

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS PLAN 2022-2027

Engagement Report

By: Heather Kostiw-McFarlane, Community Development Officer – Safer Neighbourhoods

Overview

The Safer Neighbourhoods Plan (SNP) guides the Town of Victoria Park in addressing crime and safety challenges impacting our community. From extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the review of the Town’s current Community Strategic Plan, community safety and crime prevention were identified as top priorities.

The existing Safer Neighbourhoods Plan 2017-2022 (SNP) concluded in June 2022 and a new plan is now being developed for 2022-2027. The outgoing SNP has three objectives, which were based on the results of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken in 2016:

- Identify crime priorities of the area
- Reduce the impact of real and perceived crime in the Town
- Measure and record actions the Town undertakes to address crime priority areas

This report provides a snapshot of the consultation process undertaken to inform development of the SNP 2022-2027, what we have learned, who contributed, proposed approaches, and focus outcome areas.

Consultation process

The first phase of engagement occurred from February to June 2022, seeking feedback from community and key stakeholders on the following themes:

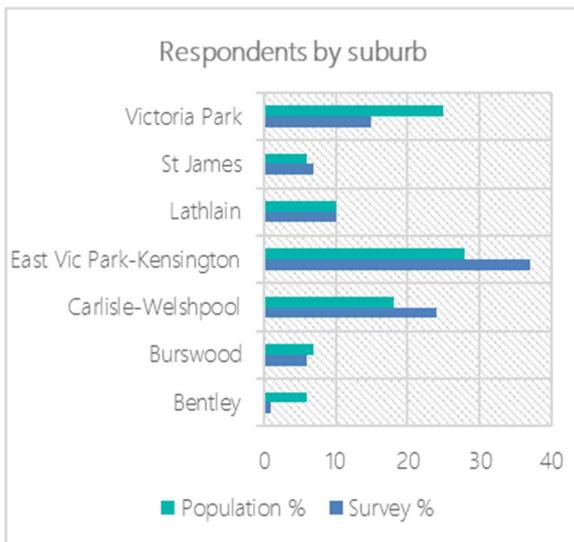
- An individual’s feeling of safety in the Town and the nature of safety issues
- What the Town (and partners) can do to improve safety and reduce crime
- What the community can do themselves to improve safety and reduce crime
- Locations and places where crime and safety are a concern
- Priority areas to focus the new SNP

Approach	
	Direct mail-out community survey to residents (300 responses)
	Online community survey (632 responses)
	Online brainstorming tool (17 ideas)
	Online geographic tool (59 pins)
	Phone or email feedback
	Internal staff workshop
	WAPOL engagement
	Elected Member workshop

What we learned

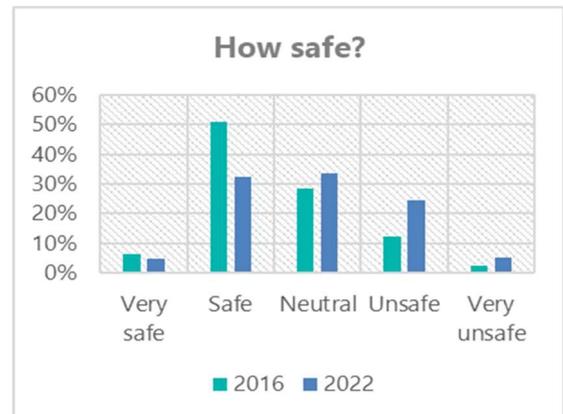
Survey participant demographics

- Suburb – 61% of respondents live in East Victoria Park and Carlisle. While making up 46% of the Town’s population, this may suggest a higher level of interest in this topic within these localities. Victoria Park and Bentley had significantly lower response rates than expected, whereas engagement from St James, Lathlain and Burswood were proportionately represented
- Age range – People 35 and older were more likely to engage with the survey. The proportion of responses based on age is not representative of the population
- Gender and relationship to the Town – Females responded twice as much as males, making up 2/3 of responses. Almost all were residents in the Town, and 5% were workers in the area



Survey key findings (see Appendix 1 for survey questions)

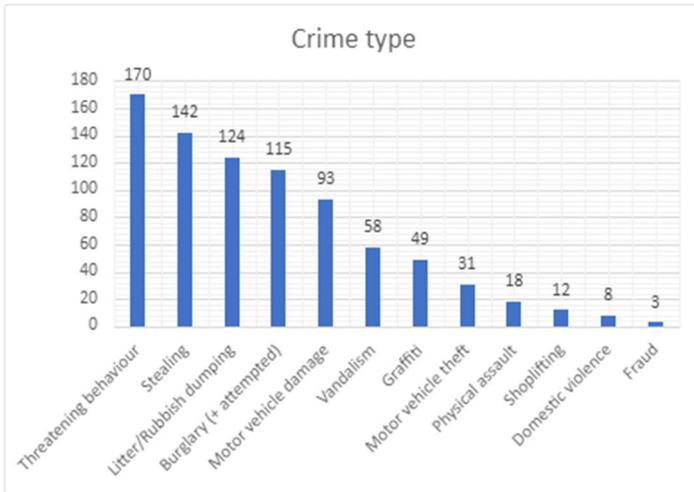
- Compared with 2016, 20% less people feel safe in the Town of Victoria Park
- People want more & brighter lighting for streets, laneways, and parks
- Residents would like initiatives that support vulnerable residents (especially seniors)
- People would like the Town Rangers and Police to be seen, as it is what makes them feel safe. Regular patrols, day and night, was a common request
- Speeding and road rage is a major issue. Residents want speed calming mechanisms installed, particularly in the streets near car yards and schools



Where do people feel unsafe?



