

Attending:

Janet	Allen	Hagley
Rob	Anderson	Carrick
Peter	Ashton	Deloraine
Annette	Barrett	Tasmanian Health Service
Gerry	Bartley	Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch
Catherine	Blackwell	Carrick
Steve	Bolland	Carrick PO Manager
Adam	Boscoe	Hagley PO
Corisa	Boscoe	Hagley PO
Jen	Butler	Candidate for Lyons
Marlene	Clark	Carrick
Andrew	Connor	MVC Councillor
Jillian	Cunningham	Carrick
Malcolm	Eastley	Deloraine
Richard	Elias	Bishopsbourne
PC Karen	Griffiths	Tasmania Police
Vicki	Jordan	MVC Community Officer
Dorothy	Keygan	Carrick
Heather	McIntosh	Hagley
June	Quinn	Whitemore
Lucie	Peddie	Hagley
Amanda	Phillips	Carrick
Kate	Phillips	Carrick
David	Preece	Carrick
Faye	Preece	Carrick
Andrew	Scott	Westbury
Donald	Scott	Hagley
Robyn	Shean	Carrick
Graham	Smith	Carrick
Sheila	Stevenson	Carrick
Bernie	Stevenson	Carrick
Evelyn	Strickland	Carrick
Bev	Sweetnam	Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch
David	Williams	Carrick

There may have been a few people who did not sign the register as some people came in after the register had passed around the room. A request was made for people to add their name, but a small number may have been missed.

Apologies: Patrick Gambles, Cr Tanya King, Michael O'Reilly

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Meeting opened at 7pm. Annette Barrett took the chair in Patrick's absence. Annette welcomed everyone. Annette then outlined the meeting format and circulated and reported on the minutes of the previous meeting held in Chudleigh on 25/5/17.

2. POINTS RAISED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING 25/08/17

- a) Work is happening on the hand rail near the Deloraine Bridge to prevent young children riding their bikes straight into the water
- b) Dead trees in Quamby Brook road are listed for action
- c) The request for a speed limit sign on Oaks Road near the intersection with Meander Valley Highway sits with Dept of State Growth

Other road-related issues are being addressed by Council assisted by Malcolm Eastley. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS 24 August 2017

There was a general feeling of unrest and angst among the group when the Carrick meeting began, with the overarching concern being the number of burglaries in the area. These were aired while waiting for the Police representative to arrive.

- a) Hagley - The Hagley Store reported the need for more security around the greater Hagley area. There has been a huge increase in break-ins, burglaries, vandalism and speeding issues over the last 6 – 10 months. When you call the Police it takes 50 mins or more to respond. The community want more Police presence in the area. Also reported that they had CCTV footage of two incidents. It took the police six months to collect the footage from the first incident and they still haven't been to collect the footage from the second incident which raised the question whether the police are serious regarding catching the offenders. Also no follow up after reporting incidents or being the victims of criminal activity.
- b) Annette suggested a community meeting with Police if deemed necessary. Annette explained that the Police district covers the lake country and extends as far as Campbell Town and includes Longford so response times can vary significantly.
- c) Westbury/Hagley – A farmer related the loss of \$40,000 worth of goods from his farm in 3 separate incidents. He had had no follow up until he complained to Rene Hidding's office and then was visited by Inspector Scott Flude, but still received no follow up information re the incidents. Would like some communication to know what is happening.
- d) Westbury - People are fearful. 16 robberies in Westbury in 10 months.
- e) Carrick – Old people living alone are being terrorised by people knocking on their doors late at night and disappearing and people rocking roofs. This is thought to be children (approximately 10 year olds) who walk the streets late at night.
- f) Carrick – Lady reported nearly running into 2 young children who were wearing dark clothing, riding scooters down South Street at 10.30 at night on several occasions.
- g) Carrick – People want to hear from Police regarding what they should do in these circumstances. Another resident advised people not to take things into their own hands as the repercussions could result in them being charged.

