

WICRABA: Key points from 7 April meeting

Matt Boyce and associated comments from floor

- Focus on community oriented policing
- 250 extra cops on street
- 8 more police for the Wellington area
- 3 will be directed by community needs
- Understand anti-social behaviour is a big concern
- Daytime issues seemed to have been mopped up
- Have been arresting for graffiti
- Young guy going by the name of "Kudos" was doing a lot of damage but managed to flee to the US (where he was from) before being apprehended
- Tacking graffiti relies on community to take photos and submit
- WCC on-board with "dob-a-tagger" scheme
- Police have been working with schools (with some success)
- Taggers aren't just teenagers. Big range of ages
- Some tagging now getting very high. Graffiti also being ground/scratched into windows
- Typical sentence for a tagger is 40-100 hours of community service
- Usually a phase of activity more than anything, especially when parents get involved
- That said, can be a very time intensive process
- One of the key issues for inner-city residents is the increase in body corporate fees that go with graffiti repair
- Police advice is to get rid of it as soon as it appears. Also worthwhile to take a picture and send/supply this when making the complaint as this can be used as evidence
- The appropriate number to call is (04) 3812000. Police can take the report over the phone
- Also good to keep the evidence i.e. picture as this may be needed down the track
- Police are investigating creating a central point for dealing with these types of complaints. Associated with this will hopefully be the ability to submit evidence i.e. photos, electronically
- Kilbirnie is currently being used as a trial area

Ian McKinnon

- WCC keen to keep graffiti as a "high profile issue". Considers it property vandalism and is very supportive of Community engagement to help address the issue
- WCC is committed to keeping the graffiti flying squad
- But limited funds means effort has to go into public sites

- That said, requests will be entertained for other areas particularly if the graffiti is offensive and anti-religious in nature
- 'Graffiti-alley' between Ghuznee and Left-Bank is not working as graffiti-art is being tagged over
- WCC is putting in more CCTVs in Courtney Place (to help address behavioural aspects as well as graffiti). But this is an expensive option so approaching this carefully
- CCTVs do help reduce violence because they help trace, locate and arrest etc. The CCTVs will be monitored.

Various speakers from the floor

- All sorts of things the Community can do to help reduce graffiti: trellising, lighting, CCTVs
- Concern that some shops are selling materials that make it very easy for the taggers
- Some residents want the liquor ban area extended
- Police recently took a bar in Blair St to court for flouting liquor license laws. Will be closed for 7 days in May. Police tried unsuccessfully to get the operating hours knocked back
- But Police continuing to work on bar responsibility issues
- Relatively new phenomenon of Wednesday night drinks causing concern for some residents. Issues include: broken glass, noise, vandalism, drunkenness
- Ian McKinnon to convey inappropriateness of some student behaviour to Victoria University
- Need to have more mature students operating as supervisors in student hostels. Alcohol management plans need to be developed.
- Interest in making a WICRABA submission on new alcohol legislation. Tony Hiles interested in coordinating.
- Police looking at examples from New South Wales in Aus. Need good transport links (to stop loitering of those not from the inner-city).
- "Pre-loading" was the key issue. This obviously had a cultural dimension.
- Some residents said more Police visibility would assist. Has got better but there was a marked difference in behaviour when the uniform was seen on the street.
- Police have had some success in reducing violent offending
- Key message should be – come into the city, have a good time BUT please respect that we live here
- Some discussion on false IDs being a business

Rubbish and recycling issues

- Gus Charteris presented a paper on rubbish and recycling issues (see paper on WICRABA website). This reflected some thoughts from Mike

Mendonca at the WCC and the issues most relevant to residents identified in satisfaction surveys

- Next step is to get Mike along to next WICABA meeting on May 12 to have a more in-depth discussion about some of the key concerns
- Clear that recycling was an area that residents thought we could be doing better
- Some discussion over the cigarette butt and chewing gum scourge
- WCC discussing increasing the fine for littering so it was an actual deterrent

Other issues

- Jean Phipps and partner will be making a submission on transport policy
- Pauline Swan from 'Waterfront Watch' introduced herself and the group to WICRABA members. She hoped there would be an opportunity in the future to give a proper de-brief on their activities