

## Maroondah Community Safety Committee (MCSC)

*These minutes will be formally accepted at the MCSC meeting on 29 October 2018*

### Minutes of Meeting

Monday 23 July 2018

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Meeting Room 4, Realm

**Chair** Cr Rob Steane

**Minutes** Jo-Ann Rogers

### Attendees

Cr Rob Steane (Chair)	MCC	Robyn Williams	MCC
Shaun Dias	Metro	Grant Meyer	MCC
Rhiannon Mahony	MCC/Realm	Bronte Allen	EACH
Paula Hives	Eastland/QIC	Phil Medley	MCC
Inspector Gerard de Vries	Victoria Police	LSC Peter Williams	Victoria Police
Adam Cooper	MCC	LSC Sergeant Stuart Sorrell	Victoria Police
Cr Paul Macdonald	MCC		

### Guests

Gitta Clayton	Community Engagement Coordinator Maroondah Winter Shelter Project Coordinator
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### Apologies

Cr Nora Lamont	MCC		
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### Meeting Opened

10:00 am

Cr Steane opened the meeting and welcomed all.

### Introductions

Members introduced themselves and the organisation they are representing.

### Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was advised.

### Previous minutes were accepted as correct by those present

**Moved** Adam Cooper

**Seconded** Gerard de Vries

## **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nil

### **Eastland update - Paula Hives**

- The JoJo event on 2 July was a huge success. An estimated 15-16,000 people attended. A few learnings for the next large-scale event eg Schindlers Lifts to be onsite in case of issues with the vertical lifts, VicRoads to be notified regarding traffic management. The traders were happy, carparks were full and there were no injuries reported.
- The Town Square canopies for heating and shade will be finished in August.

### **Presentation – Gitta Clayton**

#### **Community Engagement Coordinator / Maroondah Winter Shelter Project Coordinator –**

- Seven Maroondah churches have participated in the first Maroondah Winter Shelter Project, providing overnight accommodation on a rotating basis and hot meals for to up to 10 homeless men each night.
- At this stage, only men over 24 years that have been screened and referred through Wesley Mission have been accepted.
- More than 180 volunteers have been trained. This training has included a session with Victoria Police on safety and the use of 000 procedures.
- A small grant from RACV was used to purchase a covered trailer while linen and toiletries have been donated.
- Each church pays for their own groceries to supply the evening meal/breakfast.
- Next year the program may include men from 18 years and/or women and children.
- It would be helpful for homeless people to have somewhere to go during daytime hours and places to do their washing, shower and have access to the internet.
- There have been positive outcomes for both men and volunteers.
- Cr Rob Steane advised that the Group could apply for a Community Grant from Maroondah Council in future.
- Maroondah Local Laws Officers follow Council's Sleeping Rough Protocol which provides for a welfare check in the first instance, along with provision of resources on where to go for assistance.
- Martyn (Local Laws) reported that some people previously sleeping rough have been using derelict buildings/squats for accommodation.

Contact <https://wintershelter.org.au> for further details.

### **Police Update – Inspector Gerard de Vries**

- Croydon CCTV Project is now complete and new hardware/software has been installed at Croydon Police Station. Members of Maroondah Community Safety Committee are welcome to view the cameras in action. There are 21 cameras (14 have been replaced and 7 new cameras) with improved technology that provide enhanced viewing and ease of tracking.
- Data released from the Crime Statistics Agency shows that Maroondah crime has decreased and the crime clearance rate is higher.
- Town Square/Ringwood Station – issues relating to groups of young people around the station, Town Square, Staley Gardens Skate Park and squatting along the Ringwood Bypass has resulted in Police undertaking specific operations targeting alcohol, sleeping rough, squatting and minor offences.

- An audit is to be conducted around Croydon Railway Station following a pedestrian being fatally hit by a bus recently. Cr Macdonald reported that he has witnessed drivers being careless and rushing when dropping off commuters at the station.

### **South East Councils Alcohol Density Project update – Grant Meyer**

- Maroondah, along with seven other south-east Melbourne Councils, is currently working towards an amendment to their respective planning schemes that will strengthen Council's decision-making capabilities when assessing planning applications for new packaged liquor outlets.
- This collaboration involves Casey, Cardinia, Greater Dandenong, Knox, Kingston, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula and Maroondah Councils. The group planning scheme amendment will build on previous research linking alcohol-related harm to packaged liquor outlets. The overall goal is to assist Councils to reduce alcohol-related violence in their community.
- The proposal was lodged with the Minister for Planning to seek authorisation to prepare a GC (group) Amendment to the Planning Schemes of all participating councils. At this stage the authorisation has been acknowledged by the Minister's office but we have not received permission to proceed.

