**Community Safety Meeting**

**7.00pm – 9.00pm Wednesday 25th January 2023**

**@ Ngunguru Sports Complex**

The meeting/hui was organised and facilitated by members of the Community Safety Focus Group\*. It aimed to identify the safety issues currently impacting communities on the Tutukaka Coast, and explore potential actions/responses to these issues. Approximately 50 people attended.

The meeting was opened with karakia (P. Tana), TCR&RA Chair (R. Ford) welcomed and thanked guests and attendees.

Invited guests/representatives from NZ Police (Sgt P. Nicholas), Neighbourhood Support (H. White/A. Correa), Community Patrols (R. Patterson), and local WDC Councillors (S. McKenzie and G. Benney) introduced themselves and their respective services/resources. Apologies were received from representatives from Civil Defence.

There was then time for questions from the floor.

**Key issues discussed:**

* Security/CCTV cameras – Discussion canvassed types of cameras, including registration plate recognition options, and uses, locations and areas that might be considered. Options for privately owned cameras to be linked into NZ Police. Cameras currently in use in Whangaumu Bay, local stores. It was suggested that cameras be used at entry/exit points to the Coast. It was noted that cameras are not too expensive and there are funding options.
* Speed/Boy-racers – Ongoing issues with excessive speed on the Coast were noted. Speed camera placement areas are limited. The upcoming speed review was highlighted as an opportunity for the community to have a say on this issue. New crossings (in Ngunguru) serving to slow traffic in the area. “Boy-racer” activity continues, usually occurring between 2.00am – 4.00pm particularly at weekends. Cameras may be able to assist in identifying the vehicles/drivers involved.
* Theft and other crimes – The recent spate of letter box thefts, vehicle/jet skis and other property thefts were noted. Concern was expressed about the consequences for the perpetuators of these crimes. Local MP E. Henderson (in attendance) was invited to respond to this. She summarised the current Government/agency efforts/programmes addressing crime.

**Group discussion:** Groups were asked to discuss solutions – respond to the questions – What can we do? And What can the community do?

**Group feedback themes**

* **Neighbourhood responses;**
	+ Talk to, connect with, reach out to neighbours**,** share phone numbers, set up a neighbourhood group (Messenger/What’s Ap), Join Neighbourhood Support, Check on empty houses, elderly/vulnerable neighbours, let neighbours know if you are away and when you will return and if you are expecting others at your home while away.
* **Individual responses;**
	+ Report crime/suspicious behaviour to Police, report any damage to community facilities to appropriate Council/property owner, gather any information of offending/suspicious behaviour (safely without endangering self), install security cameras, lock letterboxes, “See something – Say something”,
* **Community responses:**
	+ Options for protecting isolated areas/reserves e.g. Tongatu Rd, Matapouri Reserve – bollards, cameras, patrols etc. Support businesses and services e.g. local stores, Medical Centre. Join Focus Group/sub groups to progress action.
* **Agency/service responses:**
	+ Enforce bylaws, Slow traffic – speed bumps,

**Follow-up Action:**

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| **Response** | **Who will do what?** |
| Cameras | Community member (C. McAulay) offered to investigate options and report back to Focus GroupOffers received to assist with Funding (Lions Club, local business owner. |
| Community Connectivity | Focus Group to share resources, links from Neighbourhood Support/Police/Community Patrols |
| Other follow-up action – co-ordination | Focus Group/Tutukaka Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association* Share notes from the meeting to attendees and interested others
* Share tips and information regularly – local FB pages etc.
* Work with potential funders/support fund-raising.
* Organise/facilitate further meetings/planning as needed.
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\*In 2021 the Tutukaka Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association (TCR&RA) completed a comprehensive community research project to explore the values, concerns and ideas for improvement. TCR&RA established a number of Community Focus Groups to respond to the research findings and co-ordinate community-led action. The Community Safety Focus Group is one of three established at this stage – the others are Road Safety and Environment.