



### **Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities)**

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#### **Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Thursday, 3rd July, 2014

#### **Place**

Committee Room 3 - Council House

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#### **Public Business**

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)

(a) Confirmation of the minutes of the former Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2014.

(b) Matters arising

4. **Petition - Response to petition calling for the installation of security fencing to open land at the rear of numbers 2-66 Brookside Avenue** (Pages 9 - 20)

Report of the Executive Director, People

NOTE: Councillor B Singh, a Whoberley Ward Councillor and the petition organiser have been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item.

5. **Petition: Report in response to a petition asking the Council to improve the environment and subsequent security of the Hearsall Area of Earlsdon in Coventry** (Pages 21 - 30)

Report of the Executive Director, People

NOTE: Councillors Howells and B Singh, Whoberley Ward Councillors and the petition organiser have been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item.

6. **Petition: Report in response to petition calling on the Council to request Whitefriars Housing Group to take action to address incidents of flytipping and anti-social behaviour taking place on an area of Whitefriars land on the corner of Keppel Street/Wright Street** (Pages 31 - 40)

Report of the Executive Director, People

NOTE: Councillor Akhtar, a St. Michael's Ward Councillor and the petition organisers have been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item.

7. **Outstanding Issues Report** (Pages 41 - 44)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources

8. **Any Other Business**

To consider any other items of business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

**Private Business**

Nil

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Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Wednesday, 25 June 2014

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Usha Patel

Membership: Councillors A Andrews (Shadow Cabinet Member), C Fletcher (Deputy Cabinet Member) and P Townshend (Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting OR it you would like this information in another format or language please contact us.

**Usha Patel**

**Telephone: (024) 7683 3198**

**e-mail: [usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk)**

# Agenda Item 3

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities)**  
**held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 1 May 2014**

Present:

Members:                           Councillor P Townshend (Cabinet Member)  
  Councillor A Andrews (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

C Goodwin, Resources Directorate  
M Metcalf, People Directorate  
J Morley, People Directorate  
C Parker, People Directorate  
U Patel, Resources Directorate  
D Williams, Resources Directorate

## **Public Business**

### **103.    Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **104.    Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business indicated in Minutes 111 and 112 below headed “Magistrates Court Building” and “Coroner’s Service Update” respectively, on the grounds that the reports involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act, in particular those paragraphs of parts 1, 3 and 5 of that Schedule.**

### **105.    Minutes**

The minutes of the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### **106.    Community Grant Fund Criteria**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People which sought approval for amendments to the criteria for applicants and also to move to a process of two set funding rounds. The Cabinet Member noted that the total Community Grant Fund was £100,000 (and not £165,000 as quoted in the report).

The Community Grant Fund was launched in September 2013 and was managed initially by Neighbourhood Action on a ‘first come, first serve’ basis. There was a significant demand for the grants resulting in the fund being oversubscribed.

The fund for 2014-15 would be managed by the Community Development Team within the People Directorate and would build on the lessons learned from Neighbourhood Action's evaluation of processes and procedures.

In order to maximise the impact of the grant, it was recommended that the maximum grant payment be reduced from £10,000 to £5,000. The Community Development Team would seek to support groups requiring additional amounts to apply for alternative funding streams, to reduce the potential for on-going dependency on Council grants.

The total fund for 2014/15 was £100,000 from core funding. It was recommended that £80,000 maximum be allocated in August 2014 and the remainder of the fund be allocated in February 2015.

Allocating funds via the two rounds would ensure that the process was clear to applicants who want to plan for events or projects over the year. It would also enable the Council to allocate funds to those projects that most closely meet the criteria and objectives, through being able to scrutinise all applications that meet the deadline.

**RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities):**

- 1. Approved the changes to the criteria for funding and application process, key points being:**
  - a. Reducing maximum grant payment from £10,000 to £5,000**
  - b. Changing from a "first come first served basis" to two funding rounds**
  - c. Organisations only being eligible for one grant from this fund in a single funding round.**

#### **107. Reporting of requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and complaints to the Information Commissioner**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources which provided information on the reporting of requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and complaints to the Information Commissioner.

