

CITY OF ARMADALE

MINUTES

OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 7 ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON TUESDAY,
26 NOVEMBER 2002 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Cr J A Stewart	(Chair)
Cr A L Cominelli JP	
Cr J D Cumming	(7.00 pm to 8.45 pm)
Cr F R Green	(7.00 pm to 8.15 pm)
Cr J Knezevich	
Cr R C Stubbs AM	
Cr H A Zelones JP	(Deputy for Cr Clowes-Hollins)

APOLOGIES:

Cr V L Clowes-Hollins	(Leave of Absence)
-----------------------	--------------------

OBSERVERS: Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr R S Tame	Chief Executive Officer
Mr A F Maxwell	Executive Director Corporate Services
Mr C Askew	Director – Community Services
Mr P Quinlivan	Manager Recreation Services
Mrs Y Ward	Minute Secretary

Public: Nil

DISCLAIMER

The Disclaimer for protecting Councillors and staff from liability of information and advice given at Committee meetings was not read by the Chairman, given no members of the public were present at the meeting.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Nil

DEPUTATION

Nil

QUESTION TIME

Nil

ITEMS REFERRED FROM INFORMATION BULLETIN – ISSUE NO. 22

The following items were included for information in the Community Services section:

✍ **Outstanding Matters**

Report on Outstanding Matters - Community Services Committee

✍ **Monthly/Quarterly Departmental Reports**

Library Department General Report – October 2002
Manager Accounting Services Report – 8 November 2002

✍ **Finance**

Financial Statements – for the (18) week period ended 31 October 2002

✍ **Minutes from Occasional/Advisory Committees**

History House Museum Management Committee – 3 September 2002
Minnawarra Festival Committee – 3 September 2002
Minnawarra Festival Committee – 1 October 2002
Armadale Highland Gathering Committee – 12 September 2002
Armadale Highland Gathering Committee – 10 October 2002

Committee noted the information – no items were raised for discussion and/or further report.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 29 October 2002, are confirmed.

I N D E X

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 26 NOVEMBER 2002

BUSINESS SERVICES

FINANCE

2002/2003 BUDGET VARIATIONS	6
STATUTORY FINANCIAL REPORT	5
SCHEDULE OF CHEQUE PAYMENTS	4

MISCELLANEOUS

** DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY	7
-----------------------------------	---

RATES

RATE EXEMPTIONS – RETIREMENT VILLAGES AND CHARITABLE PURPOSES	9
---	---

COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAMS	14
REVIEW OF SAFER WA	18
SOUTHERN ABORIGINAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH – REQUEST FOR REDUCED HIRE FEES	24

RANGER & FIRE SERVICES

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	27
------------------------------------	----

RECREATION

DRAFT RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN	29
---------------------------------------	----

COUNCILLORS' ITEMS

CR ZELONES – MEMORIAL PARK	33
CR KNEZEVICH – ABORIGINAL POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS	33
CR KNEZEVICH – ABORIGINAL POOL ATTENDANTS	33
CR STUBBS – RANGER RECIPROCATATION	33
CR STUBBS – FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN – CANNING VALLEY	33
CR STEWART – SCOTTISH NATIONAL MATERIAL	33

Finance

SCHEDULE OF CHEQUE PAYMENTS

C179/02 RECOMMEND

- 1. Payments totalling \$9,409,710.34 on Vouchers 42649-42770, EF6196-EF6558 and 102159-102169, drawn upon the Municipal Fund, be received.**
- 2. Cheque payments totalling \$400.00 on Voucher 89760, drawn upon the City Treasurer's Advance Account, be received.**
- 3. Cheque payments totalling \$2,340.00 on Voucher 88999 and EF6195, drawn upon the Trust Account, be received.**
- 4. Cheque payments totalling \$2,477,965.71 on Vouchers 500423-500424, drawn upon the Reserve Fund, be received.**

**Moved Cr Cumming
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Finance

STATUTORY FINANCIAL REPORT

The Statutory Financial Report for the 4 months ended 31 October 2002, as required in accordance with Clause 34 of the Local Government Financial Management) Regulations 1996, is presented. (Refer to Attachment “A-1” – as circulated with the Agenda.)

Commentary

(Refer to Attachment “A-2” – as circulated with the Agenda.)

Investments

The amount under investment is continuing to peak at the highest level for 16 months. The second rate instalment is due and will assist in maintaining the level of investment over the next month.

Investment Interest

Although the rate is currently on the decline, increased funding available for investment will aid in the recovery of interest earned.

Grants

Grant receipts have continued to exceed the budget as well as a higher amount in comparison to this time last year. Progress will continue to be monitored against the budget.

Sundry Debtors

Current MRD invoice for \$480,000 has increased the amount owing in Sundry Debtors for this period. The focus on sporting clubs debt recovery remains a priority.

Rates Debtors

Rates collection is continuing to be steady with a slight improvement anticipated after the second instalment being made in this period in comparison to last year.

Year to date net operating position

Revenue and expenditure remain comparative to the same time last year and in accordance to budget thus reflecting a relatively steady operational position at this stage.

C180/02 RECOMMEND

That Council receive the Statutory Financial Report for the 4 months ended 31 October 2002.

**Moved Cr Cominelli
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Finance

2002/2003 BUDGET VARIATIONS

In accordance with the requirements as outlined in the Council document entitled “Internal Control Procedures – Budget Variations”, as attached (refer to **Attachment “A-3” – as circulated with the Agenda**) are the Budget Variations having been transacted administratively during the period 29 October to 19 November 2002.