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- h) Councillor Connor advised people to report every incident regardless of the outcomes as this is how Police build a profile of the offenders. Call 131 444 (non-urgent Police number) Take pictures and video footage.
 - i) Councillor Connor suggested setting up a Face Book page to keep the community connected and up to date. He undertook to do this.
 - j) Carrick man suggested purchasing a domestic CCTV camera. Said it is much better than an alarm system.
 - k) KAREN GRIFFITHS FROM TASMANIAN POLICE ARRIVED AT 7.30PM
 - l) The Face Book page and the meeting with the Minister for Police were re-visited.
 - m) A farmer questioned why his property was searched after he reported finding stolen goods in one location on his property. *Police – Police will never search without a warrant unless given permission by the owner. In this case the Police would be looking to see if other stolen goods had been put on the property without consent.*
 - n) The farmer who previously reported losing \$40,000 in goods over 3 burglaries questioned the lack of communication among Police. All incidents were reported. He later spoke to the Officer to whom he had reported the first incident and he knew nothing of subsequent incidents. How does that happen?
 - o) *Police- Police stationed in major centres (Launceston, Hobart, Devonport and Burnie) start and finish their rotation runs at the same depot. In the Country, Officers start in different locations all over the region with no change over. Unless we are called to the job it is a bit hard to know details. Reports are put on a communication board in the station. If I have 5 days off I usually only have time to check the details for the previous day. CIB receive reports from all areas and they compare reports to see if these can be sorted into patterns or series of crimes.*
 - p) Same farmer rang Police every day for a fortnight trying to get an update. Rang the local station weekly and no-one replied to his request for information. Finally rang Rene Hidding's office and then the Police paid a visit. Is the system flawed?
 - q) *Police- It is the responsibility of the investigating officer to make contact and follow up the incidents they have been called to. My personal practice is to fill in a card documenting the incident report number, investigating officer name, date etc and leaving with the community member concerned. I then try to follow up. The card at least gives you a report number to quote when making an enquiry. Ask the investigating officer for a card with these details before they leave your site. Sometimes the investigating officer might be on a 5 day break and unless there is news to report, it gets set aside. However, Police will often contact the community to find out if they have heard any news as they sometimes hear more than the Police.*

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- r) *Police often know or think they know who is involved but need hard evidence for a conviction. Police often pick up suspects and do searches, but without evidence there is no case.*
 - s) *All reports are logged and go to a central point – Northern Crime Management who do trend analysis and link similarities.*
 - t) *Police have to attend Family Violence, Assault, Traffic Accidents and Parole breaches as a priority before reported burglaries and vandalism. This leaves limited time on patrol.*
 - u) *Are Police who live locally and work out of Launceston able to do a patrol out through Bracknell, Whitemore and Carrick on their way home to Selbourne?*
 - v) *Police - This is not possible as they are stationed in Launceston and their vehicle and gear stays at the Station. They cannot do a patrol once they leave their vehicle and gear. A lot of Launceston police time is spent dealing with domestic violence and traffic incidents.*
 - w) *In the country it is not uncommon to be called to one end of the division and have a burglary happening at the other end.*
 - x) *The Community wants guidelines. What should we be doing to stay safe? The community is scared. Council has a free booklet on Safe and Secure Living which is available on request and copies will be provided to the Carrick, Hagley and Westbury Post Offices.*
 - y) *Police - There are a lot of repeat victims as perpetrators know most people carry insurance and they go back to steal the new replacements. The type of robberies has changed too. Where once it was chainsaws and lawnmowers and electrical goods, now it is often irreplaceable items such as fine china.*
 - z) *Police need Community eyes. They need people to report unusual vehicles in the area, (number plates and type and colour of vehicle,) different people in unlikely places, any theft, any unacceptable behaviour. People need to watch Gum Tree and Face book (wanted to sell) for any goods that may have been stolen from their property. Reports can be made through Crime Stoppers if you want to stay anonymous.*
 - aa) *People need to be vigilant with their own safety; lock doors, lock cars, do not leave keys in obvious place. People need to achieve an acceptable level of risk and know burglary is a possibility. With this knowledge people need to reach an understanding of the impact a burglary may have on them if it happens and plan accordingly.*
 - bb) *Hagley Store/PO asked what they are supposed to do in the case where they had footage of a burglary and no Police came to view it or record it even though it had been reported. Time elapsed and the machine cleared the evidence. What process are we to follow?*

