



Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries)

21 February 2007

22 February 2007

Report of

Director of Community Services

Title

Oak Farm Play Area, Binley

Ward

Wyken

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report back to Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and the Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) regarding the monitoring and actions taken to address residents' concerns about anti-social behaviour at the newly constructed play area on the Oak Farm Estate. This follows a report to Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) outlining the issues on 13 July 2006.

2 Recommendations

Request that:

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee note the actions taken over the past six months and in the light of their outcomes, reaffirm their decision to support the Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) in his decision not to remove the play area at Oak Farm Estate, taken at the meeting on 27 September 2006.
- 2.2 Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) note the actions taken over the past six months, together with the comments from the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, and in the light of these, to reaffirm the decision not to remove the play area at Oak Farm Estate, taken at the meeting on 13 July 2006.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The report of 13 July 2006 followed receipt of a petition with 302 signatories from residents requesting the Council to remove the newly constructed play area as they considered it had led to an increase in anti social incidents on the Estate. The request to remove the play area was not approved, but the Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) requested that activity at the play area should be monitored over the following six months and the outcome reported back formally.
- 3.2 During the last six months there have been no formal complaints from residents living in the vicinity of the play area either through the City Council's Speak Up system or through the Neighbourhood South office.

- 3.3 Staff from the Youth Offending Service have visited the site during out of school periods and have reported no issues relating to anti-social behaviour or any signs of alcohol abuse. In fact, it was reported on a number of occasions, that the play area and cricket wicket were being used positively by young people.
- 3.4 More significantly there have been no complaints made directly to the Police Service and their patrols have not had to deal with any crime or anti-social behaviour incidents at the play area.
- 3.5 City Services have responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the play area and they have reported no serious instances of graffiti, littering or vandalism.
- 3.6 Budget prices for the provision of a CCTV camera to be located close to the play area were obtained. These costs amounted to £32,000 for installation, with ongoing costs of £2,000 per annum for monitoring and BT rental charges.

4 Proposal and Other Options to be Considered

- 4.1 The monitoring of this site has not supported the residents' view that anti-social behaviour incidents are centred on the play area site. Any instances of anti-social or crime related behaviour that may once have taken place are no longer evident.
- 4.2 City Services will be requested to monitor the play area during routine maintenance operations and report any incidents of excessive litter, graffiti or vandalism to the Parks Service for action.
- 4.3 Our Rangers will continue to monitor the site on a low frequency basis and act on any incidents either observed or reported in an appropriate way.
- 4.4 The installation of a CCTV camera is not deemed necessary at this time

5 Other specific implications

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Best Value		
Children and Young People		
Comparable Benchmark Data		
Corporate Parenting		
Coventry Community Plan		
Crime and Disorder		
Equal Opportunities		
Finance		
Health and Safety		
Human Resources		
Human Rights Act		
Impact on Partner Organisations		
Information and Communications Technology		
Legal Implications		
Neighbourhood Management		
Property Implications		

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Race Equality Scheme		
Risk Management		
Sustainable Development		
Trade Union Consultation		
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		

5.1 Children and Young People

Visits to the play area by Youth Offending Services staff have reported positive use of the facilities by children and young people.

5.2 Crime and Disorder

The continued monitoring of the play area will help in highlighting any anti-social or crime related activity in the future.

5.3 Neighbourhood Management

There have been no complaints registered through Neighbourhood Management South office in the last 6 months or through the Police during the same period concerning anti-social behaviour, alcohol abuse or crime related activity.

5.4 Risk Management

Estimates for CCTV provision were £32,000 with ongoing BT charges of £2,000 per annum.

6 Monitoring

6.1 City Services will be requested to monitor the play area through routine maintenance operations and report any instances of excessive anti-social behaviour at the play area to the Parks Service.

6.2 The Park Rangers will monitor the site on a low frequency basis.

7 Timescale and expected outcomes

We are hopeful that the play area will continue to be trouble free. However, over the next twelve months the play area will be monitored and appropriate action will be taken if considered necessary. The City Parks and Open Spaces Officer will report back to Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) if necessary.

	Yes	No
Key Decision		
Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)		
Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)		

List of background papers

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Location