C181/02 RECOMMEND

That Council receive the Budget Variations transacted administratively during the period 29 October to 19 November 2002.

**Moved Cr Green
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Miscellaneous

**** DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY**

WARD	ALL
FILE REF:	PCY/2
DATE	6 December 2002
REF	KLD
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	Manager Admin & Governance Services

In Brief:

- ✍ Delegations of Authority for the Community & Corporate Services Directorates
- ✍ Recommendation that delegations remain in force.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Review and clarify delegations.

Legislation Implications

Section 5.42(1) Local Government Act 1995 – Delegation of some powers and duties to CEO.

Section 5.46(2) Local Government Act 1995 – At least once every financial year, delegations made under this division are to be reviewed by the delegator.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

All Directorate Managers

BACKGROUND

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1995 – Section 5.46(2) that delegations of authority be reviewed annually.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

Council's approval is being sought to renew the delegations of authority.

Miscellaneous

COMMENT

Analysis

Full details of each of the delegations relevant to this Committee are presented as an attachment to this Agenda. **(Refer to Attachment “A-4” – as circulated with the Agenda.)**

Having reviewed and confirmed the legislative correctness and the continuing relevancy/appropriateness of each of the current Delegations, no alterations have been made.

Options

Nil

Conclusion

It is recommended that all the existing delegations continue to apply and operate until the next review date in twelve months time.

C182/02 RECOMMEND

That the powers or duties detailed in Attachment “A-4” to these Minutes as delegated by Council, remain in force for the next 12 months.

****ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED**

**Moved Cr Knezevich
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Rates

RATE EXEMPTIONS – RETIREMENT VILLAGES AND CHARITABLE PURPOSES

WARD ALL
FILE REF: RAT/1
DATE 20 November 2002
REF AFM
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

In Brief:

- ✍ The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is seeking Council's response to the following questions:
1. Is your Council willing to make a donation to the legal action being carried out by the City of Mandurah against the Royal Australian Air Force Association? and
 2. Would your Council be willing to consider contributing to an industry fighting fund for cases that affect local governments from a statewide perspective?
- ✍ The report recommendation is to decline the first proposal and give qualified in principle support of the second proposal.
- ✍ *Committee recommended an affirmative response to both questions.*

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Increasing the funds available to Council to meet the needs of the community

Legislation Implications

Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 refers:

6.26. Rateable land

- (1) Except as provided in this section all land within a district is rateable land.
- (2) The following land is not rateable land —
 - (g) land used exclusively for charitable purposes;

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil at this time however in the event of Council subsequently agreeing to make a financial contribution a variation to the 2002-03 adopted Council Budget would be required given there is no expenditure budget for this purpose.

Consultation

WALGA

Rates

BACKGROUND

Council's previously expressed concerns regards the broad interpretation applied by the Courts to the term "charitable purposes" in the context of rate exemption applications and the associated consequential cost shift from State to Local Government, eg. rate exemptions given to community/aged housing providers such as South City Housing Association and Uniting Church Homes.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

WALGA has forwarded to all local governments a questionnaire on the subject "Rateability of Retirement Villages/Charitable Purposes Rate Exemptions", seeking a Council response to the following questions, ie.

1. Is your Council willing to make a donation to the legal action being carried out by the City of Mandurah against the Royal Australian Air Force Association? And
2. Would your Council be willing to consider contributing to an industry fighting fund for cases that affect local governments from a statewide perspective?

Relevant parts of the coversheet to the questionnaire read as follows:

As you may be aware, the Association has been investigating the increase in the number of organisations seeking exemption from the payment of rates under Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act. One of the main areas of inconsistency has been the development of retirement villages, and you will notice from the previous State Council agenda that the City of Mandurah has been involved in proceedings at the Land Valuation Tribunal in an attempt to collect rates from a retirement village owned and operated by the Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA) – the City of Mandurah has requested assistance from other local governments in the form of financial contributions to assist in the appeal.

At the August 2002 meeting of the WALGA State Council, it was resolved that the Association:

- 1. pursue the setting up of a legal fund for cases that affect local government from a statewide perspective, and*
- 2. to carry out a survey of local governments in relation to the rateability of retirement villages with a recommendation they consider making a donation to the legal action.*

The Commonwealth has recently responded to the Federal Inquiry into the Definition of Charities and Related Organisations by endorsing the majority of Recommendations from the Report. One of the Government's key decisions is to enact a legislative definition of charity that is expected to begin in 2004. The Federal legislation will not override any State Legislation unless the State agrees to adopt the framework within WA Legislation, which would then have implications for the Local Government Act.

A copy of the Government's media release is available from the Federal Treasurer's website at <http://www.treasurer.gov.au/tsr/content/pressreleases/2002/049.asp>

Rates

COMMENT

The subject of “Rateability of Retirement Villages/Charitable Purposes Rate Exemptions” is a matter that is very relevant to the City of Armadale. For example, it is estimated that rates currently forgone on non-rated retirement villages and/or properties receiving rate exemptions pursuant to the charitable purposes provisions of the Act total \$140,000 per annum which roughly equates to the rates revenue that would be derived by a 1% increase in rates.

