



Speech by

CARRYN SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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BEACHMERE POLICE BEAT

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (11.14 p.m.): The seaside township of Beachmere in my electorate has over 1,000 houses and is over 20 minutes from the nearest police station in Caboolture. I was approached towards the end of 2001 by the Beachmere Neighbourhood Watch to see if there was any possibility of getting a more regular police presence in the area. As this government had recently approved a police beat for west Caboolture, I suggested one for Beachmere. Everyone was keen on the idea of a permanent police presence in the township, so we began lobbying. I drafted a petition with the help of Norm Shoveller and Jim Thomson and they, along with other Neighbourhood Watch members, offered to walk the streets of Beachmere to get as many signatures as possible. The people of Beachmere came together and 1,540 signatures were gathered.

The petition was tabled in parliament last year and when the Police budget was announced we were granted a police beat. Beachmere residents are grateful and they got behind the push to help find a suitable location as soon as possible. There are not a lot of rental homes in Beachmere. However, late last year a low-set brick home became available on the corner of Intrepid Drive and Gretal Street. It was up to District Inspector Ken Benjamin to find the right police officer for Beachmere. He told me that you had to have a special kind of policeman to want to live and work in the same community and he knew a few who would suit the role. I must commend him for his choice. Even before I was introduced to Senior Constable Kevin Scrimshaw, I knew that he was dedicated. The principal of the Beachmere Primary School, Mr Peter Keim, confided in me that Kevin had already been to the school to talk to him about youth strategies, and Kevin's position had not even been gazetted as yet!

Kevin cannot wait to start his new job. He will begin on 27 February and the Beachmere Neighbourhood Watch is planning to help me introduce him to the community at its AGM in March. The Hon. Tony McGrady will be in attendance. I take this opportunity to formally welcome Kevin to Beachmere and sincerely thank all those who made it possible for Beachmere to finally have a policeman it can honestly call its own. I must make special mention of Martin Bradshaw from the Police Minister's office who kept me informed all through the lobbying process. I am hoping that Inspector Russell Janke from Caboolture and Inspector Ken Benjamin will also join us for what I can only describe as a celebration for Beachmere.

The Neighbourhood Watch and I are about to doorknock local businesses in the hope that they will place signage in their shop windows to alert passers-by that there is a permanent police beat in the area. We are hoping that this will be a deterrent to some and help the officer in his work. Good luck, Senior Constable Kevin Scrimshaw. I look forward to building a good working relationship with you for the benefit of the Beachmere community.