

Maroondah Community Safety Committee (MCSC)

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

Minutes of Meeting

Monday 29 October 2018

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Meeting Room 4, Realm

Chair Cr Rob Steane
Minutes Robyn Williams

Attendees

Cr Rob Steane (Chair)	MCC	Robyn Williams	MCC
Inspector Gerard de Vries	Victoria Police	Grant Meyer	MCC
Cr Paul Macdonald	MCC	Bronte Allen	EACH
Paula Hives	Eastland/QIC	Tim Malloch	Eastland/QIC
Mark Bracher	Victoria Police	Kym Burchall	MCC/Realm
Mel Jeffery	MCC		

Guest Speaker

Bonnie Rosen	Principal, Symplan Consulting
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Apologies

Cr Nora Lamont	MCC	Rhiannon Mahony	MCC/Realm
Adam Cooper	MCC	Phil Medley	MCC
Shaun Dias	Metro		

Meeting Opened

10:00 am

Cr Steane opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Welcome to Country

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 Paula Hives
Seconded Cr Paul Macdonald

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

Presentation – Bonnie Rosen, Principal, Symplan Consulting

Full presentation distributed to attendees. Highlights were:

- In 2017/18 in the City of Maroondah, \$178,976 was spent on pokies per day.
- There are 10 venues with electronic gaming machines in Maroondah.
- There are 8.3 EGMs (electronic gaming machines) per 1,000 adults in Maroondah (Metro average is 5.1 and Victorian average is 5.1 per 1,000 people respectively).
- Total expenditure in the City of Maroondah in 2017/18 was \$65,326,363.45
- Australian residents continue to spend more money on gambling than do residents of any other country - the largest portion continuing to be derived from gaming machines.
- The highest gambling activities in Victoria in 2008 and 2014 was on Lotteries.
- Pokies are the most harmful form of gambling because of their addictive nature.
- Accessibility and density of machines, as well as the impact of social, economic and health factors such as age, race, socio-economic vulnerability and lack of alternative, affordable activities especially at night are among other harms.
- Both victims and perpetrators of family violence frequent gaming venues - victims use venues as a safe refuge and financial stress/gambling losses can be a related cause of family violence.
- Postcodes with higher density of EGM's tend to have a higher rate of family violence incidents.
- The benefits and harms were discussed
- Council's role in relation to gambling includes through prevention partnerships, advocacy on behalf of the community and in planning regulation and enforcement.
- Spending on pokies has an impact on community members other more pro-social and healthy discretionary spending eg gym membership, retail shopping.
- The cost of gambling-related harms far outweighs any economic benefits to the community.

Police Update – Inspector Gerard de Vries

- Data released from the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) shows that Maroondah crime has decreased overall in the past 3 months. However, there are some pockets where Theft of Motor Vehicles continues to occur.
- Road fatalities - zero fatalities last year, but 3 this year,
- Officers in the Family Violence Unit based at Croydon have been working with recidivist offenders as well as family violence victims. This work has shown promise in reducing the number of these types of offences. Maroondah is below state levels in recidivist family violence rates.
- CommSafe was held in Maroondah on 19 October. Community members are invited to attend this event where local Police report on the past year. Positive feedback was received from those who attended.
- Data recently released from CSA showed Ringwood Railway Station as the 4th worst station in the state. However, these figures were deemed incorrect and a review of the data shows that crime at Ringwood Station is down 50%. The most common crimes are graffiti and assault.
- A recent spate of robberies has occurred at the YSpace in Croydon and Croydon Train Station. These incidents have involved children as young as 12 years old - from locations such as Box Hill, Mooroolbark and Oakleigh, some of whom are known to authorities.
- Most issues at the railway stations are low level and occur between 1pm and 6pm.
- Inspector de Vries noted that the problem with the railway stations is more 'perception' than reality. A special operation at the stations will commence soon.

- There is a significant amount of community support for PSO's to be engaged from the first to the last train. The positioning of PSO's at the railway stations for longer hours would eliminate most of this behaviour as PSO's can identify and intervene before trouble occurs.
- Peak period for many railway stations is 4pm onwards at the end of the school day.
- Maroondah Police have been assisted through the Proactive Policing Unit with the Youth Resource Officers and Multicultural Liaison Officer.

Maroondah CCTV Policy

- Council prepared a Draft CCTV Policy which was distributed to Maroondah Community Safety Committee members and Croydon Partners in Safety for comment and feedback. There were no issues raised by Committee members in relation to the Draft CCTV Policy.

South East Councils Alcohol Density Project update – Grant Meyer

- 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 and now, given the imminent State election, it is unlikely we will hear further about this application until after the election and/or into the new year.

Agency/Member Information Share

Bronte Allen, EACH

- A recent re-structure at EACH has seen the creation of a new Maroondah division within EACH, managed by Toni Williams and Sue Thompson. This division is located in Town Square, Eastland.
- 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. There is now a HeadSpace worker allocated to every secondary college in the EMR for 1 day per week.
- EACH has workers available to do early intervention in the gambling space through talks in schools. Please contact if you are interested EACH 1300 003 224

Eastland update - Paula Hives/Tim Malloch

- Paula will be leaving QIC/Eastland to take up a position with Knox Westfield while they undergo redevelopment.
- Tim Malloch will now be the Operations Manager at Eastland and attend future meetings.
- Eastland is partnering with VicPol and the Ambulance Service to do 'coffee with a cop' and other community initiatives.
- Eastland recently engaged Maroondah Youth Services staff to do some training with security guards at Eastland in how to best engage with young people.
- There has been some recent vandalism in Changing Places facilities at Eastland which has resulted in costly repairs and replacement.
- School holidays didn't really end for Eastland, with a persistent rate of graffiti tagging on a range of infrastructure, stairwells, etc. Any graffiti is painted over within 24 hours. This appears to be similar behaviour to that being experienced by Costco. Both locations have people breaking doors and hardware to access stairwells where smoking, tagging and drug litter has been occurring.
- Eastland is encouraging all stores to report theft or damage to alleviate any community perception that stores in the centre are an easy target. Crime has tended to be ignored and reported which may be fuelling the current situation.