### **Emergency Preparedness – City of Perth Engagement Materials – Grant Meyer**

Grant discussed the new integrated emergency procedures the City of Perth has put in place for residents, businesses and visitors to prepare for and respond to emergencies. A package of education resources has been developed which will be forwarded to committee members. The City of Perth has more than 2,000 events each year.

**Action:** Robyn will forward City of Perth information to Committee members.

### **Agency/Member Information Share**

#### **Cr Rob Steane, Maroondah City Council**

- Cr Steane reported on recent changes to the Liquor Control Reform Act. Some of these changes include allowing patrons to leave a restaurant with a bottle of wine and minors now cannot consume alcohol while dining with parents in a licensed venue.

#### **Shaun Dias – Metro Trains**

- The safety barriers in front of the Ringwood Station are to be made permanent.
- A new coffee shop has opened in the heritage signal box in front of the station.
- No smoking zones in front of the station is being ignored. Shaun queried who can monitor this behaviour? State/Federal legislation or Local Laws?

**Action:** Inspector de Vries will follow up on the relevant legislation and advise Shaun.

#### **Bronte Allen, EACH**

Headspace has received \$200,000 funding to implement an additional 53 one-on-one mental health assessment sessions in schools over the next 6 months.

EACH Youth and Family has several new programs operating, including:

- Journeyman (up to 16 years)
- Grandparenting Support Group
- Youth Clinic (12-25 years)
- Hungry for Success youth catering social enterprise – is now taking new applicants in their training program.

### **Phil Medley, Maroondah City Council**

Council currently has 2 draft policies on public exhibition. Feedback closes on 27 July 2018.

- Gambling Policy
- Affordable and Social Housing Policy

### **Rhiannon Mahony – MCC/Realm**

- The Croydon CCTV Project is now complete and working well. Positive feedback has been received from Traders and Police.
- Discussions are underway with Costco to locate a CCTV camera on their building which will provide coverage to Staley Gardens Skate Park.
- A consultation is underway about whether Croydon Town Square should be smoke free.

### **Robyn Williams, Maroondah City Council**

- Community Safety Update is attached.

### **Adam Cooper, Maroondah City Council**

- Police, Ambulance, Eastern Public Health Network and mental health professionals have been collaborating on a protocol to reduce/prevent copycat suicide clusters and how to support people when a suicide occurs.
- Council's Youth Services and partners are working on a project across 27 schools in Maroondah implementing Geelong Grammar's Positive Education framework focussing on young people's strengths. Significant funding of \$6.5m has been received from the State Government which will involve a Positive Education Centre at Heathmont College and training for teachers.

### **Next meeting**

Monday 29 October 2018, 10am to 12 noon at Realm

**Meeting closed 12 noon**

Maroondah Community Safety Committee  
**Community Safety Update**  
23 July 2018

The Australian Safe Communities Foundation defines a safe community as 'one in which all sectors of the community work together in a coordinated and collaborative way, forming partnerships to promote safety, manage risk, increase the overall safety of all its members and reduce the fear of harm.

Along with partnerships such as the Maroondah Community Safety Committee, Council's community safety activities are largely driven from two strategic documents:

- Maroondah Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021
- Maroondah 2040: Our Vision Together
- Council Plan 2017-2021

Key directions within these documents that relate to community safety include:

1. Seek to enhance awareness and understanding of **preventing violence against women** ... through primary prevention initiatives.
2. Work in partnership to **address community safety issues**, with a focus on activity centres, public spaces, roads and public transport.
3. Promote and facilitate **safer cultures** relating to issues of **alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling, child abuse and family violence**.
4. Encourage and support the implementation of initiatives and programs aimed at **improving the actual and perceived safety** of the community

*1. Seek to enhance awareness and understanding of the prevention of violence against women*

Maroondah has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of definite alcohol-related family violence incidents in the EMR (behind Knox). This rate has been consistent over the past 5 years. The following initiatives are currently being undertaken Council and/or with others:

**Maroondah Gender Equity Policy**

- Council has recently endorsed a Gender Equity Policy which will support current and future work and the important link between gender equality and preventing violence against women. Consultations and a staff survey helped to inform the development of the Policy, which was recently approved by Management. The new policy contains commitments around building leadership and internal capacity; creating organisational cultural change around inclusion; applying a gender lens to Council activities, documents and social media and ensuring equitable employment/PD opportunities along with flexible work options.