The Information Commissioner (ICO) is the independent authority, which upholds information rights in the public interest, promotes openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals.

The report outlined proposals for reporting the number of request for information received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and complaints made to the ICO about Coventry City Council to elected Members.

**RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities):**

- 1. Approved that the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services prepares an annual report to the Cabinet Member (Policy and Leadership) on the number of requests received under the FOIA and DPA including the number and outcome of reviews requested and complaints made to the ICO; and**
- 2. Approved that the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services prepares a 6 monthly report to the Cabinet Member (Policy and Leadership) regarding the number, outcome of complaints and actions to be taken to ensure service improvement where the ICO serves practice recommendations, information notices and/or issues undertakings to the Council.**
- 3. Where the ICO issues an enforcement notice, a “stop now” order or takes any other enforcement action, the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services (in conjunction with the relevant Assistant Director to which area the complaint relates) will report to the Cabinet Member (Policy and Leadership) the details of the complaint, the Council’s actions, the OCO’s actions/recommendations and actions taken to ensure service improvement; and**
- 4. Requested that the reports referred to in recommendations 1-3 above are also submitted to the Audit and Procurement Committee.**

**108. Magistrates Court Building**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources which provided an update on the Magistrates’ Court Building.

When the Council constructed the Coventry Magistrates’ Court Building in the 1980s, the premises included a “Probation Suite” whose construction cost of approximately £1.2 million was to be met by the Council initially but repaid by the Probation Service over a period of some 40 years. Annual repayments were made until 2007. However, the Probation Service no disputes liability to make any further payments.

This matter was considered by Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 where authorisation was given to commence legal proceedings to recover the outstanding loan monies (their Minute 91/12 refers). The Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) was given delegated authority to determine alternative strategies or decisions as the matter progresses. This report provided an update as to the progress of the proceedings to date and consider the options going forward.

**RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities):**

- 1. Noted the progress made since the last report dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and directed that a further report be submitted for consideration at the first Cabinet Member meeting available after the proposed**

**evaluation mediation process has taken place or 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014, whichever shall occur first.**

**2. Authorised the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services to agree a further stay of the proceedings with the other parties and the Court, if necessary to accommodate the evaluative mediation process.**

**3. There were no further recommendations to make.**

**109. Outstanding Issues Report**

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Executive Director, Resources that identified those issues on which further reports had been requested and were outstanding, so that progress could be monitored.

**RESOLVED that item 4 headed “Improving Employment Services for Drug and Alcohol Users in Coventry and Warwickshire” be deleted from the Outstanding Issues Report as this matter was due to be considered by the Alcohol Strategy Group which is chaired by the Cabinet Member Health and Adult Services.**

**110. Any Other Business**

There were no other items of public business.

**Private Business**

**111. Magistrates Court Building**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources which provided an update on the Magistrates’ Court Building.

When the Council constructed the Coventry Magistrates’ Court building in the 1980s, the premises included a “Probation Suite” whose construction cost of around £1.2 million was to be met by the Council initially but repaid by the Probation Service over a period of some 40 years. Annual repayments were made until 2007. However, the Probation Service now disputes liability to make any further payments.

This matter was considered by Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012, where authorisation was given to commence legal proceedings to recover the outstanding loan monies. The Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) was given delegated authority to determine alternative strategies or decisions as the matter progresses. The report provided an update as to the progress of the proceedings to date and consider the options going forward.

**RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) approved the recommendations as set out in the report, together with an additional recommendation.**

112. **Coroner's Service Update**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services which provided an update on the Coroner's Service.

The City Council shares the services of the Coroner with Warwickshire County Council. The report provided proposals and options in order to facilitate an efficient and resilient service for Coventry.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) approved the recommendations as set out in the report.**

113. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of private business.