Kym Burchall – MCC/Realm

- Council is currently working with Costco to install a CCTV camera on their south wall. The new camera will overlook Staley Gardens skate park. Previous CCTV equipment at the skate park has been damaged and an increase in anti-social behaviour within Costco premises has necessitated a safety audit by SC Mark Bracher, Crime Prevention Officer.
- Croydon Town Square work is progressing and will be completed by March 2019. A recent walk-around with Traders allayed any fears and everyone is looking forward to the positive aspects that this development will bring to Croydon and the Main Street retail shopping area.

Grant Meyer, Maroondah City Council

- Grant congratulated Inspector de Vries on the success of the recent CommSafe Forum and the opportunity it provided for 360-degree feedback as well as insight on trends, initiatives and improved practice.

Robyn Williams, Maroondah City Council

A Community Safety Update is attached. Some key points were:

- The Maroondah Liquor Accord continues to be a strong forum for licensees to come together to promote best practice, improve community safety and manage positive environments around alcohol. The Maroondah Liquor Accord is now 4 years old and a new Accord document will be drafted next year, before being approved by the VCGLR and Victoria Police. Maroondah's Liquor Accord has 50 members.
- Billboards at 7 locations throughout Maroondah will highlight messages about preventing violence against women and family violence during the 16 Days of Activism from 23 November to 10 December this year.
- Council recently partnered with Eastern Regional Libraries, EACH, Women's Health East and Knox and Yarra Ranges Councils to develop a gender equity picture booklist for children 0-6 years old. The aim of the booklist is to show children that anything is possible and that small differences - such as likes, dislikes, strengths and weaknesses - are not based on gender. Gender inequality is a key driver of violence against women. By promoting positive gender equality messages to our children, we hope to provide a strong foundation for equal and respectful relationships in the future.

Mel Jeffery, Youth Services, Maroondah City Council

- Police, Ambulance, Eastern Primary 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 18 March 2019

Meeting closed 12 noon

Maroondah Community Safety Committee
Community Safety Update
29 October 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 2nd 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 by 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 was unsuccessful in its application to the Municipal Association of Victoria Free From Violence funding program. The program aims to build capacity and capability across Council and embed primary prevention principles as well as scale-up or develop innovative prevention programs. 51 Councils out of 76 Victorian Councils applied for funding - 21 submissions were successful.

State government funding

- In June Council received \$48,000 in funding to pilot a primary prevention project within a sporting setting for the prevention of violence against women. The 12-month project has been funded through the Department of Health and Human Services Gender Equity in Victorian Sport and Recreation Pilot Program to test recently developed draft program design principles for the delivery of primary prevention initiatives in sports settings. Council will partner with Eastern Football League, Cricket Victoria, Ringwood Football Club, Ringwood Cricket Club and Ringwood Spiders All Abilities Sports Club to support the development of an inclusive, equitable governance model for the female friendly redesign of Jubilee Pavilion, Ringwood. The project will also support clubs to improve inclusion, increase facility access for female participants and create an authorising environment for women to be meaningfully engaged in leadership and governance roles. This project is being led by Council's Sport and Recreation team.

Beyond Sparkles & Superheroes - promoting gender equality & celebrating children's individuality

- Council in partnership with Eastern Regional Libraries, Women's Health East, EACH, Knox and Yarra Ranges Councils has developed a booklist of picture books for children aged 0-6 years which was launched at Realm during Children's Week on 25 October. An event launching this booklist will be held on Thursday 25 October during Children's Week and story times at ERL will include books from this list during Children's Week. Our aim is that this booklist will show children that anything is possible and that small differences - such as likes, dislikes, strengths and weaknesses - are not based on gender. Promoting gender equality messages will provide a strong foundation for personal development and equal and respectful relationships in the future.

16 Days of Activism

- This year Council will have 7 billboards in strategic locations across Maroondah with messages in relation to preventing violence against women and family violence. Women's Health East is coordinating a social media campaign of messages from survivors, along with stories on partnerships in the region that are working to address gender equality and prevent violence against women. For further details please contact Arielle Milecki at Women's Health East AMilecki@whe.org.au

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

CCTV Policy

- Council has developed a Draft CCTV Policy which has been sent to safety committee members for comments/feedback by 2 November 2018. The Policy has been developed in line with best practice frameworks including the Victorian Ombudsman Guidelines, Victorian Law Reform Commission Report, Department of Justice and recommendations from the Victorian Auditor-General's report (2018) including privacy principles and secure protection and management of images.

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

- Council endorsed the Maroondah Gambling Policy at their meeting on 17 September 2018. Preparatory work has commenced to prepare documentation for a future planning scheme amendment to implement the Policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

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.