

Supplementary Agenda No. 1 Additional to Item 4

4. Police Report

Reporting officer Carolyne Brindle (Senior Meeting Co-ordinator)

Date 17 June 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

JUNE 2011

INTRODUCTION

There is some major focus going on for the preparation for the Rugby World Cup. We are working very closely with our key partners, being the Whangārei District Council, Northland District Health and NZ Fire Service. This is a major opportunity for us to showcase our District as a safe and vibrant community to visit. We will be on show to international visitors and media and I have no doubt that we will perform to the highest degree. This will involve major commitment from all parties to make sure that things go well before, during and after the games. I look forward to working with everyone on this.

STATISTICS:

The Whangārei Patrol Group carried out the following:

184	Arrests made in May compared with 202 in April
713	Notices were issued in May compared to 1118 in April
139	Traffic Offence Notices issued in May compared with 105 in April
838	Bail checks carried out in May compared with 866 in April
22	DNA's taken in May compared with 26 in April
29	EBA's recorded in May compared with 31 in April
28	Burglaries attended in May compared with 23 in April
82	Domestics attended in May compared with 96 in April
33	Motor Vehicle accidents attended in May compared with 22 in April

CRIME TRENDS:

Dwelling burglaries continue to be an issue, particularly around the area bounded by the Regent, Whau Valley, Kamo and Tikipunga. The most sort after items are laptops (43), digital cameras (38), gaming machines (37), televisions (31) and cellphones (25). Residents can ensure they have serial numbers recorded for this type of equipment which is kept separate from the items. In the unlikely but unhappy event that these items are stolen, Police have an avenue of enquiry to locate them.

I have previously mentioned that Receiving, which is buying the stolen items, is one of the biggest factors contributing to dishonesty. If you can't sell something that's stolen, what's the point in stealing it in the first place! If you are offered something so cheap it is too good to be true, in law if you purchase it you are committing an offence. Don't buy stolen goods.

Police are placing a major focus on second-hand dealers to ensure they are complying with all their rules and regulations.

There were 216 burglaries of all types recorded in Northland during May 2011 with 3 of every 4 occurring in a dwelling. 38 of these offences had 50 offenders identified. You will see that it is a small number of offenders committing a large number of offences. Look after your place and

make sure you look after your neighbours. Police are happy to advise on security and neighbourhood support groups.

Ecstasy

There has been an influx of Ecstasy into Whangārei. The “parasites” are preying on our youth. There is a rumour that young females are being supplied with the drug for free. As some of you will be aware Ecstasy is known as the 'love drug'. It reduces inhibitions. You don't have to be a brain surgeon as to the motivation why these young ladies being supplied with this type of drug. As I said it is the “parasites” in our community preying on our youth. It is now time for people to stop acting like ostriches and putting their head in the sand. It is happening and people are aware of it. Our youth want to be heard but they don't want to tell us what's going on. We need some leadership from our community to encourage people to speak up.

We are right in the midst of the mid-winter balls for the High Schools. Alcohol, cannabis, ecstasy and methamphetamine are available to your children. Are you prepared to do anything about it?

Kronic

Kronic is a synthetic form of cannabis. It has all the effects of cannabis and will turn your child into a 'sleepy mess'. It is legal. Is it moral? Is it acceptable? It is available at your local dairy and they are charging \$20 for a bag which surprisingly is the same price as a cannabis 'tinnie'. Your dairies are dealing drugs. Whether they are legal or illegal, they still have the same effect. **Is it time for the community to stand up and do something? Or are you going to sit back and wait for a tragedy? Who is going to lead?**

Alcohol

The latest statistics indicate we are having some issues in our licensed premises. This, on top of the continual home based drinking problem, is causing disorder, assaults and damage in the inner city. Licensees have a responsibility to abide by the conditions of their licence. For some reason they don't like controlled purchase operations. CPO's are designed to ensure licensees are complying with their license, nothing more, nothing less. I have encouraged my staff to work with Council, Fire and Health to conduct more. I am sure I will hear the usual moans and complaints from a small number who for some reason agree to a license when it's being issued but don't want to abide by its conditions.

Alcohol continues to be the main ingredient involved in all offending. Until we grow up as a nation and learn to consume alcohol in a civilised way, we will continue to have these problems. I make no apologies for taking a hard stance on the licensing issues and am always open to discussion on how we can work better together.

Liquor ban – outer suburbs - As reported last month the liquor ban application for Kamo, Onerahi, Otaika, Raumanga and Tikipunga is now completed and presented to the District Council. I understand Mike Henehan is working closely with Sergeant Duckmanton to progress this. I would like to thank him for his invaluable input.

Organised Crime

You may be aware that there have been further arrests involving the Rebels motorcycle gang. Three members are facing serious drugs charges which bring into question their assertions that

they are here for the good of our community. I cannot comment further in relation to this because they are still matters before the court.

As previously mentioned Ecstasy is a problem and it would appear that there are links to organised crime in relation to the distribution of this drug. Any information would be greatly received by me.

Another gang has been the subject of Police search warrants. Firearms and explosives have been located during these searches. The firearms and explosives were intended for illicit purposes and have the potential to bring a new phase into the struggle for supremacy between the gangs and their quest for "turf". Clearly this is a huge concern for Northland Police.

Volunteers

I need to acknowledge some outstanding work carried out by the Police volunteers who work the CCTV camera. On the 4th of June, 3 males were observed on the cameras; they were drinking in the liquor ban area and were acting suspicious. The 3 were located and it was established that they had just broken into 3 vehicles in the John Street carpark. The volunteer located rubbish bins where the offenders had disposed of the stolen items.

On the afternoon of the 10th of June, a person was arrested for Possession of Cannabis for Supply after being observed on the CCTV cameras.

These are just two examples of some outstanding work carried out on a daily basis by the volunteers.

SUMMARY:

If you just read statistics and look at the issues highlighted in the above report, you could be under the mistaken belief that all is doom and gloom. This is far from the truth. Together the Police and the community are having a major impact on our ability to make this a safer city to live in. People are more confident in reporting offences and this makes our ability to investigate these offences far easier. We deal with a very small percentage of criminals in what is largely a law abiding community.

If we all stand up and are counted we will reduce that small amount of offenders within. Get our liquor licensing under control, change the attitude and culture of drinking until you're "pissed", make it clear that it's okay to speak up, make it clear that it's not okay to supply drugs to our youth and have the courage to stand up for your convictions and we have it made! This continues to be a great city adversely affected by a minority. The majority need to stand up and be heard.

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