Most reported crimes in the survey



Other engagement results

Internal staff workshop

-  Lighting upgrades, road and streetscape improvements, and CPTED opportunities in public spaces
-  Expand community outreach, cocooning projects to be combined and expanded, and share more hotspot statistics internally
-  Recommend that Street Meet n Greet continue, Success Series Training to continue, and support victims of FDV
-  Community outreach, and work with other stakeholders to improve safety and security in public areas
-  Annual impact information regarding SNP delivery

Community brainstorm and mapping tools

	Pedestrian crossings		Lighting
	Speed control mechanisms		Activating parks
	Security patrols		Reducing antisocial behaviour

Kensington Police priorities and goals

	Enforce the law		Share hotspot data
	Prevent crime		Engage with the public
	Manage & coordinate emergencies		Work together

Elected Member feedback

	CPTED		Lighting
	Community connections		Partnerships
	Funding programs		Outreach and support

Key outcome areas

Five key outcome areas have been established using this feedback, to achieve Safer Neighbourhoods in the Town of Victoria Park.



Infrastructure and environmental design

Improving lighting was the most requested action by the community, followed by improving roads and pedestrian safety. The Town aims to design public spaces to be safer, brighter, livelier, and more accessible.



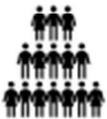
Security and regulatory initiatives

Through funding and education programs, the Town aims to empower residents, businesses, and community groups to contribute to reducing crime. We will continue to provide visible Ranger Services that focus on community safety concerns.



Community connection and social cohesion

The Town aims to build capacity and connections within our community, and in doing so, support vulnerable and at-risk groups. We will engage in and collaborate with other organisations to provide early intervention, outreach, support, and rehabilitation services.



Advocacy and partnering

Sharing information and working together was identified as key in addressing the Safer Neighbourhoods priorities. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, so the Town will collaborate with Local, State, and Federal agencies, and also encourage community members to report crime and safety issues.



Governance and impact

Monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of our programs and initiatives is vital in ensuring that we are making a positive difference in the community, and that we are focused on current crime and safety priorities.

Next steps

Date	Description
July 2022	Prepare draft Safer Neighbourhoods Plan for review at the July OCM
August 2022	External stakeholder workshop
August 2022	Open the draft SNP for the second round of public feedback
September- October 2022	Develop the final SNP and send to Council for endorsement at the 18 October OCM
October 2022	Inform community and stakeholders that the SNP has been adopted and how it will be implemented



Appendix

2022 Safer Neighbourhoods Community Survey

Section A: Demographic details

My suburb

<input type="checkbox"/> Burswood	<input type="checkbox"/> Bentley	<input type="checkbox"/> Victoria Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify
<input type="checkbox"/> East Victoria Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Carlisle	<input type="checkbox"/> Kensington	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lathlain	<input type="checkbox"/> St James	<input type="checkbox"/> Welshpool	

My age

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-49
<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	<input type="checkbox"/> 70-84	<input type="checkbox"/> 85+

My gender

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary	<input type="checkbox"/> Rather not say
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I am a... (resident, worker, business owner, frequent visitor)

<input type="checkbox"/> Resident in the Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Worker in the Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Business owner	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequent visitor to the Town
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Section B: Neighbourhood safety

How safe do you feel in the Town of Victoria Park?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Safe	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsafe
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In the last 12 months, have you felt unsafe in the Town?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details below	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Describe CAUSES of the neighbourhood safety issues you have identified

In the last 12 months, have you been a victim of crime in the Town?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, what best describes the incident below	<input type="checkbox"/> No																
<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> motor vehicle theft</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> stealing</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> burglary</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> motor vehicle damage</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> physical assault</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> fraud</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> graffiti</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> threatening behaviour</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> vandalism</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> shoplifting</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> litter/rubbish dumping</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> motor vehicle theft	<input type="checkbox"/> stealing	<input type="checkbox"/> burglary	<input type="checkbox"/> motor vehicle damage	<input type="checkbox"/> physical assault	<input type="checkbox"/> fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> graffiti	<input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/> threatening behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/> vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> shoplifting	<input type="checkbox"/> litter/rubbish dumping	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)																	

Did you report the incident to Police?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> If no, what is your main reason for not reporting the incident to Police?
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Are there any public places in the Town where you have felt unsafe in the last 12 months?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details below	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Section C: Community connections

Do you know local neighbours in your street?

Yes No

Do you have a suggestion on how your street can be improved for better safety?

Yes, please provide details below No

Please indicate the types of activities you would like the Town to support the community with to improve neighbourhood safety

<input type="checkbox"/> Join Neighbourhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilise police programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Install home security	<input type="checkbox"/> Support vulnerable residents (i.e. seniors)
<input type="checkbox"/> Report crime to police	<input type="checkbox"/> Educate others on neighbourhood safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Report all graffiti vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Report broken street lighting to Western Power
<input type="checkbox"/> Support victims of crime	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend neighbourhood safety workshops and presentations	

Section D: Safer Neighbourhoods

What is your preferred method that the Town uses to improve neighbourhood safety? Pick one only

Supporting resident and community groups

Working with other Government agencies

Improving infrastructure and environmental design

Implementing security and regulatory initiatives

Supporting at-risk youth and repeat offenders

Other (please specify):

Do you have any other comments about safer neighbourhoods in the Town of Victoria Park?