As to the future perspective, it is highly probable given the recent (29th August 2002) Federal Government’s response to the “Report of the Inquiry into the Definition of Charities and Related Organisations” that a greater number of organisations will in the future be eligible for local government rate exemptions under the banner of charitable purposes. That is, currently case law has deemed charitable purposes to include the relief of poverty, the advancement of religion, the advancement of education and other purposes beneficial to the community, however the Federal Government’s proposed legislative definition of charitable purposes will include (4) additional elements namely:

- ? the advancement of social and community welfare, including without limitation, the care, support and protection of children and young people, including the provision of child care services,
- ? the advancement of health,
- ? the advancement of culture, and
- ? the advancement of the natural environment.

Whilst the Federal Government’s definitional framework of charitable purposes will not automatically override any State legislation unless the State agrees to adopt the framework within WA legislation, it is difficult to see it not eventually flowing onto the State and in turn local government particularly so given that in the announcement made by the Federal Government they make the statement “I will be writing to each of the State and Territory Treasurers to gauge their interest in achieving harmonisation of laws defining charity”.

Therefore, as regards the questions posed to Council, the recommended responses and the reasons for same are as follows:

1. Is your Council willing to make a donation to the legal action being carried out by the City of Mandurah against the Royal Australian Air Force Association?

Whilst a successful defence of the appeal would serve to act as relevant case law in favour of local governments in like future appeals, on balance the recommended response to this question is that Council not support a donation for the reasons that:

- ? the appeal process has already commenced with a hearing before the Tribunal scheduled in the new year,
- ? it is a matter specific to the City of Mandurah about which we have no knowledge of the particular merits of the appeal, the relevant points of law nor the likely success of Mandurah’s defence of the appeal,
- ? in the event of Mandurah successfully defending the appeal, their right to claim costs against the other party.

Rates

2. Would your Council be willing to consider contributing to an industry fighting fund for cases that affect local governments from a statewide perspective?

It is recommended that Council give its in principle qualified support to the proposition of contributing towards an industry fighting fund for the reasons that:

- ? Council's recent experiences with organisations claiming charitable purposes rate exemptions, eg. South City Housing Association, Uniting Church Homes.
- ? the current loss of rate revenue associated with non-rated retirement villages and properties receiving rate exemptions due to charitable purposes,
- ? the likely greater future loss of rate revenue should the Federal Government's definitional framework of charitable purposes be applied to State legislation,
- ? the reference to the "qualified support" is on the basis that it is not clear as yet as to the objectives of the proposed "fighting fund" nor the methodology as to the rate of contribution by local governments – these aspects will be subsequently developed by WALGA should there be sufficient support of the principle by local governments.

This report and recommendation should not be viewed as detracting from or devaluing the very valuable role and work of charitable organisations within the Armadale community for their contribution is genuinely appreciated and acknowledged by Council. Rather, what Council is seeking to achieve in terms of this Report is a more equitable approach towards the community cost of supporting charitable organisations and the provision of community/aged housing by all levels of government.

Committee Discussion

Committee was of the view that Council should be supportive of the action taken by the City of Mandurah and its request for a donation towards legal costs on the basis that a successful defence of the appeal will be to the City's benefit. This donation is subject to further consideration by Council once more specific details are known, hence the change to part (a) of the officer recommendation.

C183/02 RECOMMEND

That Council's response to WALGA's Charitable Purposes Rate Exemptions questionnaire be as follows:

- a. on the question of "is your Council willing to make a donation to the legal action being carried out by the City of Mandurah against the Royal Australian Air Force Association?", Council is willing to make such a donation, and**

Rates

- b. **on the question of “would your Council be willing to consider contributing to an industry fighting fund for cases that affect local governments from a statewide perspective?”, Council is supportive of the proposition in principle subject to further information being received which provides greater information/clarification as to the proposed terms of reference and financial contribution methodology for such a fighting fund.**

Moved Cr Zelones

MOTION CARRIED (7/0)

Community Development

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAMS

WARD	All
FILE REF:	DON/1
DATE	15/11/02
REF	SP
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	Director Community Services

In Brief:

? This item provides an update on the details of the proposed programs that Council's contribution will facilitate.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

To facilitate a wider range of social and cultural experiences for the City of Armadale.

To encourage community participation and responsibility.

To foster ownership, pride and a supportive and caring community.

To have in place the range of services to enhance the well being and safety of the community.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Council Donations Policy 1.18 – “Council shall consider:

(3) Applications from licensed charitable organizations whose primary aims would benefit residents of the City of Armadale, and

(4) Applications from residents of the City of Armadale”

Budget/Financial Implications

\$10,000 has been included in the 2002-03 Budget, specifically budgeted for this donation.

Consultation

? Churches Commission on Education

BACKGROUND

A proposal from the Churches Commission on Education for an increased contribution to Chaplaincy services in City of Armadale High Schools was presented to Council via the 26 February 2002 Community Services Committee meeting. A summary of the programs to be delivered was presented as follows:

Community Development

Armadale Senior High School

Pastoral Care for students – individual counselling, conflict resolution, and support for Year Coordinators

Christian Resource Person – school based and out of school activity programs

Student Mentor Program – seeking to link caring adult volunteers from the community with students in local high schools needing encouragement and extra support with reading, writing and basic mathematics. Thirteen students involved throughout the year with five adult mentor covering 152 sessions.

Respect Program – A program for year 8 classes encouraging students to demonstrate respect. This program was delivered to approximately 180 young people for 4 X 50 minute sessions.

ASHS Work Ethic Program – Acknowledges appropriate and positive behaviour of students in and outside of the classroom.

Crisis Management – The chaplain undertakes defined responsibilities when there is a crisis.

