

12.4 Roundtable Safety Forum Outcome

Location	Town-wide
Reporting officer	Mathew Owens
Responsible officer	Natalie Martin Goode
Voting requirement	Simple majority
Attachments	Nil

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the outcomes of the Roundtable Safety Forum.
2. Notes proposed expenditure of \$2,200 for a reprint of the Who to Call? flyer and distribution to households in the Town.
3. Endorses the increase of the Sensor Light rebate under the Security Incentive Scheme program from \$40 to \$80, effective from 1 January 2021.
4. Notes the re-implementation of the Suburb Safety Sessions project as a Social Recovery initiative to support local community-led suburb-based crime prevention and neighbourhood watch groups.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the outcomes of the Community Safety Forum held 23 September 2020.

In brief

- The Community Safety Roundtable was held on 23 September 2020.
- Three key themes were identified from feedback provided by community who attended the Forum.
- The Town is proposing to implement a variety of actions to address key themes raised.
- The Town continues to implement the Safer Neighbourhoods Plan 2017-2022 as a means of enhancing levels of community safety.

Background

1. Council endorsed resolution 329/2020 at the Ordinary Council Meeting 18 February 2020
(a) That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - (i) 1. Hold a public Community Safety Forum by 30 June 2020, for the purpose of allowing the community to discuss their concerns and ideas for improving community safety in the Town.
 - (ii) 2. Invite key stakeholders to the Community Safety Forum, including, but not limited to: i. WA Police Minister; ii. Kensington Police; iii. Victoria Park MLA Ben Wyatt; and iv. Neighbourhood Watch WA.
 - (iii) 3. Provide a report to Council in March outlining details of the proposed event, and any costs that may require a variation to the 2019/20 Annual Budget.
 - (iv) 4. Provide a report to Council within 60 days of the holding of the Forum.
2. Council endorsed resolution 345/2020 at the Ordinary Council Meeting 17 March 2020

- (a) The Council approve a budget variation for \$2,000 to deliver a community safety forum, prior to the end of the 2019/20 financial year, unless that proves to be contrary to federal or state government recommendations prohibiting the holding of an event, prior to 30 June 2020.
3. Council endorsed resolution 423/2020 at the Ordinary Council Meeting 16 June 2020
- (a) Due to COVID-19, extends the timeline to deliver a Community Safety Forum from 30 June 2020 to 31 December 2020, unless proved contrary to federal or state government recommendations prohibiting the holding of an event.
- (b) Requests that the Chief Executive Officer presents a further report back to Council on the outcomes of the Community Safety Forum within 60 days of it being held.
4. The Officer in Charge at Kensington Police Station was invited 11 August 2020 and confirmed attendance 11 August 2020.
5. The State Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator was invited 11 August 2020 and confirmed attendance 11 August 2020.
6. The Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, Minister for Police was invited 11 August 2020 and sent apologies on 17 August 2020.
7. The Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, Member for Victoria Park was invited 11 August 2020 and sent apologies on 25 August 2020.
8. A TryBooking event site was established to manage attendance due to ongoing COVID restrictions, with 23 registrations received.

Strategic alignment

Civic Leadership	
Strategic outcome	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL02 - A community that is authentically engaged and informed in a timely manner.	The recommended actions are clear and effective responses to the community feedback that was received at the community safety round table.
CL06 - Finances are managed appropriately, sustainably and transparently for the benefit of the community.	The recommendations are an effective use of the Town's resources to address community priorities and key themes raised at the community safety round table.
Economic	
Strategic outcome	Intended public value outcome or impact
EC02 - A clean, safe and accessible place to visit.	The ongoing efforts of the Town to address real and perceived safety of the Town have a positive impact on the brand of the Town as a place to visit.
Social	
Strategic outcome	Intended public value outcome or impact
S03 - An empowered community with a sense of pride, safety and belonging.	The most effective crime prevention and neighbourhood watch groups are community-led. The Town should support community to establish local crime prevention and neighbourhood watch groups.

