



northern  
beaches  
council

# **MINUTES**

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

held in Manly Town Hall on

**THURSDAY 17 AUGUST 2023**

**Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee  
held on Thursday 17 August 2023  
in Manly Town Hall  
Commencing at 9:00am**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Sue Heins	Curl Curl Ward – Mayor - Chair
Cr Candy Bingham	Manly Ward
Cr Ruth Robins	Narrabeen Ward
Cr Jose Menano-Pires	Frenchs Forest Ward
Ch Insp David Richards	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Aileen Ogilvie	Northern Beaches Community Drug Action Team
Narelle Hand	Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Interagency
Sam King	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency
Michele Bell	Northern Sydney Community Network
Will McGlynn	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Wendy Finianos	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Libby Paulsen	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Lucy Brand	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Mary Brearton	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Sue Johansson	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
Kim Preston-Hiney	Representing James Griffin MP State Member for Manly

**Council Officer Contacts**

Scott Phillips	CEO
David Kerr	Director Community & Belonging
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Will Wrathall	Manager Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer Community Development

**Visitors**

Cameron Wall	Acting Team Leader Community Development
Rhiannon Marshall-Witte	Youth Development Assistant
Sam Kosack	Northern Beaches Youth Advisory Group
Felicity Murray	Northern Beaches Youth Advisory Group

## 1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting gathered, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

## 2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Dr Sophie Scamps MP	Federal Member for Mackellar
Matt Cross MP	State Member for Davidson
Rory Amon MP	State Member for Pittwater
Michael Regan MP	State Member for Wakehurst
Cr Michael Gencher	Pittwater Ward
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Kevin Kingsbeer	Northern Sydney Housing and Homelessness Interagency
Melissa Palermo	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Craig Parsons	Northern Sydney Primary Health Network

The following members were not in attendance:

Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Antoin Cullen	Northern Beaches Mental Health Interagency

## 3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

## 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 MAY 2023

The minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held 18 May 2023 were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

## 5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

### 5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

Progress against the actions of the 18 May 2023 meeting, as included in the Agenda, were noted by the Committee.

## 6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 HAVE YOUR SAY DAY 2023

This item relates to:

- [Community Safety Plan](#) action: Develop a Youth Discussion Paper to identify youth specific needs and challenges and to inform the delivery of youth programs. (Priority Area 9: Safe Communities).
- Council's [Youth Voice Action Plan 2028](#), endorsed by Council on 18 April 2023, outlines five years of actions for youth development to support and empower young people to participate in community life in ways that matter to them. Have Your Say Day aligns with Direction 4 (For youth, by youth) of the Plan.

Representatives from Council's Community Development Team and Youth Advisory Group (YAG) delivered a presentation to the Committee on the outcomes of the Have Your Say Day 2023. YAG is a group of young people aged 12 to 24, with representatives from each Council Ward, who meet monthly to ensure young people have a voice in local government planning and processes

Have Your Say Day is a youth led forum facilitated by YAG and the Beaches Leadership Team – a network of school leaders from a number of secondary schools and colleges.

[Have Your Say Day 2023](#), held on 4 May at Glen St Theatre, built on the success of the inaugural 2022 forum. This year's event was enhanced with the support of Youth Action NSW, who provided student leaders with training in a strengths and solutions based approach to social, economic and environmental issues and supported the development of a student survey and speeches. A standardised survey was developed to increase the breadth and quality of youth voices for the forum and to establish evidence based data from young people across the local government area (LGA). 307 students from 14 secondary schools completed the survey in June 2023. The survey identified mental health as a significant area of concern for 85.3% of respondents, and social media as the key mode of information access.

Leadership groups were then invited to deliver presentations on key concerns affecting young people to local Councillors, State and Federal government members, and to propose solutions to these issues. Community safety related topics identified by the survey and raised at the 2023 forum include:

- Mental health and stress
- Relationship between school stress and vaping
- Respectful relationships education, including consent and sex education
- Housing affordability and cost of living
- Disconnection and impact of the pandemic.

Participants called for better education around mental health, consent, and respectful relationships; more counsellors to be available in schools; and ensuring classroom discussions are degendered and inclusive of non-traditional family structures.

## DISCUSSION

Mayor Heins congratulated the YAG representatives on the success of Have Your Say Day 2023.

It was noted that all schools across the Northern Beaches were invited to engage students with the survey however its promotion was up to each school. The opportunity to add youth to Council's consultation matrix was raised. The Committee were advised that Council's community engagement process is currently being evaluated to include the Youth Voice action to 'Facilitate and include young people in strategic and place planning of engagement with youth'.