Public Relations – promotions of the Chaplaincy program to school community and parents.

Cecil Andrews Senior High School

Respect Program – A program for year 8 classes encouraging students to demonstrate respect. This program was delivered to approximately 150 young people for 4 X 50 minute sessions.

Student Mentor Program – seeking to link caring adult volunteers from the community with students in local high schools needing encouragement and extra support with reading, writing and basic mathematics. Six students involved throughout the year with one adult mentor covering 33 sessions.

Student Services Team Member – providing pastoral care to students or being referred by staff.

Christian Resource Person – providing Christian resources to enhance contemporary school curriculum addressing the needs of students.

Extra-curricular Activities in the School – including Christian basketball team that play against the school team and organising Reggie Dabbs as guest speaker.

Out of School Christian Based Programs – Wildfire program and organising students to attend various rallies and forums or speakers.

Kelmscott Senior High School

Pastoral Care

Role Modelling

Crisis Management

Roleystone District High School

Counselling - approximately 10 students a week and 2 parents a week on a one to one basis.

JAM-time – Religious instruction for 3 year Six classes and 3 Year 7 classes once per week. (Approximately 180 students)

Leadership skills – Years 9-10 during third Term. (30-35 students)

Peer Support program 'Tenz Frenz'- Year 9, Term Four (40 students) Year 6 Term One

Bushranger Cadets,- Years 8-9, 2 hours per week (20 students)

Community Development

Student Council, - 4 representatives from each year. Meets weekly. organises events.
Camps and Excursions. - Wide variety of camps and excursions

At the Council meeting of 5 March 2002 it was resolved:

“That Council include for consideration in the 2002-03 draft Budget, the request to increase, perhaps on a staged basis over several years, Council’s current contribution towards the local Chaplaincy Program”. (C34/02)

Upon consideration of the draft budget at the meeting of 28 May, 2002, Community Services Committee resolved, inter alia:

“That the proposed Chaplaincy Programme contribution of \$7,000 be increased to \$10,000 and that this contribution be dependent upon Council receiving prior details of the proposed programs that the contribution will facilitate.”

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

Subsequent to Council adoption of the 2002-03 budget, Officers have contacted the Churches Commission on Education (CCE) to ascertain the details of the proposed programs that the contribution will facilitate. The CCE has confirmed that the details of the proposed programs are as per the original proposal presented to Council via the Community Services Committee meeting of 26 February, 2002.

The CCE also wished to inform Council that due to inadequate resources, the Chaplaincy program in Cecil Andrews Senior High School was cut from the program this calendar year (2002). It is hoped that adequate funds will be sourced for the reinstatement of the Cecil Andrews position in 2003.

The CCE has also indicated the contribution sought from the City of Armadale is only part of the total budget needed to support the proposed level of Chaplaincy across the City of Armadale. Other funding that makes up the yearly budget for the Chaplains comes from the schools, local churches, private individuals and fundraising.

The objectives of the CCE are to provide an appropriate level of Chaplaincy in each High School. Decisions re the allocation of resources are made in light of the overall budget obtained for each calendar year. CCE have advised that in 2002 a budget of \$8,000 per annum is required to support a Chaplaincy service of one day per week in each school.

COMMENT

Analysis

Given that the request for a donation has come from the CCE as an umbrella organization for Chaplaincy programs in the City of Armadale, the level of detail provided and proposed processes for the allocation of funds are considered reasonable and appropriate.

Community Development

Regarding the value of the contribution Chaplains make to the school community, measurement is impossible. Recent correspondence from the CCE highlights the importance of continuity of contact as a key strength of the approach.

“We are not speaking here of one-off events that keep our young people occupied of a Friday night. We are talking of personal involvement of chaplains with students – role modeling to show how to stand up for what is right, teaching positive ways of interacting with other people and developing relationships of worth. Chaplains have access to hundreds of students – access that can and does produce positive results in individuals’ lives.”

Options

As the decision to donate \$10,000 has already been made by Council, the matter of adequacy of the details provided is the issue requiring resolution. Given the provisional nature of the program details, subject to confirmation of the budget, further clarification would add little value, however it may be worth considering a shift to monitoring performance by requesting regular updates (say quarterly) from the CCE.

Conclusion

Acceptance of the details of the proposed Chaplaincy program is recommended. Quarterly progress reports should be requested as a basis for ongoing assessment of the value of Council’s contribution to the City of Armadale Chaplaincy program.

C184/02 RECOMMEND

That Council accept the update on Chaplaincy Programs and contribute \$10,000 to the Churches Commission on Education on the condition that:

- ? The Churches Commission on Education agrees to provide quarterly reports on the progress of Chaplaincy Programs in the City of Armadale.**

**Moved Cr Cumming
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Community Development

REVIEW OF SAFER WA

WARD ALL
FILE REF: SEC/3
DATE 18 November 2002
REF SP
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER Director Community Services

In Brief:

- ✍ This item reports on the Report of the Review of the Structure for Crime Prevention in Western Australia and proposes the direction for a response to the Office of Crime Prevention.
- ✍ *Committee recommended that Council:*
 - *cannot support the report until further advice is received addressing various aspects to Council's satisfaction, and*
 - *not support any initiative that seeks to transfer the responsibility for policing to local government.*

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

The proposed new model of Community Crime Prevention is of significant strategic importance as, if adopted, it will impact on the roles and responsibility of the City in the area of Community Safety and Security.

Social Infrastructure

To facilitate a wider range of social and cultural experiences for the City of Armadale.