(Meeting closed at 2.50 pm)

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3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities)

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director – People

**Ward(s) affected:**

Whoberley

**Title:**

Response to petition calling for the installation of security fencing to open land at the rear of numbers 2-66, Brookside Avenue

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition containing 11 signatories, from 6 households, was submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 by Councillor Singh.

The petition requests the installation of security fencing to land at the rear of properties numbered 2–66 Brookside Avenue, in the Whoberley Ward.

The land is an open stretch of green space measuring approximately 900 metres and is owned by the City Council; managed by the Parks Service in the Place Directorate.

The petitioners would like this land to be secured in order to prevent crime and nuisance behaviour impacting on their properties.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is requested to:-

1. Consider the information provided by Officers in determining whether fencing is appropriate in this location.
2. Endorse actions taken to date by Officers and request that the area continues to be monitored.
3. Request Police to continue to patrol the area responding to any issues raised or identified and to exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour.

4. Request Community Development Officers to work with the community in tackling local issues including litter and environmental issues, and to assist residents in seeking funding that would contribute to security improvements.
5. Request Officers to provide a report back on progress against recommendations 1 – 4 inclusive in October 2014.

**List of Appendices included:**

*Petition Text – Appendix 1*

*Map of location – Appendix 2*

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:**

Response to petition calling for the installation of security fencing to open land at the rear of numbers 2-66, Brookside Avenue

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 A petition containing 11 signatories from 6 households was submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014, by Councillor Singh. The petition requests the installation of a security barrier/fencing to land at the rear of properties number 2–66 Brookside Avenue. A copy of the petition text is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 1.2 The properties and an alleyway running along the rear of the properties are privately owned. The alleyway provides vehicle access for the individual properties identified in the petition. Beyond this is situated a linear open space with a brook running through it, which is owned by Coventry City Council.
- 1.3 The lead petitioner advises that local residents are concerned that the openness of the properties backing onto the entry way and green space could provide opportunities for crime and nuisance behaviour. In order to prevent this they feel that the installation of security fencing between the rear of their properties and the Council owned land would be beneficial.
- 1.4 Police records indicate 2 incidents of reported crime taking place between March 2013 and March 2014 including a burglary and theft from an out building in the rear garden of the premises.
- 1.5 City Council systems indicate 1 recorded incident of noise nuisance associated with a residential premise. However, there were 7 reports of environmental nuisance including fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling.
- 1.6 West Midlands Police have patrolled the area and will continue to do so and a street briefing will be held by the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team mid-July to coincide with children breaking up for the school summer holidays.
- 1.7 Advice in relation to securing individual properties has been offered to the residents; this includes the offer of undertaking individual crime surveys, registration of electrical goods via the “immobilise initiative”, target hardening products i.e. window alarms, shed alarms, anti-vandal paint, window stickers, and personal attack alarms.
- 1.8 Residents will be supported by the Community Development Service to explore the possibility of applying for local community funding which will enable them to install additional security measures to their properties.
- 1.9 The Youth Service Detached Response Team has visited a number of sites in the locality and have engaged with the young people they have encountered. They are signposting the young people to activities and premises in the area to further enhance what is on offer. The team will also be in the area every Wednesday night consulting with the young people on the activities they would be interested in and in devising a Summer programme that will be funded by “Sportivate”. Residents have been made aware of this, some of which have volunteered to help with the organisation and delivery of the Summer programme. The Youth Service has visited the site on a number of occasions and is monitoring the behaviour of young people. They have also committed to attending the Local Residents Group to keep them updated with the progress and work of the team with young people in the area.

