

Date: Thursday 21 September 2017
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Upper Harbour Local Board Office
Venue: 30 Kell Drive
Albany

Upper Harbour Local Board OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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| 9.1 | Inspector Fata Willi Fanene - Hire of council-owned community facilities | |
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Approximately 18 months ago, Auckland Council moved to an electronic booking system of all community halls.

The previous booking system was more comprehensive and required interaction either by phone or in person.

The new online version is simplified to minimal tick boxes that provides no specifics of the use of the hall or the event and requires no form of ID conformation.

As part of Council Policy with respect to the hiring of the Halls, Council decided that BYO can now be had at all community halls.

In August 2016 Community Halls started coming to Police attention due to an increased number of BYO parties getting out of control that were being held in the Halls in Waitakere.

They were causing numerous calls for service reported from residents in the area having intoxicated persons fighting at the hall or on nearby streets.

Police were getting called to disorder jobs involving large amounts of intoxicated persons that took up valuable time and resources.

While gathering information on these events it was noted that the groups appeared to be either 16th birthday parties or members of the community having a social.

The main issue was that these were BYO parties that had no responsible host. There were no plans in place relating to safe drinking, no form of security and large amounts of underage drinking to excess.

Secondary issues this caused were fighting, assaults, underage intoxication, drink driving, domestics, theft ex cars, disorder etc which led to some arrests.

Hire is supposed to be finished at midnight for all halls. With some groups specifically, issues were had with them not finishing until Police came and closed them down due to calls for service. This would range in time from midnight to 0400hrs.

The 16th birthday parties are of a concern as there is always limited adults, large amounts of high percentage alcohol and no organised transport. The level of intoxication of these young people is very concerning and potentially is going to lead to a serious incident.

Sunderland Lounge is being used in this way by a number of community groups:

22.10.16

Police were called to disorder/intoxicated persons

4 different calls to Police were made between 0300hrs -0500hrs on 23/10/16 as an intoxicated female was yelling and screaming in the streets

Police located a party at the hall with over 100 persons present.

Police attended around 4am and the hall was still in use.

Police were called to the hall again for disorder and intoxication on 28/10/16 where over 100 people were still drinking and dancing in the hall. Music was playing, disco lights going and numerous cars arriving.

The car park was full with people standing outside drinking, empty alcohol bottles everywhere.

Inside was approximately 130 persons who paid \$10 to enter the premise.

There was still a que at the door to get in. They all had boxes of beer, multiple bottles of wine.
There was no ID checks for age and no security.
The hall was not opened until 1045pm.

4.11.16

At approximately 11pm the DJ was on along with the disco lights and vehicles had started to arrive.
There was drinking in the carpark and over the last hour there had been vehicles racing up and down the road to the wharf.
Another officer was in the area at 1am and the music was still coming from the hall with the disco lights. There were still a large amount of vehicles arriving.
At approximately 3am disorder jobs started getting called in to Police as fighting had broken out in the area.

27.01.17

A 16th birthday party.

Police turned up to the event at approximately 2200hrs to find approximately 150 persons at the hall.
They were ranging in age from 14-17yrs and they were all drinking alcohol.

There was 1 adult male who stated he was holding a 16th birthday party for his son.

There were 2 males on the door as security but no COA was displayed. As all the doors in the premises were open, persons were entering and exiting from any door and not going through security.

There were no cups or glasses for to drink out of and all party goers were drinking straight from wine bottles or sitting/standing with a box of RTDs or bottles of wine. No food was seen.

Police spoke to the male in charge who had also been drinking.

21.04.17

- Police were called at approx. 2315hrs to a 16th Birthday party
- Observed 80-100 youths in various states of intoxication in and around the hall
- The PSU had to form a skirmish line to deal with the number of youths present who were causing issues.
- Sgt Corby went inside to find out what was happening and was informed it was a 16th birthday party. The mother of the 16 year old had gone home and left a 21 year old cousin in charge. No other adults were present.
- There was no security working that night on the door.
- A mother was present who had been called to get her daughter who was being treated by St Johns and had gone into an alcohol induced diabetic coma.
- The Police skirmish line pushed the youths back up the street and they began to disperse through the residential area causing issues for residents, climbing over construction sites, urinating all over the place. Then large groups doubled back to the hall and caused further issues for Police.
- There were 6 calls for service for Police attendance from residents.
- One male was collapsed on the floor – intoxicated and distraught from his friends death last week.
- The partygoers all still had alcohol with/on them when they left as they took their own to the party. (16 – 20year olds).

- The hall was supposed to be finished and locked up by 0000hrs. Police were still trying to close the party at 0020hrs.

This is an on-going issue and is a major concern for Police in terms of resourcing and also staff safety:

- The BYO functions do not require a special licence so there is no control around accountability and alcohol consumption of those attending
- However once the function is over people who are at various levels of intoxication leave the halls & continue to consume alcohol in a public place where a liquor ban is in place and then proceeding to drive home
- The discussion identified that the issues have arisen due to Council allowing BYO at their halls and the new flawed on-line booking system.
- However, the sticking point for Police is that BYO does not require a licence and therefore, without a licence there is no control around accountability and alcohol consumption of those attending.

These issues can be controlled by banning BYO and requiring those members of the public who wish to consume alcohol in Community Halls to apply for a special licence.

However, we have commenced our discussions with council using the graduated response model.

To date several meetings have been held with Council. We are working together on a plan to prevent the sorts of behaviour that serious concern, as well as the issues with the on-line booking system around hiring out of the halls and checks that are put in place. We are making good progress.