To encourage community participation and responsibility.

To foster ownership, pride and a supportive and caring community.

To have in place the range of services to enhance the well being and safety of the community.

Communication

To achieve dialogue with the community in order to have a clear understanding of the community's needs and expectations.

To ensure all our communication is readily understood by the target market.

Community Development

Legislation Implications

The proposed model is likely to impact on legislation in regard to sharing of information between government agencies. Other impacts on legislation are difficult to predict at this stage.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

It is likely that the proposed model will impact on Council policy although the extent and significance of the impact is difficult to predict at this stage.

Budget/Financial Implications

It is likely that the proposed model will impact on future budgets. The extent of the impact is difficult to predict at this stage.

Consultation

- ? Community Safety Working Party
- ? Local Government Officers Community Safety Working Group

BACKGROUND

In October 2000, Council developed a position on Community Security Issues, which was:

- “1. That Council acknowledge that whilst matters of law and order are predominantly the responsibility of the Police Department and other state agencies, and that the community and its local government must take a complementary and assisting role to help to make our district a safer place for the community to live work and recreate.
2. That Council, in addressing matters of safety and security do so from the broader perspective of community well-being.
3. That Council adopt an holistic approach to community safety and well-being acknowledging that all sections of the organization have an important, positive and continual role to play.
4. That Council, in order to fulfil its long term commitment to the safety and well-being of the community acknowledges the need, amongst other measures, to provide sufficient resources to:
 - (i) consider appointment of appropriate personnel to ensure effective co-ordination and development of the City’s community security programme.
 - (ii) maintain Council’s commitment to sound planning, economic development, urban design, environmental management and community service provision as a means of ensuring community well being;

Community Development

- (iii) *to ensure the completion and integration of all complimentary strategies, plans, policies and programmes (e.g. youth, senior citizens, disabled, Aboriginals, recreation, image enhancement) into the development and implementation of the security programme;*
 - (iv) *establish a register of and maintain strong working partnerships with relevant government and non-government agencies;*
 - (v) *develop and maintain a comprehensive and detailed awareness of crime reduction and prevention initiatives;*
 - (vi) *introduce and maintain information campaigns using community workshops and other forms of media;*
 - (vii) *continue to co-ordinate, facilitate and foster the development of volunteer organizations throughout the District (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, Drug Arm, Police & Citizens, Community Care);*
 - (viii) *adopt a dual approach to community safety and security activities by addressing situational (short term) and social (longer term) solutions concurrently;*
 - (ix) *ensure that the State Government maintains resources for the continuing presence in the City of an adequate level of essential and emergency services;*
5. *That Council take on an active and higher profile role within the Safer WA Committee structure including investigating the option of the Community Security Working Party becoming a Safer WA Local Committee.”*

(as adopted by Resolution of Council on 3 October 2000)

The issue of the relationship between the City of Armadale’s Community Security Working Party, the Community Security Action Plan and SAFER WA has been a topic of discussion for some time. Most recently the matter has been deferred pending the release of **Report of the Review of the Structure for Crime Prevention in Western Australia**. This document has now been released (along with a **DRAFT: Agreement Between the State Government and Local Governments of Western Australia** prepared by WALGA). Comment on the report is invited from Local Governments by 29 November (a general extension to 10 December being negotiated with Office of Crime Prevention) and WALGA will advise of the date for comment on the draft agreement, which is expected to be by end of January 2003.

At the Community Security Working Party meeting of 12 November 2002 the Report was discussed and the following recommendation made for Council’s consideration:

“That Council support the broad direction of the proposed new Structure for Crime Prevention in Western Australia, with caution. Support should be conditional on

Community Development

further advice being received to the satisfaction of Council, on the specific provisions for the following issues:

- 1) decision-making power and control of resources within the proposed new structure*
- 2) full costing and identification of adequate resourcing for the proposed enhanced role for local government in the proposed new structure*
- 3) amendments to information sharing protocols and related legislation to protect all relevant officers as well as the public good.”*

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The **Report of the Review of the Structure for Crime Prevention in Western Australia** proposes a new model for Crime Prevention, with Local Government playing a central coordinating role at the local level, and promises better integration of State Government services and decision-making. Central support for local planning is also a key feature of the proposed model. Resources are also promised to support local planning processes. This is likely to take the form of planning guidelines and resource kits, access to improved data on crime, and funding to develop local crime prevention plans. Many of the details of the proposed model are yet to be clarified, particularly re the structure of the proposed policy and research partnership between the WA Police, Office of Crime Prevention, Local Government and a range of State Government agencies. The amount of funding to become available through the proposed scheme is believed to be roughly equivalent to that currently available through SAFER WA (no major increase in funding proposed). It is suggested that the proposed model will be better able to leverage funding through a wider range of Commonwealth and State agencies as a result of better planning processes.

The **DRAFT: Agreement Between the State Government and Local Governments of Western Australia** attempts to articulate the basis of an agreed approach to cooperation around the issue of Community Security. It articulates a set of overarching principles to guide negotiations over the specific detail of any new approach with particular emphasis on the development of local crime prevention plans and the implementation of these plans.

COMMENT

Analysis

A number of observations can be made of the document. These observations have been informed by discussion with Officers from various Local Government Agencies as well as the Community Security Working Party meeting of 12 November 2002.

