



Community Safety, Young People and the Bondi Junction Town Centre

Meeting Workshop Report

Prepared by Elton Consulting
Meeting held Tuesday 21st October 2003, 7:30 am
Waverley Library Theatre

Introduction

A business breakfast was held by Waverley Council's Bondi Junction Office to stimulate increased understanding, promote collaboration and inform future planning regarding the issue of community safety, young people and the Bondi Junction Town Centre. The meeting was linked to the work of the Community Safety Plan, Youth and Shopping Centre Protocol, and community engagement process for the development of the Bondi Junction Strategic Plan.

Key stakeholders attended the meeting including representatives from Waverley Council, the Bondi Junction business community, NSW Police, resident committees and young people. Following an introduction by Cr George Newhouse and brief 'perspectives' presentations from key speakers, a discussion workshop was held. The workshop aimed to identify key issues concerning community safety and young people in the Bondi Junction Town Centre, and to outline possible strategies to address these issues. This report details the outcomes of the discussion workshop, facilitated by Elton Consulting.

Following the workshop, arrangements for a youth and safety sub-committee were made by Cr Newhouse. Cr Newhouse thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.

Key Themes

The discussion workshop yielded a broad range of issues regarding community safety, young people and the Bondi Junction Town Centre. Key themes include consistency between agencies regarding behaviour and expectations, communication barriers, young people in the context of the broader community, crime, safety and behavioural issues, and recreational opportunities for young people. Of these, the themes of crime, safety and behaviour raised the broadest range of issues in the Bondi Junction Town Centre, particularly in the context of the forthcoming opening of the Westfield shopping centre and cinemas.

Discussions focussed on suggested strategies to deal with the identified issues. Key strategies include: adoption of the Youth and Shopping Centre Protocol; Communication and co-ordination between all stakeholders to develop consistency in expectations, policies and treatment of non-compliance; working closely with schools; establishment of an information centre or facility in the mall or interchange; development of appropriate recreational facilities.



Summary of Workshop Outcomes

Consistency Issues

- Access to / lack of information / lack of understanding about:
 - Roles, responsibilities
 - Shared expectations (e.g. security guards, young people)
- Conflict with security guards / police
- Lack of consistency across all agencies
 - Council / rangers
 - shopping centre management
 - WAYS / youth bodies
 - police

Strategies to address consistency issues:

- Consultation / engagement with young people (e.g. develop shared rules, "youth rules")
- Adoption of Youth and Shopping Centre Protocol
- Improve consistency across all agencies
 - including Council, police, shopping centre management
 - equal treatment in shopping centres, by police / security guards
 - agreed standards of behaviour / rules
- Work with schools: inform young people of roles / responsibilities
- Police and security guard acceptance / friendliness / attitude

Communication Issues

- Perception of young people in Bondi Junction
- Communication / social barriers (e.g. language, stigmas)
- Lack of central focal point / information centre for young people
- Communication between local initiatives and government agencies

Strategies to address communication issues

- Adoption of Youth and Shopping Centre Protocol
- Work with schools
 - shared sporting facilities / activities
 - information / communication to young people (e.g. protocol)
 - teachers to monitor behaviour at interchange
- Regular and ongoing liaison with police
- Improved communication
 - between agencies and young people
 - 'clean lines' of communication
- Information centre
 - e.g. Oxford St Mall, bus / rail interchange
 - employing young people, involving business community



- Consultation / engagement with young people
 - develop shared rules, expectations, roles and responsibilities
 - identify issues from the perspective of young people

Community Issues

- Young people feel excluded / isolated from the broader community
- Perception of young people among Bondi Junction community
- Communication / social barriers (e.g. language, stigmas)
- Communication with business

Strategies to address community issues

- Role models (e.g. "angels")
 - improving self-respect / esteem -> respect for others
- Bring community together / promote common activities ('generational links')
 - cultural events (e.g. festivals, art etc)
 - promote 'ownership' of common areas
- Shopfront drop-in centre / focal point for young people (involve young people and businesses)
- Explore models of youth management (e.g. Newtown)
- Encourage youth participation in future initiatives / consultation

Crime / Behaviour / Safety Issues

- Boredom / nothing to do for young people, leads to grouping / "hanging out"
- Hot Spots (e.g. pubs, transport drop-off points, food courts, shopping centres)
- Interchange
 - volume of young people commuting
 - behaviour monitoring
 - congregation area
- Graffiti / vandalism
- Disruptive behaviour (e.g. mall businesses)
- Truancy
- Pubs / night-life
 - noise
 - security
- People coming from outside Bondi Junction with inappropriate attitude / behaviour / intentions
- Youth-youth crimes
- Lighting / danger areas at night
- Westfield development
 - drawing more young people
 - increasing night-time safety issues
- Safety and security of older people



Strategies to address crime / behaviour / safety issues

- Adoption of Youth and Shopping Centre Protocol
- Adoption of Community Safety Plan
- Graffiti facilities / legal public space for artistic expression
- Increased police presence
- Security guard presence: night time focus
- Encourage reporting of crimes (especially youth-on-youth)
- Encourage passive surveillance; 'ownership' of areas
- Explore models of crime prevention (e.g. Chatswood, Fox Studios)
- Lighting in public spaces at night
- Review of alcohol restriction policies in Bondi Junction

Recreation Issues

- Boredom / nothing to do for young people, leads to grouping / "hanging out"
- Skating
 - lack of facilities
 - safety in public spaces
 - public property damage / noise / fears
- Lack of other facilities (e.g. basketball, video arcade)

Strategies to address recreation issues

- Skating
 - facility (possible sponsorship)
 - policy / agreed public areas for use / non-use
- Other recreational facilities
 - basketball courts
 - well-managed video arcade
- Explore models of youth management (e.g. Newtown)

Community Safety & Young Peoples Committee - Working Party Members

- Business
 - Tim Roberts - Centre Manager Westfield
 - Louis Esposito - Centre Manager Eastgate Shopping Centre
 - Debra Dawson - Bondi Junction Manager
 - Rob Riddle - Easts Leagues Club
 - Omri Zelunzuk - Meriton
 - Stephen Lucas - Bondi and Districts Chamber of Commerce
- Enforcement
 - Chris Dent - Waverley Council Ranger
 - Carlos Da Rocha - Waverley Council Ranger
 - Jane Heffernan - Waverley Police
 - Craig Izzard - Security Management Westfield



- Young People
Marisa Ingleton- WAYS
Petera Hona - WAYS
Christine Long - WAYS
Yulik Gershinshy - WAYS
Pippa Lausen - Youth Worker Woollahra Council
John Gilbert - Community and Youth Waverley Council
- Community
Eric Gyors - Bondi Junction Precinct Committee

