

Report by Yvonne Yun, Acting Manager Community Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Council note the receipt of a Crime Prevention Grant of \$50,000 and endorse the project.**
- 2. That Council note the launch of Eyewatch in Homebush West by the NSW Police.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information to Council regarding the award of \$50,000 funding through a successful application for a Crime Prevention Grant and to endorse the associated Project.

This matter was referred to the Community Safety Advisory Committee who endorsed the recommendation.

REPORT

Council has been notified of the award of a \$50,000 Crime Prevention Grant to address the occurrence of "Steal From Person" in the local government area (LGA). The grant is being made available by the NSW Department of Justice and Attorney General.

The project involves a number of elements for the Homebush West area to try and improve outcomes through direct focus. The strategies are:

1. A program of street BBQs run on one Saturday each month. These will be partnered by NSW Police and it is also envisaged that Rotary and the Graffiti Trailer will be part of this activity. This program strongly aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan:

"2.11 Improve Community safety and reduce crime in Strathfield" and specifically addresses the "On the Streets in Strathfield" approach detailed in the Crime Prevention Strategy 2011-2014.

Each month, the BBQ will address differing aspects of community safety, key amongst these being the personal safety of residents. BBQs will also support information resources that relate to community pride, such as waste dumping, in line with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles of local pride leading to reduced attractiveness of an area for intending offenders.

2. The installation of 5 light towers to the main carpark located in Exeter Road. This will be coupled with appropriate level of tree trimming along main pedestrian corridors.
3. Literature will be prepared in several community languages.
4. Safety improvements to the Taxi rank in close proximity to the railway station.

5. A further 20 Pavement Warning signs will be rolled out in the Homebush West area.

It is proposed to launch the NSW Police initiative known as Eyewatch in conjunction with the project.

EyeWatch is a FaceBook based communication tool that has been developed and is managed by the NSW Police. The Flemington Local Area Command will be the facilitator for this LGA. The Flemington and Homebush West areas will be the first two suburbs to be brought on line with this service.

The system operates on a two-tiered system - public groups and closed groups.

Public Groups

A local area coordinator appointed by NSW Police captures and refers local intelligence to the NSW Police. Council would play a key role in identifying suitable candidates for this role and encouraging them to take on the work involved in a voluntary capacity. In order to join this group, a criminal record check will be required and an undertaking from participants that they will maintain confidentiality will be a pre-requisite.

Closed Groups

The closed groups will be the interface between Council, area coordinators, community representatives and the NSW Police. In order to join this group, a criminal record check will be required and an undertaking from participants that they will maintain confidentiality will be a pre-requisite.

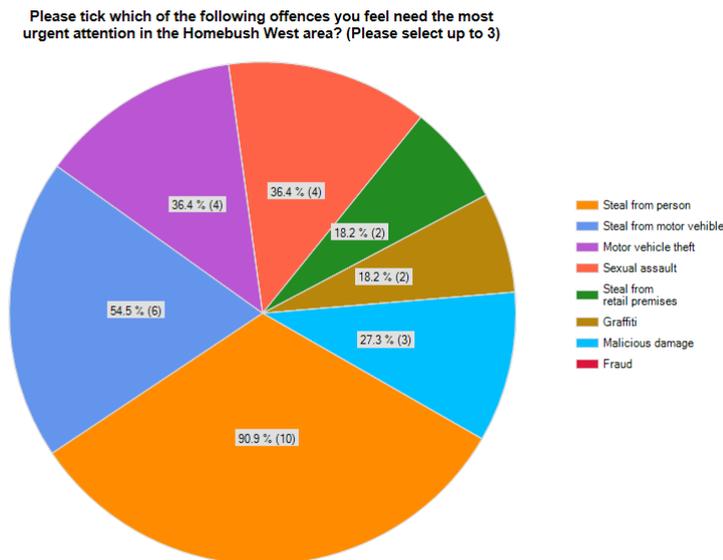
To establish the proposed new public groups, Council will encourage volunteers to join the program. NSW Police will appoint and train volunteers who will then become the point of contact for the community.

Council will also encourage community representatives to take part in closed groups. NSW Police will appoint community representatives.

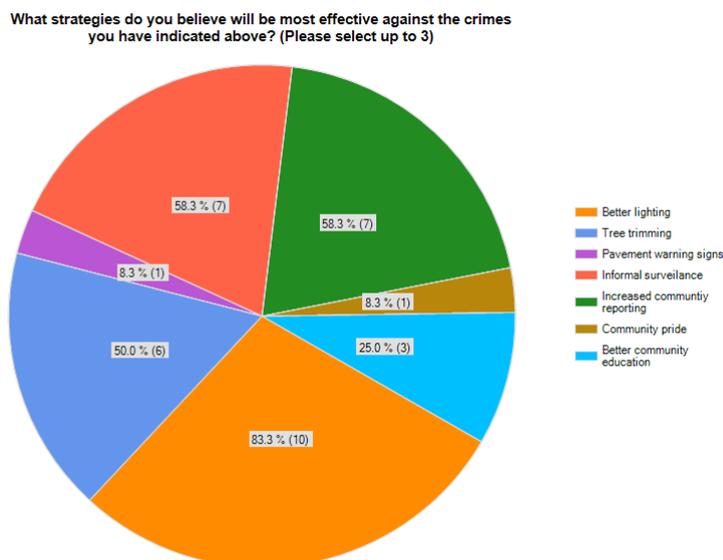
Community Consultation and Feedback

A recent online consultation of residents provided the following data to Council:

1. Residents were asked to rank which offences were in most urgent need of attention. The results were:



2. Residents were asked to comment on the strategies of crime prevention they felt would be most effective. The results were:



Other questions put to residents were:

“Do you believe that a regular NSW Police presence at social activities in the Homebush West area will encourage increased reporting of crime?”

91.7% of respondents believe that this would be the case.

“Do you agree that the Street BBQ concept will engage the Homebush West community more effectively with community pride and safety messages?”

91.7% of respondents believe that this would be the case.

REFERRAL FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT

No referral was required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Grant funding of \$50,000 will be expended as outlined in the report.

Expenditure in relation to project management will be met from funding provided in the current budget for salaries.

Report approved by:

Neale Redman
Director Corporate Services