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COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

held on 13 September 2017 at 1pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Mayor, City of Melton
Cr Bob Turner, Deputy Mayor, City of Melton
Adrian Cope, Open Space Planning Coordinator, Melton City Council
Andrew Mason, Coordinator City Amenity and Compliance, Melton City Council
Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning, Melton City Council
Liz Smith, Team Leader Health Promotion and Planning, Melton City Council
Jan Webb, Road Safety and Community Safety Officer, Melton City Council
Lisha Constantino, Health Promotion Coordinator, Djerriwarrh Health Services
Sue Swiatek, 6801 Youth Outreach Worker, Melton City Council

Chairperson: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Mayor, City of Melton

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present and acknowledged the Indigenous owners of the land on which the meeting was held.

2. Apologies

Inspector Kathy Rudkins, Victoria Police
Michelle Nunn, Community Coordinator, VIC, Communities, Lendlease
Milka Griffiths, Marketing Manager/Pop Up Sales Executive, CS Square Shopping Centre
Robert Blackley, Assistant Principal, Catholic Regional College

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Noted

J Webb/Cr Turner

Minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 May 2017, adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 June 2017 be noted.

5. Business Arising

Minutes from the meeting held on 1 March 2017 were not confirmed at the 17 May 2017 meeting due to insufficient Committee members not being present. Cr Ramsey moved a motion that these minutes now be adopted as an accurate record. Minutes were moved by P Doyle and seconded by Cr Ramsey.



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6. General Business

6.1 Household Satisfaction Survey

Carried over until next meeting.

6.2 Public Safety Infrastructure Fund Grant

M Wilson and L Smith noted that Council is applying for the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grant through the Department of Justice. The funding application is to install some lighting around Caroline Springs Lake. Council was briefed at the Council meeting earlier this week and Councillors expressed their support for these improvements to be made.

6.3 Council and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

L Smith presented the final Council and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 and explained that the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been integrated into the Council Plan for the first time. L Smith noted that the plan is available on Council's website if members would like to view a copy.

6.4 Prevention of Violence Against Women

L Smith provided an update on the prevention of violence against women portfolio. The current Prevention of Violence against Women Strategy 2013-2016 has expired and is currently being re-written to focus more on gender equity. L Smith also spoke of a number of ideas for initiatives to be held during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and White Ribbon Day such as film nights and social marketing campaigns.

6.5 Family Violence Advisory Committee

L Smith provided a report on the newly established Family Violence Advisory Committee. The inaugural meeting was held on 25 August 2017 and a number of councillors and local service providers attended. The Municipal Association of Victoria attended and presented on local governments' role in family violence. Their recommendation was that local governments are best placed to focus on promoting gender equity to prevent violence against women.

6.6 Safer City Plan

L Smith raised a discussion about combining the Safer City Plan with the Road Safety Plan. The current Safer City Plan is due to expire this year and the Road Safety Plan is due to expire in 2018. The new Safer City Plan will be delayed so that it can be combined with the new Road Safety Plan, development of the new Plan will commence in early 2018.

6.7 Safer City Month

J Webb shared the activities scheduled for October's Safer City Month that includes an RACV 'Years Ahead Road Safety for Seniors' session to be held on 10 October. There are free child restraint and anti-theft number plate screw fittings to coincide with the Children's Week events on 24 October at the Melton Civic Centre and 26 October at Taylors Hill Community and Youth Centre. J Webb also noted that RoadSafe Westgate will be hosting a Senior Drivers Expo on 28 October at the Melton Library and Learning Hub.

6.8 Community Safety Concerns

J Webb reported on some concerns that have been raised by residents recently including monkey bike use at Boronia Park, Hillside and suspicious activity at Sugar



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Gum Reserve, Hillside. There has also been two resident requests received by A Cope, Council's Open Space Planning Coordinator, for some additional lighting to be installed due to some suspicious activity being noticed at Fraser Street Reserve, Melton South and Lucas Terrace Reserve, Taylors Hill.

A Cope noted that installing and maintaining lighting at all public reserves is not recommended for various reasons including cost and suitability for which reserves should and shouldn't be lit. A Cope noted that it is not desirable for some reserves to be lit at night. Council has provided funding for the Passive Reserve Lighting Program and these sites will be considered as part of this program.

Cr Ramsey suggested that the areas of concern be considered in this program when recommendations are made.

6.9 Neighbourhood Watch Program

J Webb noted that there has been some interest from residents to reactivate the Neighbourhood Watch program in the City of Melton. J Webb has checked the website and the program is active in all surrounding areas. Residents can seek information on the website and register their interest as individuals. J Webb will raise the issue with Victoria Police at the next meeting to determine if the Police are actively using the website and updating the information.

6.10 Road2Zero

J Webb reported that the Aboriginal Learner Driver program held in partnership with Kirrip House commenced on 29 August 2017. J Webb noted that the program is aimed to assist community members in obtaining their L's and P's and includes six road safety educational components followed by some free professional driving lessons. J Webb noted that the 2017-2018 Road Safety Awareness Project for New Arrivals delivered by the Migrant Resource Centre will commence on 10 October 2017. This program also provides community members with six road safety educational components followed by some free professional driving lessons. J Webb noted that Council's Community Road Safety Forum is scheduled for tomorrow evening and urged the committee members to promote the forum among their networks.

Action

L Smith to carry forward item 6.1 on the next meeting's agenda.

L Smith to carry forward item 6.9, specifically whether Victoria Police are actively using the Neighbourhood watch website.

7. Other Business

M Wilson reported that Council is currently developing a CCTV Policy and this should be completed by mid-2018. M Wilson asked if committee members would be interested in providing some input for the policy. M Wilson noted the community's use of CCTV in Teatree Street in Diggers Rest. There were some challenges discussed by the Committee on the positives and negatives to CCTV footage in local streets.

A Mason noted that due to the monkey bike collision recently that resulted in the death of a community member, a memorial site was installed at the front of Kurunjang Secondary College. A Mason advised that this site has now been removed and Victoria Police members have assisted with the cleaning up of the area. M Wilson noted that community members that were affected by this tragedy have been given contact information to seek counselling



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services. S Swiatek noted that Council's 6801 youth outreach service will be patrolling the area to support community members.

A Cope reported that trail bike riders have been an issue in the Melton Botanic Gardens. A Cope asked whether the Melton Police Service area currently have the trail bikes. J Webb advised that currently the local police do not have members that ride trail bikes and intend to source some additional police members to provide this service to our community. Currently the police provide two operations per year to address this issue in the City of Melton.

Cr Ramsey noted that this would be her final meeting as Mayor and acknowledged the contribution of the committee members and thanked them for their support.

7.1 Member reports

7.1.2 Djerriwarrh Health Services

L Constantino promoted the Dream Big Festival that is being held this weekend, 14 and 15 September. L Constantino expressed that the festival aims to promote cohesion among community and address perceptions of community safety.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 13 December 2017 commencing at 1pm in Meeting Room 1, Caroline Springs Library.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 2pm.