



MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 14 March 2018 at 1.30pm in Community Care Building, 7 McKenzie Street, Mtg Rm 2

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton
Cr Ken Hardy, Deputy Mayor, City of Melton
Liz Smith, Team Leader, Health Promotion & Planning, Melton City Council
Adrian Cope, Open Space Planning Coordinator, Melton City Council
Peter Doyle, Emergency Management Coordinator, Melton City Council
Sophie Thompson, Acting Coordinator Social Planning & Wellbeing, Melton City Council
Jan Webb, Road and Community Safety Officer, Melton City Council
Elif Mahmut, Casual Youth Worker, Melton City Council
Peter Freeman, Team Leader City Amenity and Compliance, Melton City Council
Kathy Rudkins, Inspector, Victoria Police
Monica Forson, Victoria Police
Nathan Parker, Victoria Police
Philip Nash, Victoria Police
Benjamin Taylor, Coordinator Health Promotion, Djerriwarrh Health Services
Robert Blackley, Catholic Regional College
Bridget Box, Department of Justice

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton

1. Welcome

Cr Turner welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Milka Griffiths, Caroline Springs Square
Michael Nunn, Lend Lease
Marlene Dixon, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of notes from previous meeting

Notes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 December 2017, were not endorsed by Council due to no quorum present at the previous meeting.

December meeting notes were however noted.

5. Business Arising

5.1 M Rowe emailed Household Satisfaction Survey presentation to Committee.

NOTES

- 5.2 Peter D indicated Community Fire Guard groups have not eventuated therefore no opportunity to combine with Neighbourhood Watch.
- 5.3 S Thompson confirmed Liz Smith was notified to be the key Council contact during the Christmas and January period.
- 5.4 P Doyle confirmed he forwarded information to Police regarding children in hot cars.

6. General Business**6.1 Community Safety Network Project – Department of Justice**

As outlined in previous minutes, Melton was selected as one of a number of Councils within Victoria which was allocated funds for Community Safety Projects. Each site was to gain \$50,000 in collaboration with the Department of Justice (DoJ) and Victoria Police (VicPol).

Two sessions were held, one in Melton and one in Caroline Springs, to understand community perceptions of safety, perceptions of VicPol and to provide a platform for engagement with one another.

A discussion was held in regards to what the projects will look like. DoJ indicated both them and VicPol utilised feedback from the forum to highlight areas of concern. They indicated the funding will last until October 2019 however the projects to be funded need to be decided by 1 July 2018.

A further discussion was held identifying the key themes and items that came out of the sessions. There were six in total and they included personal safety, home invasions etc. In all three key issues were identified, these included community, road safety and youth related matters. It was considered youth could fit within community.

K Rudkins indicated Council and DJ Health are doing a lot in regards to the three matters identified above. She recognised that more could be done to share this information with the community and identified the need for more media releases to share this work.

J Webb agreed that there is a lot more that could be reported back to the community. Noting there might be a lack of networking between agencies to share this information. Could also use social media more, ie for the hoon hotline.

J Webb indicated Council's Safer City event in April is an example of agencies such as Council, VicPol, Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch etc. working together and forming partnerships in the eye of the community.

The group then identified a number of possible projects that could be actioned as part of the funding. These included:

- K Rudkins - A project to target community and social cohesion, something that encourages people to respect one another's' differences. Particularly to tackle the existing tensions with younger people and parents. Need to look ways to encourage people to respect where other people have come from.
- L Smith – There is opportunity to have a project which includes young Sudanese from Melton, sharing life experiences. Intention to change mindset of people. Positive rather than negative aspects.

DOJ identified that they were particularly keen to understand different stories and journeys around that issue.

L Smith volunteered that there are a number of identified programs other Councils have done in regards to this issue, many are art based social marketing projects. They include using pictures of culturally diverse members of community and sharing art and stories through speaking.