- 1.10 St Christopher's Primary School, which borders the other side of the green space, reports 1 incident of anti-social behaviour during the Summer of 2013. Community Development Team Officers will work with the school to ensure pupils understand the importance of considerate behaviour in their school and also organise litter picks for the local community.
- 1.11 The Parks Service has explored the possibility of installing fencing on the boundary of the open space, however to install fencing to an area of land of this size requires significant resource and financial investment. Extensive consultation with all other residents along the 36 properties that would be affected would also be required. Additionally as access to this land can also be gained from the main road and via the school even if fencing were to be installed. Fencing off open space areas to the rear of homes can also have a negative impact on the pro-social use of the land and residents' enjoyment in general. It could also restrict access to garages to the rear of such homes as this would minimise the space with which to manoeuvre cars.
- 1.12 Officer from the City Council Street Scene and Green Spaces have installed a fire retardant bin to the area and is review the number of bins provided in this location.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 Under-reporting of issues as they occur has been considered and therefore contact details and methods of reporting have been re-issued to all residents.
- 2.2 This situation is similar to a number of other areas across the City, i.e. where private housing is located adjacent to an unfenced area of open space. Officers would not advise that a fence is erected in such locations as this can negatively impact on the residents' use and enjoyment of such areas, which allows ease of access from their homes to the open space for dog walking, recreational use and vehicular access to rear garages etc.
- 2.3 In relation to this specific location, the area of open space to the rear of the petitioners' homes is only a small section of what is a much larger open space (approximately 900m in length), with many other homes that back onto it. The cost to fence just one section/boundary could amount to as much as £26,000 depending on the ground work involved. As there is no clear evidence that any unauthorised access to rear of the private homes is a significant issue or via the open space itself (due to other means of access onto this land) it is considered that the provision of fencing would not be cost effective nor a sustainable solution to preventing such issues. Fencing, if installed by the residents themselves would limit the space with which vehicle users have with which to manoeuvre their cars in the entryway.
- 2.4 In relation to access to rear garages, the lack of a solid boundary onto the open space allows residents to drive across the edge of the land when garaging their vehicle. This presents another issue, which if garage access is to be maintained, any fencing would have to be erected, not on the council's legal boundary, but some way into the open space. In this circumstance, the open space land would be lost and a formal process to take this out of open space use would have to be undertaken. This would involve residents having to purchase the open space and obtain planning permission, for Change of Use, for the area no longer to be classified as open space. At present no land valuations have been sought however, advertising, planning and legal costs are likely to be in the region of £1,500, these costs would be borne by the applicants.

- 2.5 A self-help gating scheme advice pack has been forwarded to the lead petitioner for consideration by the Residents' Group and they will be assisted by Officers should they wish to pursue this.
- 2.6 The Police Community Engagement Officer has supported local residents to become a formal Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- 2.7 The Safeguarding Children Licensing Officer has visited the area and the premises in the locality serving alcohol. All had up-to-date records and advised that they are vigilant to proxy sales and utilise the age verification scheme 'Challenge 25'. Advice was given to continue with their current procedures and continue to pass information to staff, especially around the prevention of proxy sales.
- 2.8 Trading Standards Officers have carried out 'Test Purchase' Operations previously and confirmed that premises operating in the area are compliant with the law on underage sales. Each concern raised in relation to this issue is considered on an individual basis and the team will take appropriate action as required.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 Police and Council Officers have engaged with the residents and are in regular contact with them to understand the issues and to work with local people to address them.
- 3.2 Residents are encouraged to report incidences as they occur to the relevant organisation. Contact details have been issued in order to encourage regular reporting of incidents for monitoring and response purposes.
- 3.3 A Youth Service representative has committed to attending the Residents' Group regularly to update on action taken.
- 3.4 Youth provision in the area includes the Council's Detached Response Team, they will be in the area every Wednesday evening, Coventry Blaze will be delivering a Doorstep Sports Club at Whoberley Youth Centre every Friday evening and there is open access youth provision at Whoberley Youth Centre on Mondays and Thursdays. A Senior Youth Worker will be visiting the secondary schools before the Summer break to promote activities at Whoberley Youth Centre and to inform young people of the Sportivate programme that will be running over the summer holidays. The Youth Worker will visit the 3 Secondary Schools in the area.

### **4 Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 Officers will continue to work with local residents to support them in implementing the measures outlined in the report and the Local Safer Neighbourhood Group will continue to monitor incidents of crime and nuisance in the area at each monthly meeting.

