media material to promote support services in the area, and are working work closely with the state and federal government to investigate options for affordable housing and crisis accommodation.

One such program currently under consideration is an initiative similar to the Stable One program which has been successful interstate. Although Stable One is traditionally operated by church groups in local churches, there is potential to utilise Council-owned buildings. Sandra noted a key requirement regarding this is that there must be wrap-around support services in place as well.

The Council has reached an agreement with Gran’s Van to set up their laundry and shower trailer at the Sulphur Creek Hall on Wednesdays which will begin in the coming weeks, once Gran’s Van have secured enough volunteers.

Following Daryl’s presentation, the committee discussed what members had seen and experienced, and brainstormed ideas.

Garth asked for an update on whether Serenity House can be used for emergency accommodation. Daryl advised the Council has sought an answer from the state government regarding this, but no answer has been received as yet.

Lynn asked if there are any service providers across the region that provide haircuts, which could help improve mental wellbeing and self-confidence? Simon

noted that there is potential for the school to be involved in a program like this, if the Council thought it was worth considering.

Cr Wylie asked if it is possible for a QR code to be placed in public spaces such as toilets to direct people to local services. Daryl advised he is in discussions with an app developer who offers a platform where people can enter their details and be put in touch with the required services in the area. If this was to be supported by the Council, QR codes could then be shared for the app.

Cr Wylie also noted the importance of being aware of the language we use when discussing those experiencing homelessness, and the implications language can have on people's emotional wellbeing.

Simon asked if there will be a lived experience advocate at the roundtable. Daryl reported that he is conscious of it being a bureaucratic discussion, which would potentially be disheartening to someone experiencing real-time issues. Staff are however working with the view of having conversations with lived experience advocates later on.

Garth commented that roundtables are a great tool to open discussion but can prolong real action, so it would be good to focus on what small wins can be achieved while the discussion is ongoing.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Crime Report.....**Tasmania Police**

Sandra read out an update Sergeant Alex Bonde provided via email, which is summarised below.

Actions from previous meeting:

Hooning in Leith – an increased police presence and high visibility patrols within Leith from both Ulverstone Uniform members and Western Road Policing Services since the previous meeting has resulted in no further reported hooning incidents since this time and police will continue to monitor that area.

Scooter and bike safety concerns – There is a really good website that gives information around the legal use of scooters, e-scooters and bikes. It can be found here:

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road_safety_and_rules/personal_mobility_devices

Relevant legislation can be found on the Tasmanian Legislation website by searching “Road Rules 2019”:

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/>

Vandalism/damage content for e-newsletter and social media – pending approval from the police Media and Comms section, there should be some wording and content around this issue that will be handy and relevant for anything the Council may like to run in the e-newsletter or social media. Sargent Bonde will provide this when it is available.

Report for this Meeting:

Youth in Ulverstone – Police are aware of several matters of anti-social behaviour occurring in Ulverstone by some groups of youths. More specifically, there was an assault at McDonalds which gained quite a bit of media attention around mid-March. While police were reactive to that incident, they have been quite proactive in targeting some of the more troublesome youth at the moment. All youths involved in the McDonalds incident have now been dealt with by police in one form or another. The youths involved in that incident are generally the ones that are causing the wider anti-social issues. Police are having regular contact with these youths now and are trying to put support mechanisms around them to reduce that type of behaviour. Reports of the anti-social behaviour have lessened since this incident. It is something police are very aware of and will continue to give attention to.

Hooning and anti-social behaviour, 102 Main Street, Ulverstone – Since the last meeting, police have become aware of continued hooning and anti-social behaviour originating in and around 102 Main Street, Ulverstone. This has been an ongoing issue potentially since late 2021. Sargent Bonde has personally spoken with some concerned residents from around that area and offered advice around the best way to report incidents to police that will achieve the best outcome, as well as reassurance of proactive policing in the area. Police have interacted with the resident involved and started proceedings against him for some of the behaviour. We will continue to proactively target him and the area.

Other crime rates – Appear steady with nothing of significant note with regard to particular trends or fluctuations.

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

Simon Dent provided a further update from his perspective regarding the youth anti-social behaviour.

There is a group of students who are causing significant disruption both in the community and at school. Simon noted that the school is very aware of the problem and have been working with Tasmania Police who have provided a great deal of assistance but are limited in what they can actually do.

Cr Wylie asked if it was possible to know the number of youths involved and their background. Simon advised there are about 10 consistent names and more who are semi involved, with ages ranging from 12–18 years.