- ? Both the documents point in the direction of formalizing the role of Local Government in crime prevention.
- ? The proposed structure, while still lacking detail, promises support for a more strategic approach than is currently the case with both SAFER WA and our own Community Security Working Party.
- ? There is also a good ‘fit’ between the City’s current Community Safety Action Plan process and proposed local planning processes.

Community Development

- ? Restructuring existing committees would require a reconstitution of the Community Safety Working Party into some other form of local crime prevention partnership, which would undoubtedly require some form of steering committee.
- ? The proposed new structure would probably require a greater commitment of staff resources than is currently the case although there is some indication this commitment would be resourced through the proposed new system.
- ? Duplication would be reduced if the District SAFER WA committee was disbanded and replaced with two (Armadale and Gosnells) local crime prevention partnerships.
- ? The promises of greater coordination between State government agencies at Central levels is welcome although it should be noted Armadale already enjoys exceptional working relationships between Local and State Government agency management and staff.
- ? Perceptions of the role of local government in community safety would likely change and there is a risk that the community will consider local government being more responsible for community security and crime prevention than is currently the case. This should be manageable given the process of implementation will be negotiated with WALGA's involvement.
- ? Resourcing the proposed model is perhaps the greatest area of concern. If the promise to resource the planning process at local level is realized, the cost of that alone would account for most of the current allocation of SAFER WA funds. As there is no new allocation promised at this stage, the issue of resourcing any new initiatives arising from the planning processes needs to be addressed. The option of 'brokering' new funding by negotiation with other funding bodies (State and Federal) can be considered optimistic, as these other funders would undoubtedly approach with caution a major push to fund crime prevention initiatives (however constructed) from funding programs with other fixed objectives.

Options

There are three main approaches Council could take in responding to the report:

1. Support the proposed model and plan to work within this new framework and capitalize on the City's position as a leader and 'Best Practice' Council in crime prevention planning.
2. Do not support the model on the basis that there are too many variables unknown at this stage.
3. Do not comment on the proposed model and wait to see what happens next.

Conclusion

Given the high level of correlation between the proposed model and the City's stated policy and current direction in community crime prevention, support for the proposed model is a positive way forward. This support however needs to be qualified with caution regarding the need for further clarification of the detail, especially those areas identified in the recommendation from the Community Security Working Party.

Community Development

Officer Recommendation:

That Council support the broad direction of the proposed new Structure for Crime Prevention in Western Australia, with caution. Support should be conditional on further advice being received to the satisfaction of Council, on the specific provisions for the following issues:

- i. decision-making power and control of resources within the proposed new structure;
- ii. full costing and identification of adequate resourcing for the proposed enhanced role for local government in the proposed new structure;
- iii. amendments to information sharing protocols and related legislation to protect all relevant officers as well as the public good.

Committee Discussion

Committee was of the view that the documents from the Office of Crime Prevention and WALGA in relation to the review of the structure for Crime Prevention in WA did not provide sufficient detail for Committee to determine its position. Committee was specifically concerned with the lack of information regarding decision-making power, control of resources, and responsibility for local policing and as such amended the officer recommendation as outlined below.

C185/02 RECOMMEND

- 1. That Council cannot support the broad direction of the proposed new Structure for Crime Prevention in Western Australia, until such time as advice is received to the satisfaction of Council, on the specific provisions for the following issues:**
 - i. decision-making power and control of resources within the proposed new structure;**
 - ii. full costing and identification of adequate resourcing for the proposed enhanced role for local government in the proposed new structure;**
 - iii. amendments to information sharing protocols and related legislation to protect all relevant officers as well as the public good.**
- 2. That Council will not support any initiative that seeks to transfer responsibility for policing to local government.**

**Moved Cr Stubbs
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Community Development

SOUTHERN ABORIGINAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH – REQUEST FOR REDUCED HIRE FEES

WARD All
FILE REF: DON/1
DATE 8 November 2002
REF SP
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER Director Community Services

In Brief:

- ✍ The Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church undertakes youth/young people activities at the Harold King Centre on Friday nights from 6pm to 9pm.
- ✍ The Church requests a reduction in the hall hire charges for these activities.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Social Infrastructure

To facilitate a wider range of social and cultural experiences for the City of Armadale.
To encourage community participation and responsibility.
To foster ownership, pride and a supportive and caring community.

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Donations Policy 1.1.8

(3) “Council will consider applications from licensed charitable organizations whose primary aims would benefit residents of the City of Armadale”

Budget/Financial Implications

The General Donations Budget has a current available balance of \$6,883.41.

Consultation

Armadale Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee

BACKGROUND

The Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church is a local organization that currently uses the Harold King Centre every Sunday morning for their Church services and pays the full Community Rate to undertake these activities.

Community Development

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church has been undertaking activities for youth/young people on Friday nights at the Harold King Centre from 6pm – 9pm. These evenings are held with a Christian/Church focus. They are hoping that these activity evenings will provide positive opportunities to Aboriginal young people.

The young people attending will be from families from around the Armadale catchment areas of Armadale, Kelmscott, Westfield, Gosnells and Parkwood, particularly targeting low income families.

The activities are coordinated by Mr Bevan and Mrs Shaneen Winmar. The Church has been undertaking these activities from 26 July 2002 and wish to continue to do so. Currently the Church is paying the community rate for these Friday night booking at a total cost of \$18.90 per night and have requested a reduction in these fees.

COMMENT

Analysis

The request from Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church was presented to the Armadale Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee at its meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2002, where it was noted that the Church is a known organization that does good work in the Community.