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- Cr Hardy identified a need to consider all minority groups in whatever project.
- P Nash encouraged a project set in a school location, allowing students to share their stories in a one on one situation.
- Cr Hardy agreed, encouraged the opportunity to share stories and responses to negative social media before it comes.
- B Taylor identified Council's Harmony Day event doing the sharing of stories already. He explained that Djerriwarrh Health Services also did a project around food related sharing and learnings.
K Rudkins identified Djerriwarrh Health Services should be part of this project. DOJ keen to start a working group.
- DOJ keen to have a lead agency to be part of this. Noting there is a timeline but they need a group to run this. Need to look at the \$50,000 spent by end of year (direct project related) and a further \$25,000 (for promotion and advertising).
- R Blackley identified current tensions rising with a couple of year levels. The Catholic Regional College is currently brainstorming some ideas to tackle these issues.
- J Webb identified that a buddy program would work really well in a school setting. ie. setting up a big sister program. Senior girls mentoring younger girls, eg Year 7 or Year 8 girls.
- K Rudkins wondered if there is an opportunity for some of the girls that are 'at risk'. ie. Could use the Melton Women Making it Happen Group to mentor them.
- R Blackley said schools are looking into school alumni mentoring opportunities. Worth noting they have identified that boys aren't really interested in this space.
- Cr Turner indicated there are a number of strong community groups that could drive the DOJ project. In particular there are a number of interfaith and community based Melton networks. Council to link DOJ with relevant officers within Council.
- DOJ indicated the relevant project funding could fund either one project or a number of smaller projects.
- J Webb indicated VCAL students could be involved in project development and have ownership of delivering the funding.

Group agreed to go away and think about the best opportunities in preparation for future offline discussions regarding the project.

Action

MCC to provide Council's Intercultural Development Officers details to DOJ.

6.2 Light Up Lake Caroline Project

L Smith provided an update on the project. Highlighted that Council was successful in receiving \$250,000 for public safety infrastructure fund grants. Discussed key elements of Stage 1 and Stage 2 of project. L Smith explained that prior to advertising, Council offers need to understand current perceptions of safety.

Cr Turner asked why residential side of lake not part of Stage 1.

NOTES

L Smith indicated there was significant consultation required to do this portion and this may take longer hence the business area was chosen first.

Liz indicated instead of Safer City Day, proposing to do Safer City Night to officially launch the lights once installed.

MCC evaluating the baseline thoughts on safety commencing soon.

6.3 Safer City Day

J Webb identified that Safer City Day was to be held on 21 April. Council delivering this in partnership with CS Square. Council has had lots of interest from external partners including Rotary, SES, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Crimestoppers. Proposing lots of activities for kids. Intending to ask community if they are aware of Crimestoppers as a reporting mechanism for hoon activity.

Cr Turner asked if there can be fliers shared on the day which contained the phone number and information on how to report hoon behavior.

J Webb responded magnets will be available on the day, in addition to fliers.

6.4 Safer City Plan

L Smith shared that Council has commenced exploration of the merge of the Road Safety and Community Safety Plan. Council will be seeking Committee input in the second half of the year.

6.5 Community safety concerns

J Webb indicated that this area has been really quiet, which is a good thing.

6.6 Road to Zero

J Webb updated the group on a number of initiatives:

- Harmony Day to be held on 17 March 2018. Will be conducting Crimestoppers survey on the day.
- Community Road Safety Forum on 29 March 2018.
- Seniors Drivers Expo – to be held in April.
- Aboriginal Learner Driver Program – 5 out of 9 participants got their licences. A great achievement.
- Road Safety for Seniors Program Brookfield – 7 May 2018.

6.7 Member Reports

K Rudkins

Thanked P Nash for his time as Acting Inspector.

Highlighted that the Melton area getting four extra Police members which will be good to tackle local issues. Important to ensure the public is confident and safe.

The group had a brief discussion regarding safety in local shopping centres.

P Nash



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Encouraged any information from schools regarding safety matters to be shared with Police.

P Doyle

Fire danger rating really high on the weekend 17 March 2018 with strong winds expected. Believed it would be the last significant fire danger day for the summer..

B Taylor

Provided the following updates relating to DJ Health Food Storybook and other project areas.

- Strengthening multicultural communities project now ceased. Now looking into engaging cultural groups separately.
- Continuing projects regarding Gender Equity, Linking Rockbank and Linking Melton South
- Identified that Djerriwarrh Health Services have limited capacity to assist with additional work requirements.
- Walk with Her – 120-150 people, 336 laps completed. Good turnout but less than the 2017 walk.
- Women Making It Happen fliers will be emailed to everyone. People to let B Taylor know if they require printed copies.

R Blackley

- Local Principals forum was held two weeks ago but nothing significant to report.

Action

B Taylor to email Women Making It Happen posters to Council for distribution.

6.8 Next Meeting

Wednesday 6 June 2018
1.30pm to 3.30pm
Melton Civic Centre (Civic Room 2)

6.9 Close of Business

The meeting closed at 2.35pm.