The broader context of the feedback on mental health was discussed. It was acknowledged that the range of concerns voiced by young people all impact mental health. The survey results revealed young people are experiencing difficulty accessing mental health support services and want more education around what services are available.

The Committee was provided with an update from the Youth Interagency Meeting held on 16 August 2023. The Interagency Chair shared the top three concerns raised in their learning day, which were school refusal, vaping and the value of working with Police.

The Committee discussed that young people involved in Have Your Say Day are typically a different cohort and other more vulnerable young people are less likely to get involved or able to share their concerns. It was acknowledged that issues queried by Committee members such as gambling type behaviour, adolescent violence in the home and youth carers, were not raised in the survey.

The Federal Member for Warringah complimented the YAG on Have Your Say Day and noted that, in light of action being taken by the government in regards to e-cigarettes, she would welcome the opportunity to engage with schools and leadership groups regarding what additional services will assist young people to cope with decreased access to nicotine.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1.1	That the Police Area Command representative and Youth Interagency Chair have offline conversations regarding youth issues and how to support young people and families to navigate and access services.	Police Sam King	ASAP
6.1.2	That Northern Sydney Community Network (Seniors) and Northern Beaches Youth Interagency discuss youth carers and adolescent violence in the home, and to consider relevant actions.	Michele Bell Sam King	ASAP

## 6.2 POLICE REPORT – CHIEF INSPECTOR DAVID RICHARDS

Chief Inspector David Richards provided an update on Northern Beaches Police Area Command matters and requested the Committee hold in confidence policing matters discussed during the meeting.

Northern Beaches Police Area Command are welcoming five new recruits next week.

Crime categories reporting for the last financial year were shared and noted by the Committee. New crime reporting began 1 July 2023.

Patrols have increased in the area around Mona Vale Village Park due to increased crime activity in the area.

The emerging issue of e-bikes, e-scooters and riders without helmets was discussed. Focusing on the Manly CBD, Police have conducted an education and warning process however a significant shift towards fines is occurring.

Traffic enforcement has been undertaken in the northern end of the Northern Beaches.

Northern Beaches Liquor Accord have moved to quarterly meetings. Police continue to work with licensees.

Emergency management training and preparation for an El Nino summer and the bush fire season, has been undertaken in conjunction with the Council's Local Emergency Management Officer and key agencies.

Committee members were asked to share with their networks the following key community messaging:

- Lock cars and houses and secure keys to prevent opportunistic theft.
- Report crime to Police at the time of the incident.
- Triple Zero (000) should only be used for emergencies such as life threatening emergencies, serious accidents or crime. Non-urgent crime can be reported via the Police Assistance Line (131 444) or online via the [community portal](#).

## DISCUSSION

E-bikes and e-scooters were discussed by the Committee:

- The Federal Member for Warringah shared that in France a licence is required to operate these devices and riders must be aged 14 or over.
- The value of a community driven education campaign was discussed and information and education packages for schools were suggested.

Recorded crime statistics can be found at <https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/>

### 6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Executive Manager Environmental Compliance provided an overview and presentation on compliance and regulatory statistics in relation to:

- Companion Animal Management
  - Statistics on reported dog attacks and breeds involved
  - Number of matters current being investigated and those finalised
  - Responsible Pet Ownership education events were held as well ad-hoc ‘pop-up’ sessions at dog parks
  - Dog patrols have resulted in increased compliance.
- Enforcement of alcohol restricted areas
  - Significant decrease in interactions compared to same period last year, as patrons are returning to licensed premises post lockdowns.
- Officer Safety – Body worn cameras
  - Providing a good visual deterrent to negative behaviour
  - Rangers and parking officers report positive experience.
- Proactive enforcement of parking compliance and overnight campervans.
- Environmental Health – Get the Site Right program was carried out on 18 May 2023 in partnership with NSW Environmental Protection Authority. 41 sites were inspected with 10 warnings issued for non-compliance.

### DISCUSSION

Instances of assistance animals being refused entry to public transport and/or food premises were discussed. It was suggested that Council’s Environmental Health staff consider include information on assistance animals when undertaking their food premises inspections.