The ATSIAC recommends to Council that the hire fees of \$18.90 per night for the Friday night youth activities be waived for a period of three months (13 weeks), after which the Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church be requested to provide Council with details of the number of children attending and a brief report on the project so that Council may review its contribution.

Options

1. Council may decline the request.
2. Council may waive the hire fees for a period of three months, a total contribution of \$245.70.

Conclusion

It has been noted that the ATSIAC is aware of the organization and its contributions to the community. They have already commenced undertaking the youth activities and it is expected that these activities will have a positive impact on those that do attend.

It also noted that there is a lack of positive activities for young people to undertake in Armadale on Friday nights.

Community Development

C186/02 RECOMMEND

- 1. That Council waive the hire fees for the Harold King Centre for the Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church on Friday evenings from 6pm – 9pm.**
- 2. That the Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church be advised that the fees are waived for the next three months only (13 weeks), and that after this period the Church is to provide data relating to the activities conducted and numbers of children who have been attending so that Council may review its contribution.**
- 3. That the total value of three months hire fees of \$245.70 be recorded as a donation.**
- 4. That the Southern Aboriginal Evangelical Church be requested to suitably acknowledge Council's contribution.**

**Moved Cr Knezevich
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)**

Ranger & Fire Services

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WARD All
FILE REF: CTE/15
DATE: 19 November 2002
REF: B W
RESPONSIBLE Director Community
MANAGER Services

In Brief:

- ☞ Report on the minutes of the Bush Fires Advisory Committee Meeting.
- ☞ Recommendation that the minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be endorsed.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Legislation Implications

Bush Fires Act 1954 – Section 67 – Advisory Committee

A Local Government may at any time appoint such persons as it thinks fit as a Bush Fire Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Local Government regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires, the planning of the layout of firebreaks in the district, prosecutions for breaches of this Act, the formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers, the ensuring of co-operation and co-ordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities, and any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind, as, or a different kind from, those specified in this subsection.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

COMMENT

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bush Fires Advisory Committee held on November 13th 2002 are presented as an attachment to this Agenda. **(Refer to Attachment “A-5” – as circulated with the Agenda.)**

Ranger & Fire Services

The recommendations from the Bush Fires Advisory Committee, together with Officers comments, as appropriate, are as follows.

1 Application for New Membership

BFAC Recommendation

That Council endorse the submitted nominations for membership.

Officer Comment - Supported

2 Breathing Apparatus – Roleystone 2.4 Fire Appliance

BFAC Recommendation

That Council approve the application from the Roleystone Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade to install four (4) B A sets on the 2.4 Fire Appliance.

Officer Comment - Supported

C187/02 RECOMMEND

That Council: -

- a. receive the Minutes of the Bush Fires Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 13th 2002 as presented;
- b. endorse the following nominations for membership of the Bedforddale Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade: -

Patrick Kevin Freeman	Fire Fighter Member
Samantha Lee Todd	Cadet Member
John Ryan	Auxiliary Member
Clinton Bergsma	Fire Fighter Member
Eric Reuben Plug	Fire Fighter Member
Jeffrey Alan Vegvari	Fire Fighter Member
Daniel Westerfeld	Fire Fighter Member
Sabrina Jane Westerfeld	Fire Fighter Member

- c. approve the application from the Roleystone Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade to install four (4) B A sets on the 2.4 Fire Appliance.

Cr Cumming left the meeting at 7.54 pm

Moved Cr Stubbs
MOTION CARRIED (7/0)

Recreation

DRAFT RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

WARD All
FILE REF: REC/7
DATE 18 November 2002
REF PQ
RESPONSIBLE Director Community
MANAGER Services

In Brief:

This report presents the draft Recreation Strategic Plan and recommends that:

- ✍ The draft plan be received.
- ✍ Councillors forward any comments or input on the draft plan to the Manager, Recreation Services.
- ✍ The matter be recommitted to either the December 2002 or January 2003 Community Services Committee Meeting
- ✍ *Committee recommended that the matter be recommitted to the December 2002 Community Services Committee Meeting.*

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Develop a Strategic Plan for Recreation Facilities and Services

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

The draft Plan identifies a range of strategies for consideration by Council. Some of the strategies contained in the draft Plan are currently not included in Council's 5 Year Financial Plan and will have implications for future years budgets should Council wish to implement the strategies.

Consultation

- ? Mayor and Councillors
- ? Relevant staff
- ? Local clubs, community groups and stakeholders
- ? Random sample survey of community members

Recreation

BACKGROUND

The process adopted by Council for the development of its Recreation and Seniors Plans has included a number of phases i.e.

Phase 1 – Scoping of Issues

Phase 2 – Community Consultation

Phase 3 – Identify broad Strategic Directions

Phase 4 – Develop a range of more detailed strategies and programs

Following consideration of the Recreation Needs Study via the March 2002 Community Services Committee, Council endorsed a series of Strategic Directions to provide the framework for the development of more detailed strategies, action plans and programs to meet the recreation needs of the community.