### **5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

#### **5.3 Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

#### **5.4 Legal implications**

In the event that a decision were to be taken to install fencing to what appears to be private properties, consideration would need to be given to the existence of any restrictions within the deeds of those properties. Breach of any such restrictions might leave the residents themselves open to challenge.

**6 Other implications**

None

**6.3 How will this contribute to the Council Plan?**

**Crime and Disorder**

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Community Safety Plan and Strategic Assessment 2014/15.

Supporting local people to do more for themselves and their local community is central to the City Council's principles and Council Plan.

**6.4 How is risk being managed?**

1. The Community Safety Officer continues to monitor crime and disorder levels in the area.
2. Police and Council Officers continue to incorporate the area in their patrol strategies and work schedule and will monitor behaviour of individuals.

**6.5 What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

**6.6 Equalities / EIA**

N/A

**6.7 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

N/A

**6.8 Implications for partner organisations?**

N/A

**Report author(s):**

Beverley Massey

**Name and job title:**

Beverley Massey – Community Safety Officer

**Directorate:**

People Directorate

**Tel and email contact:**

02476 832804. [Beverley.massey@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Beverley.massey@coventry.gov.uk)

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	11.6.2014
Mandie Watson	Head of Community Safety	People Directorate	9.6.2014	18.6.14
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director Streetscene and Greenspaces	Place Directorate	9.6.2014	
Sara Roach	Deputy Director	People Directorate	9.6.2014	16.6.2014
Simon Brake	Assistant Director Communities and Health	People Directorate	9.6.2014	17.6.2014
Ces Edwards	Head of Parks and Open Spaces	Place Directorate	04.06.14	11.06.14
Brian Mason	Youth Service – Operational Manager	People Directorate	9.6.2014	10.6.2014
Cat Parker	Executive Project Manager	People Directorate	9.6.2014	10.6.2014
Alan Harwood	Trading Standards Business and Compliance Manager	People Directorate	13.6.2014	13.6.2014
Rebekah Eaves	Childrens Safeguarding and Licensing Officer	People Directorate	13.6.2014	17.6.2014
Graham Hood	Head of Street pride and Green spaces	Place Directorate	16.6.2014	
Martin Sollis	Area Manager South	Place Directorate	16.6.2014	
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)</b>				
Finance: Diane Jones	Lead Accountant	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	10.6.2014
Legal: Andrew Burton	Solicitor	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	10.6.2014
Director: Brian Walsh (Approved by Sara Roach on behalf of Brian Walsh)	Director	People Directorate	9.6.2014	16.6.2014
Members: Councillor Townshend	Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities)		20.6.2014	20.6.2014