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- cc) *Police – If 2–3 weeks have elapsed, ring the station. One again you should receive a card at the time of the report with a report number and investigating officer and phone numbers. If no response, contact the Inspector. These cards are issued for reportable offenses where follow up is implied. No card issued on vandalism as it is more an information report and there is not property to return.*
- dd) Hagley Store was victim of an armed robbery, but received no follow up. Community need follow up phone calls - even if there is nothing to report.
- ee) *Police - Police need to collect enough evidence to stand alone for a conviction as once they submit evidence higher up the chain they do not have any more dealings with the matter. Traffic offences are relatively easy to resolve - results on property offences are harder.*
- ff) Hadspen reported on their Neighbourhood Watch Group and its effectiveness. They reported small petty crime, but nothing major. They have bi-monthly meetings, Police Officer Dean Wrigley attends and regular newsletters are circulated. Annabelle Shegog is the person to contact – 6777 3998 to set up a Neighbourhood Watch. Number given to Hagley Store owners. People welcome to attend the Hadspen meetings to find out the process and its worth. If Annabelle knows that Carrick, Hagley and Westbury communities are working together, she can collate information.
- gg) *Police - The group involved in the crimes, target a wide circle and keep moving around. Some people are charged, but there is usually a time lag before appearing in court. Courts prioritise assaults, family violence and breach of orders; property related crimes often take 4 – 6 months to prosecute.*
- hh) *Police have limited resources to manage incidents. Most funding is already committed to core personnel. Westbury Station is closed unless a Police car is parked outside.*
- ii) Annette reported the recent loss of funding for 3 health workers in Meander Valley. Jen Butler, Candidate for Lions, was very interested in this information. Jen Butler has worked in David Llewellyn's office and is now a Labor Candidate.
- jj) A Carrick lady reported a hooning area in the new subdivision near the Speedway. Racing and doing wheelies all hours.
- kk) *Police – Ring up and report every time it happen.*
- ll) Noise complaint in Hagley: People revving a motor bike on their property for 45 mins. Could be recorded 6 houses away inside. What are we supposed to do? We ring the Police and they say if it is a private property, ring the Council. Ring the Council after hours and the recorded message says ring the Police.
- mm) *Police – ring the Police for non-life threatening situations on 131444.*
- nn) Community members questioned if it is acceptable to take photos and videos or would they get into trouble for having photos without permission.

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- oo) *Police – If it is evidence of criminal activity or a safety issue there should not be a problem and photographs are extremely useful for the police.*
- pp) Councillor Connor set up a **Carrick Hagley Community Facebook** page at the meeting and encouraged people to post what is happening in the area.
- qq) Annette queried what the process is for each community to be alerted to increasing types of criminal activity in an area, e.g. burglaries. Karen reported that this would need to be via Neighbourhood Watch or possibly the Facebook page. Need to consider options for this so that the community know when to be more vigilant.
- rr) *Police – Emphasised the need to communicate information, particularly to the non-emergency number as this can assist greatly in convictions. People frequently ask “how come you can book me for speeding and you can’t charge someone who is stealing my stuff”. Police need actual evidence, if they witness you speeding they have evidence. Unless they have similar clear evidence in the case of a theft, e.g finding stolen goods on a person, video evidence etc it can be hard to lay charges. Community information is consequently very important as it can help to establish this evidence and build a case.*

4. ACTIONS

- a) Community to stay in touch and pass on information through the Facebook page.
- b) Corisa to attend the Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch to see how it works with the view of setting up Westbury/ Hagley/ Carrick Neighbourhood Watch Group. Annabel Shegog to be contacted regarding the process for establishing additional Neighbourhood Watch groups in the Meander Valley.
- c) Group decided against a community meeting with Police Dept at this point in time.
- d) Local man commended the Police Department on the amazing job they are doing, however, sees the need to be aggressive with lobbying politicians and writing newspaper articles to support more Police presence. Police presence will not increase without pressure.
- e) Fridge magnets with emergency numbers to be dropped into the Carrick and Hagley Post Office by Council.

Police summary – The Community are the eyes of the Police. Ring 131444 and report any things that are not as they should be - no matter how insignificant, it may be the connecting link to solve a crime. If you want to make a stand you may have to appear in court.

Annette thanked everyone present for attending, especially Karen Griffiths from the Police. The Carrick Hall Committee was thanked for their hospitality and amazing supper.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm – refreshments and informal conversation followed

In conversation, Karen Griffiths reiterated her request for Council to explore a speed reduction near South Street on the Osmaston Road coming into Westbury.

Next meeting: Thursday 30 November 2017 – venue TBC