Invitations were subsequently forwarded to local clubs and community groups, and members of the public were invited to attend a further series of Focus Group workshops to assist in the development of the draft Recreation Strategic Plan. The response to this phase of the process was unfortunately a little disappointing, with there being sufficient numbers for just one Focus Group. This was held on 26 July 2002 at the City of Armadale and was attended by 11 members of the community. A summary of the results of the workshop is attached. **(Refer to Attachment “A-6” – as circulated with the Agenda.)**

The total pool of information gained from the planning process, together with prior knowledge of recreation needs and priorities held by Councillors and staff, provide the basis for the recommendations and proposed strategies identified in the draft Recreation Strategic Plan. The Plan is now presented for Council’s initial consideration and comment. **(Refer to Attachment “A- 7” – as circulated with the Agenda.)**

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The draft Recreation Strategic Plan represents the final phase of a planning process and should be considered in conjunction with the Recreation Needs Study. This study contains the background research, Key Issue Papers and the outcomes of the initial consultation phase. The various recommendations and proposed strategies contained in the draft Recreation Strategic Plan either relate directly to the information obtained from the research and consultation phases of the project, or form part of Council’s existing priorities for recreation. The various components of the draft Plan include:

- ✍ Introduction
- ✍ Executive Summary
- ✍ Mission

Recreation

- ✍ Principles & Values
- ✍ Council's Role in Recreation Provision
- ✍ Methodology
- ✍ Strategies for the Future

In terms of the financial implications of the draft Recreation Strategic Plan, the majority of the proposed strategies are contained within Council's 5 Year Financial Plan or form part of Council's capital works programs. Those strategies that are currently not included in the 5 Year Financial Plan include:

\$25,000	Implement Skate Facilities Strategy (2003/04)
\$20,000 pa	Increase financial commitment to the management and restoration of bushland reserves (2003/04 and ongoing).
\$5,000	Cross Park Concept Plan (2003/04)
\$10,000	Feasibility Study for Indoor Aquatic facility

If Council wishes to implement the above strategies, funding for the projects will need to be considered for inclusion in future draft budgets.

COMMENT

Analysis

The draft Recreation Strategic Plan presents a range of strategies that are aligned with Council's Strategic Directions for recreation and largely reflect the expressed needs of the community. It is reassuring that in many instances the outcomes of the research has reaffirmed existing priorities and directions of Council.

Once Council has had the opportunity to comment on the recommendations and strategies contained in the draft Plan, its normal process would be to release the Plan for public comment. Following the closure of the public comment period, any comments or suggestions would then be referred back to Council and considered for inclusion in the final draft. The final phase of the process would be formal adoption by Council.

In view of the relatively short time that Council has had to consider the Draft plan however, Council may wish to recommit the matter to the December Community Services Committee Meeting. This would allow more time for Councillor input prior to inviting public comment.

Recreation

Options

1. Adopt the draft Recreation Strategic Plan as presented.
2. Recommit the Plan to either the December or January Community Services Committee Meeting to allow Councillors time to consider the Plan prior to adoption and/or referral for public comment.
3. Put the Plan out for public comment and recommit to the February Community Services Committee Meeting.

Conclusion

Given the importance of the draft Plan for the provision of recreation services over the next 3-5 year period, it may be appropriate to recommit the matter to the December or January Community Services Committee Meetings to allow more time for Councillor input and comment.

Cr Cumming returned to the meeting at 7.55 pm.

Cr Green left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Apologies were received from Kevin McQuoid of Glew Corporate Communications who was unable to attend to make a PowerPoint presentation. In his absence the Manager Recreation Services gave that presentation to Committee, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes at Attachment "A-8" – Summary of Attachments – buff page.

Committee Discussion

Councillors provided comments in relation to the draft Recreation Strategic Plan and these will be considered and incorporated into the finalised Plan. Committee determined that the matter be recommitted to the December 2002 Community Services Committee Meeting.

C188/02 RECOMMEND

- 1. That Council receive the draft Recreation Strategic Plan.**
- 2. That Councillors forward any comments or input on the draft plan to the Manager Recreation Services.**
- 3. The matter be recommitted to the December 2002 Community Services Committee Meeting.**

Moved Cr Stubbs

MOTION CARRIED (7/0)

Councillors' Items

Cr Zelones – Memorial Park

Requested that officers investigate the use of Memorial Park by some persons to the exclusion of others with a view to providing alternatives to dealing with the issue.

Cr Knezevich – Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers

Requested that the Mayor and CEO make urgent representations to relevant authorities to station Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers within the City of Armadale.

Cr Knezevich – Aboriginal Pool Attendants

Requested that consideration be given to the employment of Aboriginal pool attendants.

Cr Cumming left the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Cr Stubbs – Ranger Reciprocation

Requested that the matter of reciprocation between City of Armadale and City of Gosnells Rangers be investigated.

Cr Stubbs – Fire Management Plan – Canning Valley

Requested that the matter of a fire management plan for the Canning Valley be investigated.

Cr Stewart – Scottish National Material

Officers to investigate and report back on the opportunity to house Scottish national material within the City of Armadale. Officers to liaise with relevant Scottish groups with a request to participate.

C189/02 RECOMMEND

That Councillors' items listed as follows:

- ? **Cr Zelones – Memorial Park**
- ? **Cr Knezevich – Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers**
- ? **Cr Knezevich – Aboriginal Pool Attendants**
- ? **Cr Stubbs – Ranger Reciprocation**
- ? **Cr Stubbs – Fire Management Plan – Canning Valley**
- ? **Cr Stewart – Scottish National Material**

be referred to the appropriate Directorate for action and/or report back to Committee.

Moved Cr Stewart

MOTION CARRIED (7/0)

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.59 PM.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF "A" ATTACHMENTS

26 NOVEMBER 2002

Attachment No.	Subject	Page
A-4	DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY	34 - 45
A-7	DRAFT RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN	45 - 70
A-8	POWERPOINT PRESENTATION NOTES – DRAFT RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN	71 - 72