Engagement

Internal engagement	
Stakeholder Relations	Feedback on awareness campaign and <i>Who to Call?</i> flyer redesign.
Operations	Feedback on current Town lighting projects.
Governance	Feedback on current Town committee structure.
External engagement	
Stakeholders	Community Members of the Town
Period of engagement	23 September 2020
Level of engagement	2. Consult
Methods of engagement	Community Safety Roundtable held at the Town's Administration building
Advertising	<p>9 September - TV sliders and posters at Administration Building, Library and leisure facilities;</p> <p>11 September – Website event listing, Facebook event listing</p> <p>16 September - Facebook post</p> <p>18 September – Reminder post within Facebook event to register</p> <p>17 September - Editorial in Southern Gazette p. 3, Ad in Southern Gazette p. 8</p> <p>19 September - Twitter post, LinkedIn post:</p> <p>21 September - Article in e-VIBE:</p> <p>22 September - Facebook video shared from Western Australia Police Facebook page with a link to the Community Safety Roundtable</p>
Submission summary	11 community members, 9 adults and 2 children
Key findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of reporting issues to WA Police 131 444 or 000, and Crimestoppers 1800 333 000 or https://www.crimestopperswa.com.au/make-report/ 2. Lighting and night time safety in the Town's residential areas 3. Reinstating the Community Safety Committee

Other engagement	
Stakeholder	Comments
Kensington Police	Snr Sgt Beros – Officer in Charge Kensington Police Station, and Sgt Camp – Team 2 Investigations Kensington Police, attended and provided an update on the Kensington Police Sub-District. This update included current crime trends and how the community can assist WA Police Force.

Neighbourhood Watch	WA State Co-ordinator attended and provided an update on the current Neighbourhood Watch principles and approach. Provided information on a variety of ongoing programs and Crimestoppers.
Member for Victoria Park	Apologies submitted 25 August 2020
Minister for Police	Apologies submitted 17 August 2020

Legal compliance

Not applicable.

Risk management consideration

Risk impact category	Risk event description	Consequence rating	Likelihood rating	Overall risk level score	Council's risk appetite	Risk treatment option and rationale for actions
Financial	N/A					
Environmental	N/A					
Health and safety	N/A					
Infrastructure/ ICT systems/ utilities	N/A					
Legislative compliance	N/A					
Reputation	Town takes no meaningful action on key themes	Moderate	Likely	High	Low	Treat - Implement the identified actions in response to key themes raised at Community Safety Roundtable based on priority, effectiveness and capacity
Service delivery	Town implements Community Safety Committee and does not consider additional resourcing, and or service output impacts on safer	Major	Likely	High	Medium	Treat - The Town maintains its current approach of supporting local suburb-based crime prevention and neighbourhood

neighbourhoods portfolio	watch groups. Prioritisation process implemented to address impacts on service delivery in the event of a Community Safety Committee being established.
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Financial implications

Current budget impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient budget exists within WO4355 – Community Education for the redesign, reprint, and distribution of the Who to Call? Flyer. Reprint and distribution costs are estimated at \$2,200. • Sufficient budget exists for an increase of \$40 to \$80 to the security sensor light rebate through WO4354- Security Incentive Scheme, however the increased rebate may lead to the Town expending available funds faster. • Sufficient budget exists for re-implementing the Suburb Safety Sessions through the COVID Recovery funding endorsed by Council. • Sufficient resources exist to help establish local crime prevention and neighbourhood watch groups. • Sufficient resources do not exist to maintain existing service delivery levels in the event the Community Safety Committee being re-established.
Future budget impact	The increased security sensor light rebate amount may result in the Town expending available Security Incentive Scheme funds faster than normally experienced

Analysis

5. The Community Safety Roundtable was held at the Town's Administration Building on 23 September 2020
6. In attendance:
 - (a) Mayor Vernon
 - (b) Deputy Mayor Ife
 - (c) Councillor Karimi
 - (d) Councillor Anderson
 - (e) Councillor Hendriks
 - (f) Snr Sgt Beros - Officer in Charge Kensington Police Station
 - (g) Sgt Camp - Team 2 Investigations Kensington Police
 - (h) Neighbourhood Watch State Coordinator
 - (i) Safer Neighbourhoods Officer – Town of Victoria Park
 - (j) 11 community members, 9 adults and 2 children

7. Mayor Vernon, WA Police Service, Neighbourhood Watch and the Town provided a brief update to the community attendee's before moving onto a Q&A session.
8. The roundtable event provided the opportunity for each attendee to voice their concerns and ask questions of the representatives from the Town, WA Police and Neighbourhood Watch.
9. Several matters and concerns were operational. These matters were responded to at the roundtable and then actioned / followed up by Town officers the following day.
10. Three key themes were consistent from the roundtable feedback:
 - (a) Awareness of reporting issues to WA Police Force 131 444 or 000, and Crimestoppers 1800 333 000 or <https://www.crimestopperswa.com.au/make-report>
 - (b) Lighting and night time safety in the Town's residential areas
 - (c) Consideration of reinstating the Community Safety Committee

