

Supplementary Agenda No. 3 Additional to Item 4

4. Police Report

Reporting officer Carolyne Brindle (Senior Meeting Co-ordinator)

Date 22 August 2011

The attached report has been received from Inspector Paul Dimery, Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

Attachment

[Police Report](#)

WHANGAREI POLICE**REPORT TO THE WHANGAREI DISTRICT COUNCIL****AUGUST 2011****INTRODUCTION**

Whangarei/Kaipara continue to be very fortunate with our fatal crashes. There were none in July which makes it 8 months since our last. This has not come about by luck, but relies on the developing maturity of our drivers and their attitudes. It is a success for holistic approaches to serious problems and all of the partnerships involved need to take a bow and receive a bouquet for an outstanding achievement. Any loss of life on our roads is unacceptable and the efforts put in by so many groups to work together is absolutely outstanding. I really do appreciate the proactive work carried out by our road policing and general duties staff.

STATISTICS:

The Whangārei Patrol Group carried out the following for the month of July:

- 201** Arrests made compared with **225** in June
- 788** Infringement Notices issued compared to **913** in June
- 122** Traffic Offence Notices issued compared with **123** in June
- 868** Bail checks carried out compared with **745** in June
- 39** DNA samples taken compared with **22** in June
- 29** EBA's also recorded compared with **25** in June
- 18** Burglaries attended compared with **16** in June
- 139** Domestic attended compared with **117** in June
- 34** Motor vehicle accidents attended compared with **23** in June

CRIME TRENDS:

Burglaries continue to be our 'Achilles heel'. Over the last 12 months we have seen a 7% increase in all burglaries in Whangarei/Kaipara. This is being addressed by ensuring we target our high risk recidivist offenders, providing crime prevention advice to victims and targeting items that have traditionally been stolen to ensure they are more identifiable. Unfortunately the message to know your neighbours and ensure you know what's going on in your neighbourhood is not getting through to our most vulnerable communities. The old message that crime doesn't happen in a community that cares, would indicate that our community doesn't 'give a toss' about anyone else other than themselves. I have absolutely no doubt that that will invite some comment. What I am looking for are those members of the community that do care and are prepared to do something, taking the lead. Police cannot be responsible and we can't offer all of the answers. What we are prepared to do is work with those communities that want to do something themselves.

Youth

To Tracey Poutama-Mackie from Youth Transition Services Whangarei attended a Mayor's taskforce for Jobs National Forum on the 3rd and 4th of August in Palmerston North. She was so passionate about what was occurring there I asked her to supply me with a very brief report.

I have attached this for your information. This looks like something that would have a huge and positive effect for our young people.

Alcohol

We continue to minimise alcohol abuse. Breaches of the liquor ban are prevalent. Vine Street continues to attract under-age drinkers and the carpark appears to be a stage for their performances. It is quite clear that our biggest problem is the abuse of alcohol which is being bought from off-licenses and consumed in large quantities by people that can't handle it. Our on-licensed premises are doing their bit. The large majority do not have major issues. It is just one or two that keep coming to Police attention. Whether this is because of the size of the premises (and the subsequent scale of sales), or that they are the only premises open after 1 in the morning or a combination of both, is a matter for conjecture. The bottom line is that these premises have licenses that allow them to attract people that drink large quantities, become intoxicated and commit criminal offences. They also tend to be anti-social and carry out offending offensive to most. It never fails to amaze me how many people believe it is appropriate to urinate in our streets.

Organised Crime

Ruakaka appears to be the focus of one of our more notorious organised criminal elements. There has been an increase in drug dealing and stand-over tactics in recent months. There were a number of serious assaults with weapons involved over the last month. A number of gang members are facing serious charges. This is a small coastal/rural community that has been targeted. They have brought a criminal element which until recently was unknown in the area. I am well on record for my contempt for gangs and these are no different. There is a small minority within the community who believe this gang are suppressing other criminal offending. I am in total disagreement with this train of thought. Simply, they are criminals standing over criminals. In my opinion we now have two elements where we should have none.

Whangarei Police carried out a number of search warrants over a 3 day period. The results of these are:

- 17 x Search Warrants executed.
- 20 x Arrests (1 x referral to YAS)
- 27 x Indictable drug dealing charges laid.

Items seized;

- 6.5 grams of Methamphetamine
- 37 Tinnies.
- 5 x \$50 deal bags.
- 258 g of cannabis leaf.
- \$6380 cash.
- 1 x sawn off shotgun.
- 1 x stolen laptop, 1 x stolen BMX bike and 1 x Xbox 360.

Just in case you thought drug dealing didn't impact on our crime, this may cause you to reflect.

World Cup:

The next month sees Police heavily involved with World Cup preparation and policing. There will be a major increase in our visibility, particularly on game days. Despite my request for

Northland Police to wear red uniforms, this has been turned down and we will be visible in our blue. There are some interesting policing requirements and one of those is the shut down of the carparks at the completion of the games so that pedestrians can safely leave the grounds. Police have trialled this at our recent ITM games and this has been met with varying degrees of success. The bottom line is that when people park at the grounds, they do so under a condition. They have agreed to this condition and there is an expectation they will abide by it. This is proving somewhat of a challenge.

'Go the All Blacks'.

SUMMARY:

Police are working extremely hard across a large variety of spheres. Our day to day business doesn't stop because we have the World Cup on our doorstep. We do not buckle to organised criminals attempting to infiltrate our community. It is not acceptable for drug dealers to be working within our community. There is a major responsibility upon us all to provide an environment where our kids can grow up to their full potential. I don't think even criminals want their kids to be criminals; we all want something better for them. Hopefully Whangarei can put on a show which focuses on the positive of the area and showcases us to the rest of the country and the world during the World Cup. Our reputation can be truly enhanced or badly tarnished, depending on our response. I'd love the world to know what a great place this is and not be known for criminal offending.

*Paul Dimery
Inspector
Area Commander for Whangarei / Kaipara
August 2011*