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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, May 19 2006

Police and licensee talks encouraged

Ballarat Police and the city's central business district licensees have been urged to continue their talks about the nightclub lock-out curfew.

Chairman of the Committee for Ballarat's newly-formed Policing and Crime Task Group Stephen Elder said any discussions with the potential to lead to greater safety for Ballarat citizens were to be encouraged.

“The original initiative of the police, the City of Ballarat and licensees to introduce the curfew in a bid to stem late night assaults in the CBD was positive. We urge all parties to continue to constructively look at ways it can be made even more effective,” Mr Elder said.

Mr Elder said the Committee's task group had concerns that there were too few police available on the streets of Ballarat at night and an increase in those numbers was also critical to improving the safety for citizens.

It would make a definitive statement on the issue in coming weeks.

“We will all have our own ideas and approaches and it is important that the thoughts of all affected are taken into account to find the most effective solutions,” he said.

“The reality is that citizens are entitled to feel safe walking the streets at whatever time of day and night and it is important that the whole community has input into how that feeling of safety can be achieved.

“The issue of adequate policing numbers for Ballarat should not be forgotten in the context of these considerations and it is at the top of our agenda.

``However, it is pleasing to note that the police and the licensees are continuing their dialogue on the important issue of the mid-city curfew.''

Enquiries: Mr Stephen Elder

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