Safer Neighbourhoods Plan 2017-2022

11. Council endorsed the Safer Neighbourhoods Plan 2017 – 2022 (the Plan) at the Ordinary Council Meeting 13 June 2017.
12. Key priority areas within the Plan include:
 - (a) Crime prevention through environmental design, with a focus on improving lighting infrastructure and sightlines throughout the Town
 - (b) Increasing security for residents, businesses and community while expanding the regulatory powers of the Town to address crime and antisocial behaviour
 - (c) Support and encourage inclusive and socially connected streets and neighbourhoods
 - (d) Concentrate on priority offences
 - (e) Target specific locations of interest.
13. By working with local community and partner agencies the Town has implemented a variety of strategies to address real and perceived crime problems.
14. This proactive approach has resulted in a variety of well subscribed community-based programs to assist residents to improve their own home and street safety and security.
15. Official Neighbourhood Watch groups and unofficial crime prevention community groups have established themselves through support of the Town. These groups are providing valuable feedback to the community, Town, WA Police and other crime prevention agencies. Maintaining the approach established in the Plan will lead to continued success in making the Town a safer place.
16. The Plan commits the Town to a partnership approach to address the crime priority areas of the community. Town Officers regularly meet and communicate with WA Police, neighbouring Local Government Officers, neighbourhood watch and crime prevention groups, community service providers, and RooForce to ensure the strategic direction of the Town's services are in alignment with the priorities of these agencies. RooForce in particular shares valuable weekly information regarding their service delivery to the Town, WA Police, and other stakeholders. The partnership approach is crucial to link the strategic direction of all agencies and the operational delivery of services to the community.

Awareness of reporting

17. The Town proposes to address this key theme through a redesign and reprint of the Who to Call? flyer, and distribution to all households in the Town. The Who to Call? flyer was developed in 2015 and lists agencies that have an impact on crime, safety and general neighbourhood maintenance.
18. The Town has an ongoing program for marketing community safety and crime prevention services it delivers. Marketing will continue to promote content that encourages and educates residents and community to report issues to the appropriate agency.

Lighting and safety at night

19. The Town is investing in residential street lighting through the State Underground Power Project (SUPP), Network Renewal Underground Power Project (NRUPP) and various other street and laneway lighting projects. Street lighting is primarily designed to illuminate the road only, and less so the verge, footpath and front of properties. Street lighting does reach the verge and footpath but this is not its primary purpose.
20. The sensor light rebate in the Security Incentive Scheme is an effective method to support community to increase residential lighting for the front of properties, verges and footpaths. As such, the funding amount contributed via this program is proposed to be increased from \$40 per light to \$80 per light. The annual maximum amount per property will remain at \$200 per financial year, or \$250 for valid concession card holders. The current security incentive scheme budget for 2020/21 is \$20,000.
21. Encouraging residents and property owners to install sensor lighting will contribute to an overall increase in night time lighting. Residents and community members are encouraged to install lighting on their property to make their neighbourhood a safer place. The Town is well positioned to support the community achieve this objective through the Security Incentive Scheme.

Re-instating a generic Town-wide community safety committee

22. The Town is having success with a local suburb place-based approach through the Neighbourhood Watch and various crime prevention groups that operate within the Town, as well as the Street Meet and Greet program.
23. Groups / residents are implementing community-led events, share crime prevention information unprompted, and assisting victims of crime to recover after an offence.
24. These groups will be directly engaged in the reimplementation of the Suburb Safety Sessions project. The Suburb Safety Sessions project has been approved for re-implementation as a Social Recovery action under the COVID Response Working Group.
25. Re-instating a generic Town-wide community safety committee is not supported by Officers at this time due to several factors including:
 - (a) a focus on maximising capacity and impact of local suburb place-based approaches to deliver grassroots action, and then sharing the information and feedback at strategic levels with the Town's community safety partner agencies such as WA Police
 - (b) the Town is receiving excellent feedback and intelligence about opportunities to improve community safety through its current forums and networks, including the Roo Force outreach service
 - (c) the resources required to sustain this committee would reduce the capacity of Town officers to implement actions within the Safer Neighbourhoods Plan
 - (d) community members who attended the roundtable would be encouraged to participate in the existing groups, and directly invited to the upcoming Suburb Safety Sessions for their particular suburb. The tentative dates for upcoming sessions are January for Bentley and East Victoria Park, February for Carlisle and Victoria Park, and March for Lathlain and Burswood. The St James session held in March 2020 was attended by over 50 local residents, and representatives from Cannington Police Station and the City of Canning. The St James/ Bentley/ Wilson Crime Prevention Group provided positive feedback regarding the workshop, and begun sharing more proactive crime prevention information and initiatives unprompted.

Relevant documents

Not applicable.