### **Free From Violence Local Government Grants**

- Council has submitted an application to the Municipal Association of Victoria Free From Violence funding program which aims to build capacity and capability across Council and embed primary prevention principles as well as scale-up or develop innovative prevention programs. This funding should be announced shortly. For Maroondah this would mean employing a dedicated officer to work across Council to achieve some of the goals and gaps identified in our Gender Equity Policy consultations. The funding is part of the \$15.5 million in the 2017-2018 Victorian Budget for delivery of family violence prevention initiatives.

### **Gender equality messages – early years**

- Council is working with Eastern Regional Libraries, Women’s Health East and EACH to develop a booklist that promotes gender equality and respectful relationships. Books provide an opportunity to challenge and discuss gender stereotypes to ensure that children are not limited by traditional ideas about what girls/boys/women/men can do. Rigid gender stereotyping promotes inequality between the sexes and can set children up to expect and accept power imbalances within relationships later in life. Presenting children with positive and diverse representations of gender teaches them that anything is possible and to see others as equals. An event launching this booklist will be held on Thursday 25 October during Children’s Week.

### **Keeping children safe online – Council seminars**

Council continues present information and work with community members regarding online and child safety:

- On 26 June Council presented a session for parents, carers and educators on Body Safety, presented by Deanne Carson - author, researcher and educator specialising in sexual abuse prevention education, respectful relationships, sexuality education and gender equity. 120 people attended the event. As co-founder of Body Safety Australia, Deanne has been instrumental in developing a comprehensive approach to abuse prevention that engages adults, empowers children and strengthens communities.
- On 24 May Steven Dupon, Director of the Institute of Games and National Youth Empowerment Coordinator at YMCA Australia, presented a session on the impact of video games on children and young people covering parenting strategies for parents/carers, minimising online risks, identifying positive vs inappropriate content and where to seek help.
- On 27 June Council supported Women’s Health East to present “Tech Savvy Women” at Maroondah Federation Estate – a workshop to introduce women to safe practices online and the world of coding – which was attended by 100 women. This event accompanied the launch of their new resource [Women Online: the intersection of technology, gender and sexism.](#)
- On 2 July Council hosted *We Are Superheroes – the equality and friendship show* for preschoolers. Through songs, stories and superhero activities the show promoted messages that boys and girls are equally strong, unique and capable in their own way. The show sold out, with 115 children and their parents attending.

2. *Work in partnership to address community safety issues, with a focus on activity centres, public spaces, roads and public transport.*

#### **Croydon CCTV Project**

- The Croydon CCTV Project is now complete and was officially launched on Monday 9 April by Michael Sukkar MP. Council received \$435,000 through the Federal Attorney General's Office - Safer Streets Programme to upgrade the current Wi-Fi system, install new front-end equipment at Croydon Police Station and add 7 new cameras, making 21 cameras in total, operating throughout the Croydon Main Street retail precinct and surrounding public open space.

3. *Promote and facilitate safer cultures relating to issues of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and gambling.*

#### **South East Melbourne Councils Packaged Liquor Proposed Planning Amendment**

- Phase 2 of the SE Melbourne Councils Alcohol Density Project is progressing well. Grant Meyer will provide an update today. This group of 9 Councils has written to the Planning Minister seeking authorisation to proceed with an Amendment to the Planning Scheme that would enable local governments to take into consideration social and health impact issues in relation to applications for liquor licenses. The Act limits presently Councils, to commenting purely on amenity grounds eg parking, litter, noise, etc.

#### **Maroondah Liquor Accord**

- The Maroondah Liquor Accord is a joint initiative between licensees, Victoria Police, Council and the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation. Last year an Executive group was formed, which has added a renewed sense of vibrancy and purpose to the Accord, making it much more member-driven. The most recent meeting in March was a roundtable discussion with like-for-like licensees having the opportunity to network, share issues/concerns and report back to the general membership on key issues. At the present time there are 50 member venues, including late night licences, hotels, packaged liquor outlets, sporting clubs, cinemas, etc.

#### **Gambling Policy**

- A draft Maroondah Gambling Policy has been prepared and was presented to the Council Meeting on 25 June 2018 where authorisation was provided to exhibit the draft policy during July. Following any amendments, it is anticipated that the Policy will be presented for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 August 2018. Work has also commenced on preparing documentation for a future planning scheme amendment to implement the Policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme, following Council's adoption of the Maroondah Gambling Policy.

*4. Encourage and support the implementation of initiatives and programs aimed at improving the actual and perceived safety of the community*

**CCTV Policy**

- Council is currently developing a CCTV Policy which will guide the regulation, operation and management of Council-owned Fixed Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Systems in Public Open Space and Council Facilities. It will also provide some strategic direction for Council decision-making in relation to requests from external agencies for new or expanded systems. The Policy is now complete and will progress through Council for endorsement.