

Minutes

Meeting of the SWMPF Working Group on Davis Park

9.30am – 11.30am, Friday 30 October 2015

Davis Park, Beaconsfield

Chair: Colin Alston (Disability Services Commission)

Participants: Alison Lawrie (Fremantle Multicultural Centre); Stephen Loo (Department for Child Protection and Family Support); Mike Pffor (City of Fremantle); Louise Shilson & Vicky Piromalli (Department of Housing); Julie Mitchell (SMYL); Karen Chalcraft (UCW); Margaret McKenzie (DP resident) Lois (DP resident), Joseph (DP resident), Vera (DP resident), Chor (DP resident), Judith (DP resident)

Apologies: David Pigram (South Metropolitan Population Health Unit); Shirley Tuunstall-Ashley (DP resident); Bianca Gabrielson (DP resident); Gareth Griffiths (South Metropolitan Community Alcohol and Drug Service, Fremantle); Sgt Brad Cooper (WA Police)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Colin welcomed all, outlined the reason for meeting in the park and the proposed structure of the meeting- to seek feedback from residents and provide opportunity to raise issues with Louise Shilson, Acting Regional Manager, Department of Housing.

2. Feedback from residents on the project

All residents noted the improvements in the park and general environment.

Recreational activities have been very popular and the engagement of the children has stopped a lot of negative behaviours. Saturday morning activities would be an option to look at in the future.

There was some discussion about the need for a community centre in Davis Park.

3. Questions to A/Regional Manager, Department of Housing

Current housing tenancy rates?

Louise advised that most properties are usually turned over in 2 weeks unless there has been significant damage or significant maintenance required, but on the whole there is a fairly quick turnaround.

Preferred tenants?

The DoH has a wait list and places tenants accordingly, unless there has been a history of inappropriate behaviour. Tenants are given the opportunity to improve/provide evidence of change and will be given a second chance, but a number of conditions may be imposed. DoH is not able to choose or request a rental reference.

Any capacity to select from diversity of cultures to ensure a neighbourhood support network, particularly for new migrants?

The DoH cannot discriminate. It is required to give everyone the opportunity to prove they can be a successful tenant. Placement is solely dependent of the wait list.

What can residents do when a tenancy is causing concern?

Residents should report issues as they occur. This should ideally include recording the time, date and a description of what happened.

Residents are also encouraged to support each other in such situations.

Bulk rubbish disposal

The disposal of large items is an issue of concern to residents. Few people have access to a trailer or vehicle to move items to the Council collection centre. Items left on the street are smashed up by children and represent a significant cost for the City of Fremantle and the Department of Housing.

Louise acknowledged that the disposal of large items is an issue and that the verge collections does not always meet need. Provided a tenant has a plan to dispose of large items, and these items are out of public view and not attracting rodents or other pests, the Department of Housing will not impose any penalties.

Mike advised that verge pickups usually occur in January and September. This year, however, the dates have changed. The dates are November 16 or 12/13 December at the Knutsford St depot. The schedule was distributed inside the local community newspaper. Residents felt that many would have recycled the paper without seeing the calendar. Mike agreed that a separate mail box delivery would be a better option.

Margaret noted the improved aspect of the area and thanked Vicki (Department of Housing) for her efforts.

Alison noted the number of single parent households, people with disabilities, aged residents and low-income families in Davis Park and queried how similar locations handled bulk disposal. This led to some discussion about hiring additional skip bins and neighbours hiring skip bins as a collective and additional collections.

4. City of Fremantle issues

Mike was asked to arrange for a reflective strip to be placed on the step near the picnic table.

Mike advised residents that he would be conducting a survey once the laneway lights are installed (scheduled for the end of the year).

Feedback on the whole was good. Bianca noted the lack of graffiti on the park and the courts, shows pride and ownership and the kids are keen to show visitors.

5. Close and thanks

Colin closed the meeting at 11.30 and thanked all attending for their rich and valued contributions.