

## Police Community Meeting – July 8, 2024

Pottsville Community Hall

Guest Speakers – Geoff Provest (MP)  
Dave Roptell  
Matt Woods

Present - 32 as per attendance record

Meeting Chaired – Wendy Pluckrose (President, Pottsville Community Association)

Meeting opened at 6.40 pm

### **Wendy Puckrose opened the meeting**

Good evening everyone thank you for your attendance tonight. I am Wendy Pluckrose President of your Pottsville Community Association and appreciate you sparing your time to be here. Thank you to the committee members for also being here tonight.

Notes from this evening's meeting will be taken and if you want a copy please leave your details at the door. Please allow at least 7 days. For the PCA's record there is an attendance register if you could please write your name, contact number or email address. These details will be kept confidential of course.

Welcome and thank you to Geoff Provest, local MP for being here tonight. Welcome also to Dave Roptell Commander at Tweed Heads and Inspector Matt Woods Officer in Charge at Kingscliff for being here tonight to discuss the issues occurring in Pottsville recently and any updates.

This meeting is a follow-up from April's community meeting where the main issues of E-bikes and E-scooters were discussed as well as police presence in our community.

Community meetings have been successful in the past and may continue regularly as our police are here to support our community and we should

support them in return by reporting ALL incidents. I have said this before and will keep repeating it, report all incidents to the police.

Facebook posts may raise community awareness to people who use it but that's where it stops as incidents need to be reported to police for action. Dave and Matt may inform you also that while these issues are minor compared to serious incidents, education is key and we need to realise the police have to better utilise their resources.

I extend an invitation to you all to attend our Pottsville Community Association monthly meetings that are held on the last Tuesday of the month at St Marks Church at 6.30pm or become a member and receive the meeting minutes. We have a Facebook page and Instagram account with regular updates.

Now I would like to handover to Mr Geoff Provest, to have a few words and I ask you to be respectful please.

Now I would like to hand over to Dave Roptell and Matt Woods and ask you once again to be respectful please. Time permitting, we will have any questions at the end.

Most frequently posted topics for your information -

1. Reporting - importance for statistics in increased recruiting for Tweed Shire - update
2. EScooters/EBikes – legality and dangers for drivers and youth in Pottsville / Tweed Shire
3. Regular patrols in Pottsville and surrounds – an update

### **Geoff Provest**

Warned people to be careful of social media and only believe information from the official police websites. He reiterated the importance of phoning the police for all incidents as these statistics make up the decisions on policing numbers, patrol numbers, basically everything that requires a decision to be made.

Policing Numbers boils down to population versus crime rates. If the incidents aren't reported to the police, then the crime rates are very low,

hence when a decision needs to be made on funding/policing etc. the higher crime rate areas will be funded/looked at first.

The community needs to work together with the police to help them do their job.

Youth Crime seems to be the main issue, and this is across the Tweed Shire and more youth programs are being trialled and implemented.

### **David Roptell and Matt Woods spoke**

From April 1 to date – 38 incidents have been reported (28 crime related), which by their standards these figures are very low.

Reiterated the need to call in the incidents and that funding is based on population verses crime rates. They can't act on problems if they aren't notified.

The Police are actively trying to recruit from locals to keep the young police officers in the area, to boost their ranks locally.

Confirmed that as far as they were aware there will not be a police station at Pottsville.

Deemed by the government that the community is better served by having as many police out and about that in an office.

EScooters and EBikes – a huge problem in the Tweed as they are legal in Qld but not in NSW. EBikes have a speed limiter in NSW, but they cross the border to Qld to have these removed to enable them to go faster than permitted.

Discussion on the riders speeding, riding on footpaths, not wearing helmets.

School visits have commenced talking about road and bike safety, one punch and anti violent behaviour

The Highway Patrol will be doing more patrols to check on E-bikes and E—scooters.

If these riders are seen this is a crime and needs to be reported also. It is OK to photograph them as it will be in a public place and a crime is being committed.

Police has been working on shop lifting and anti social behaviour on the Tweed buses with great success.

Police working with Kinetic Bus Company to get local graffiti artists to do up artwork to have some of the Tweed buses wrapped. Hopefully this will be a deterrent for them not to tag them.

Graffiti is a problem and it is a reportable offence. Needs to be removed ASAP and more likely not to be re tagged. Police have a zero tolerance for graffiti and first offenders will be charged – no warnings.

Take a photo of the graffiti and its location and report to Tweed Shire Council and they will get someone out to clean it up. If it is on council property. Tweed Shire Council has Graffiti Removal Kits available for residents to clean up themselves.

Will also be conducting a blitz in Pottsville area concentrating on E-bikes, E-scooters, not wearing helmets and speeding. Bikes can be taken off riders and parents will be spoken to regarding the incidents. Suggested on a Friday and Saturday.

Reporting of rocks being thrown at cars and buses at the Hastings Point bridge. Five incidents have been reported.

Phone extortion is rife at the moment and these need to be reported.

Number plate theft is also increasing. Anti theft screws are available through the Police and they can do a community day where the screws can be changed over for the public.

Police suggested another community meeting in three months time.

Meeting closed: 7.45 pm