

NEW NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

Held at 3.00p on Sunday March 3, 2019 at Derwent Valley Community House

Sixteen keen community leaders met to discuss areas of concern around personal and community safety in New Norfolk and to contribute to future direction planning by New Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch.

Area Coordinator, Irene Taylor-Smith, opened the workshop and provided an overview of the history of the group and activities to date.

Marg Cranney facilitated the workshop and initially conducted a brainstorming and prioritizing activity.

The group identified the following issues that are listed in order of priority:

- Family Violence
- Breaking the Cycle
- Preventative Policing
- Youth Crime
- Substance abuse and resulting criminal behaviour
- Arson, especially of the Willow Court precinct
- River safety, including tourist safety
- Low Literacy rates resulting in unemployment, as an intergenerational issue
- Feelings of Community pride and the reputation of the town
- Intimidation/bullying of people with mental health issues

The group then broke into small groups to address the first 4 priority areas. Focus questions were provided to support discussions. The following are notes from small group discussions

1. FAMILY VIOLENCE

Where do we want to be in 5 years' time?

We would like to see the Community be better educated, at every level, on the following facts:

- that Domestic Violence is actually “Abuse”, and what that actually means
- that it can involve anyone at any time and happen in any household
- that it is an issue that needs to be brought out into the mainstream, not hidden away
- that the “norm” is to report such incidents, not keep it secret
- that schools, health/child & family centres, doctors' surgeries, council, and other medical and educational facilities could all be used as avenues for education and reporting of this issue

What resources are available?

Local Police, family violence units, educational facilities, medical facilities, local forms of advertising such as Gazette, radio, sporting facilities, PCYC, other local support groups, facebook pages, websites

What might get in the way of us achieving the vision?

Poor co-ordination of support networks and communication between same, community indifference/apathy, shame and humiliation, fear of threats of violence when reporting (universal fear), insecurity, isolation, lack of knowledge/literacy, intergenerational issues, poor reporting systems (ACORN etc), peer pressure, red tape/bureaucracy

How can these challenges be met?

By developing a Mission statement and strategic plan which involves all relevant stakeholders such as support systems, and is cohesive and all-encompassing of the issues to be addressed

By continuing to develop such a plan and achieving steps in a timely fashion

What steps might NNNW take in the next 12 months?

NNNW could perhaps be involved in the instigation and co-ordination of such a Plan. NNNW could continue to investigate gaps and barriers in the current systems and take steps to involve the community in filling the gaps and moving ahead to address these issues.

2. BREAKING THE CYCLE

Where do we want to be in 5 years' time?

Happiest, healthiest, safest community

What resources are available?

Education, awareness, co-ordination, inter-linked services (needed), lots of service providers using the same funding, goodwill & trust

What might get in the way of us achieving the vision?

Funding models, governance policy & procedure, acceptance by the individual, not getting the message out

How can these challenges be met?

Grass roots approach, education/awareness, advocacy, role-modelling, breaking down perceived barriers (governance & funding), instil pride

What steps might NNNW take in the next 12 months?

Identify services & needs, create awareness of services, scoping & funding, information officer, short term / long term plan (with measurables), working with other organisations.

3. PREVENTATIVE POLICING

Where do we want to be in 5 years' time?

Better resourced / numbers of police, new police station, PCYC programs for Youth

What resources are available?

People willing to volunteer their time, lots of facilities in NN, eg. Sporting grounds and pool, natural facilities, including river sports

What might get in the way of us achieving the vision?

Lack of political will, public apathy, red tape, further unemployment

How can these challenges be met?

Increasing community awareness, strategy, council needs to be involved, community partnerships, eg, Red Cross

What steps might NNNW take in the next 12 months?

Increase community awareness, create community partnerships, provide resources such as facebook page, pamphlets, webpage

4. YOUTH CRIME

Where do we want to be in 5 years' time?

Improve individuals' outlook, year on year reduction in youth crime incidents

What resources are available?

Define what youth crime might be – involve schools, D'FAT programs, youth programs, council, 26TEN, Colony 47, PCYC, police, facebook pages (other community's)

What might get in the way of us achieving the vision?

Low employment, family issues, peer pressure, substance abuse, lack of knowledge, generational family dynamics

How can these challenges be met?

By creating purpose in order that every young person feels valued and important

What steps might NNNW take in the next 12 months?

Understand what is already in place, ask for help from other resources, promote how to get involved

Each small groups reported back to the larger group and answered questions.

Irene thanked participants for attending and undertook to send a repost of discussions to all who attended and all who gave apologies for been unable to attend. She stated that New Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch will consider these suggestions in planning for the next 12 months.

Workshop closed at 5.00pm