Lynn asked how do we get these kids involved in their community rather than these gangs? Simon reported the school are trying to encourage participation in sports clubs and community groups with limited success.

6.3 Lynn Norton Smith (Turners Beach).....**Lynn Norton Smith**

Marinus Link – Lynn reported that she attended the CCCI Business and Tourism Expo and spoke with a representative from TasNetworks about the proposed Marinus Link project. This project will have significant impact on our landscape, does the community have a say in any of this? Sandra reported that TasNetworks have engaged with the Council and have already amended their plans based on feedback from those discussions, but there will be an opportunity for both the community and Council to make submissions at a later stage.

Dogs at Turners Beach – Lynn expressed concerns about a conversation she had with a community member who had received a fine for having a dog in a prohibited area. Sandra advised she was aware of the incident and had already reviewed the bodycam footage which indicated the Council’s Compliance Officer had acted accordingly. Sandra noted that Council is responsible for ensuring the community is safe and Compliance Officers monitor the area at any time and no one should expect that they can break the rules. The process of enforcement has worked well in other areas. The Council is aware that more off-lead exercise areas are needed, and options are being considered for fenced dog exercise areas in the Turners Beach area. Lynn suggested that tie up areas for dogs should be provided near parks but outside of the 10m exclusion zone.

6.4 Garth Johnston (Penguin).....**Garth Johnston**

Wheelchair friendly disability friendly toilets in the community – Garth stressed that these need to be a budget priority.

Road markings – the coast road between Ulverstone and Penguin needs the centre line marked again, as it is very difficult to see of an evening. Penguin also needs line marking replaced.

BBQ shelter at Johnsons Beach – noted that people are parking RVs under the tree near the BBQ shelter. Can the Council install bollards to prevent this?. Caravan and RV parking in Penguin needs to be looked at and enforced, as people are parking in parks and behind the sports centre.

Dog beaches – lots of dogs happily running around the dog off lead beaches which is nice.

Community atmosphere – the community are generally happy. The Penguin Op Shop are doing incredible work in the community and should be acknowledged. Cr Wylie noted they received an Australia Day award.

6.5 Council Report.....**Sandra Ayton**

No report at this meeting.

9 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 28 June 2023 at 10.00am, in the Council Chamber, 19 King Edward Street, Ulverstone.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.39am.

Homelessness discussion

Community Safety Partnership Committee



CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

Latest data

Number of homeless persons according to Census data

	2016	2021	Increase #	Increase %
Tasmania	1,615	2,346	731	45%
Central Coast	59	70	11	19%

Latest data

Where homeless people in Central Coast, are living (2021 Census)

Improved dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	Supported accommodation	Staying temporarily with other households	Living in boarding houses	Other temporary lodgings	Severely crowded dwellings
8	20	25	3	5	13

Roundtable with the Minister

Work together on things such as:

- Creating an easier planning pathway for crisis accommodation.
- Improved coordination between State Government and Council, on issues such as land supply, affordable housing and relief.
- Improving the information available to people experiencing homelessness and those who wish to help them.

Community roundtable

Objectives:

- Invitees to provide Council with details of what they are seeing on the ground.
- Identify areas of need that participants think Council may be able to assist with.
- Discuss how we can all work together to maximise opportunities and overcome any barriers.

Invitees:

- Service providers (crisis accommodation, op shops, support services)
- Churches
- Councillors and senior staff
- Homes Tasmania (State Government)

The types of ideas we have heard so far

- Work with local churches and other community organisations to roll-out Stable One or a similar initiative.
- Work with State and Federal Governments to ensure Central Coast gets its fair share of their major housing investments.
- Increase Council's direct investment in affordable housing.
- Understand the impact of, and if necessary, regulate, short stay visitor accommodation.
- Lobby the State Government to consider incorporating inclusionary zoning, developer contributions or similar measures into the Statewide Planning Provisions.

The types of ideas we have heard so far

- Encourage or incentivise additional, higher density and more affordable housing in Central Coast.
- Work with government and existing service providers, to extend or improve outreach and emergency relief in Central Coast.
- Advocate for changes to Federal Government policy settings related to the root causes of housing affordability (e.g. tax settings, social housing, welfare payments).
- Make Council owned buildings available for crisis accommodation.
- Work with Gran's Van to expand their service into Central Coast.

Discussion

- What are people seeing on the ground?
- Other ideas / suggestions / comments.