The area at the rear of Brookvale Park has been labelled on Google Maps as a dog park. It was confirmed that this area is not a designated off-leash dog park and will be monitored by Rangers.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.3.1	That the Executive Manager Environmental Compliance provide the Committee with information on the definition of ‘assistance animal’, where they are permitted, and the licencing evidence owners are required to provide.	Azmeena Kelly	ASAP
6.3.2	That Environmental Compliance consider providing information on assistance animals during food premises inspections.	Azmeena Kelly	ASAP

### 6.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

An update on the Community Safety Plan actions was provided, including:

- From June 2023 Council is meeting regularly with Police and local bus service providers to identify and address antisocial behaviour on public transport and at transport hubs across the LGA.

- Council has commenced engagement with the Chairs of the Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network and the Northern Beaches Multicultural Network with a view to establish a Working Group to consider family and domestic violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- The LGBTQIA+ Working Group was established in June 2023 with members from the community and Council. The Group will identify strategies that promote a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for the Northern Beaches LGBTQIA+ community.
- The Youth Voice Action Plan 2028 – Shaping the Beaches’ Future was adopted by Council on 18 April 2023. The Plan outlines actions for 2023-2028.
- In June 2023 Council completed a three-year project, funded by the NSW Ministry of Health, to provide targeted suicide prevention community gatekeeper training to community members. This training, facilitated by Lifeline Northern Beaches and Living Works Australia, reached over 1,000 people over 63 training sessions.
- The Local Drug and Alcohol Team has completed a project to conduct workshops for parents of young people, mental health first aiders & suicide prevention trainers, and local service providers. Participants developed skills to positively engage with young adults (16-30 years) to identify and address the impacts of problematic alcohol and drug (AOD) use with a view to reducing the risk of alcohol and drug related suicide.

An update on the Suicide Prevention Working Group was provided, with the following actions undertaken over the last quarter:

- The Working Group met on 3 May 2023 and discussed means restriction initiatives at key locations, with an update from NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service regarding the new North Head lookouts and Fairfax walking track that reopened in April 2023.
- Male focused subgroup met on 12 July 2023 and are developing a resource on local men’s groups and services for promotion and distribution at the Northern Beaches Men’s Breakfast on 11 October 2023.
- Northern Sydney Suicide Prevention Working Group met on 19 July 2023. The Group is investigating other collaborative models to provide a stronger and more inclusive governance framework.
- Northern Sydney Local Health District is establishing a process to share suicide monitoring data (SuMS Data) with partner organisations with an identified need for access.

## DISCUSSION

The Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network service providers continue to report an increase in domestic violence where young people are the perpetrators.

Committee members reinforced the need for suicide prevention actions to continue regardless of the cessation of specific funding from the Ministry of Health.

First Nations protocol across the Northern Beaches was discussed. The Committee was advised that Council representatives continue to engage with local community members.

Committee members were encouraged to share with their networks the following:

- The [The Mind Cafe](#) at Narrabeen has launched a LGBTQIA+ safe meeting space which has been really successful.
- [Wear it Purple Day](#) is 25 August 2023. This initiative aims to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environments for young LGBTQIA+ people and is being supported by the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency.
- [You'll Be Right Mate! - Men's Breakfast](#) being held on 11 October 2023.
- The Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network event: A special screening of the SBS drama ‘Safe Home’ (Episode 1) is being held at the Glen St Theatre on 14 September

2023. Tickets are available at <https://glenstreet.com.au/whats-on/safe-home-special-screening-episode-1>

The Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network is also planning a Women’s Legal Service NSW seminar on consent laws for local service providers.

It was noted that a positive working relationship has been established with the local bus operator Keolis Downer, Council and Police to continue to address community safety issues on public transport across the LGA.

## 7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Illegal vaping supply at tobacconists and vaping reforms were discussed. It was noted that Northern Sydney Local Health District intend to submit an objection to a development proposal for an additional tobacconist in Manly.

Mowana is now offering a LGBTQIA+ Safe Space on Monday evenings.

The recent NSW Government funding for the Northern Beaches Women’s Shelter continuity of care model will facilitate new premises in the Pittwater area, which is expected to be operational by February 2024.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

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6.1.2	That Northern Sydney Community Network (Seniors) and Northern Beaches Youth Interagency discuss youth carers and adolescent violence in the home, and to consider relevant actions.	Michele Bell Sam King	ASAP
6.3.1	That the Executive Manager Environmental Compliance provide the Committee with information on the definition of ‘assistance animal’, where they are permitted, and the licencing evidence owners are required to provide.	Azmeena Kelly	ASAP
6.3.2	That Environmental Compliance consider providing information on assistance animals during food premises inspections.	Azmeena Kelly	ASAP

*The meeting concluded at 10:48am*

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday 17 August 2023 and confirmed on Thursday 16 November 2023