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## Appendices



79113-01

## Petition to Erect Security fencing at the rear of no's 2-66 Brookside Avenue. CV5 8AF

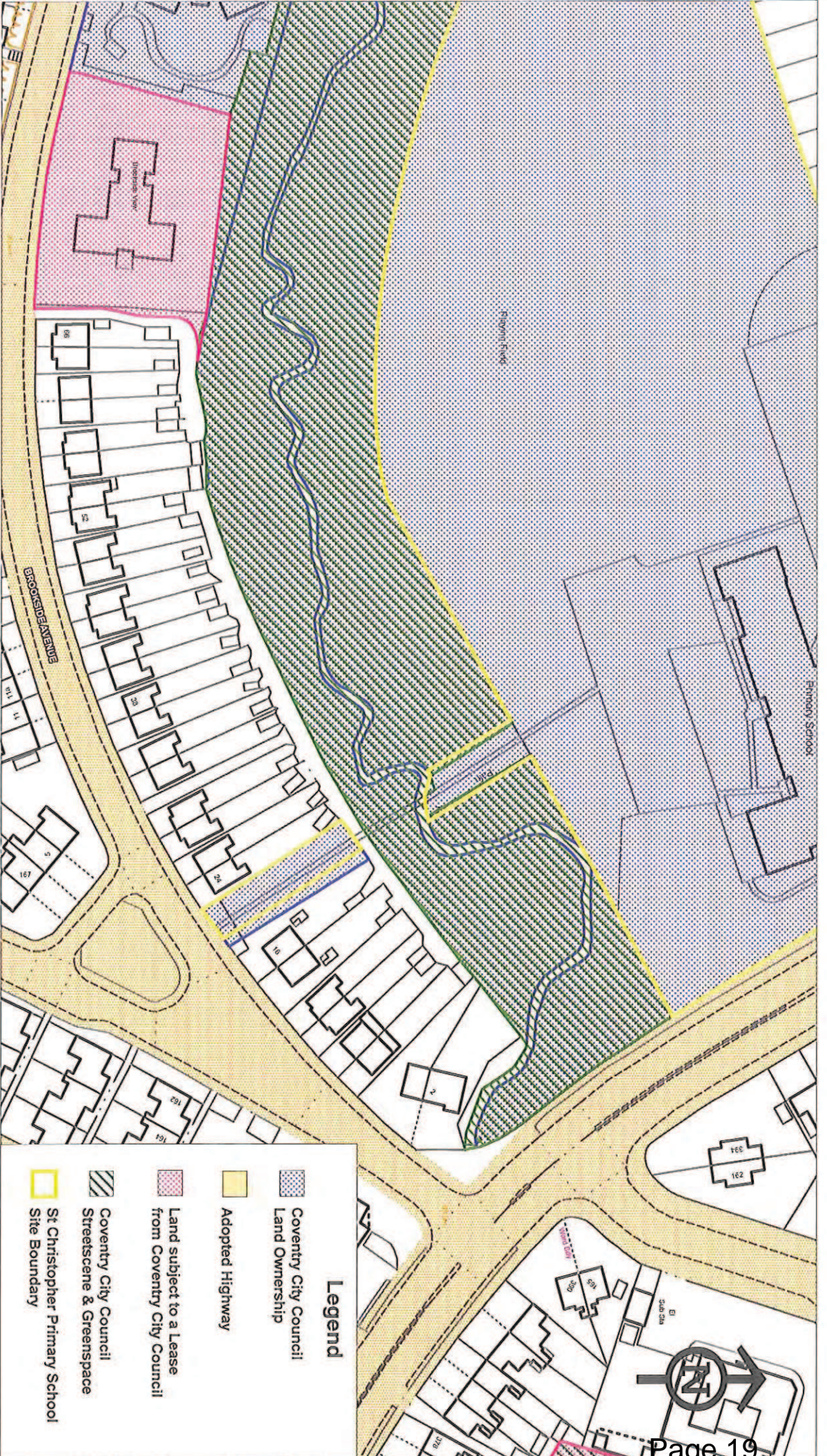
<b>Petition summary and background</b>	Due to an increase in crime in the area, we would like to have a security barrier erected to combat crime and anti-social behavior.
<b>Action petitioned for</b>	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to help prevent more crime.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
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**Legend**

	Coventry City Council Land Ownership
	Adopted Highway
	Land subject to a Lease from Coventry City Council
	Coventry City Council Streetscene & Greenspace
	St Christopher Primary School Site Boundary

**Title: Brookside Avenue - Coventry City Council Land Ownership Plan**

Drawn By: NH  
Scale: 1:1250 at A4  
Date: 16/04/2014

PLACE DIRECTORATE  
STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE TEAM  
FLOOR 9, CIVIC CENTRE 4  
MUCH PARK STREET  
COVENTRY CV1 2PY  
024 7683 2755



Martin Yardley - Executive Director, Place  
Nigel Clews - Assistant Director, Property Management

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3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities)

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director – People

**Ward(s) affected:**

Whoberley

**Title:**

Report in response to a petition asking the Council to improve the environment and security of the Hearsall area of Earlsdon in Coventry.

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition containing 184 signatories was submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 by Councillor B Singh and Councillor Howells, Whoberley Ward Councillors.

The petition asks the Council to implement measures to address environmental issues which is likely to improve the security of the Hearsall area of Earlsdon, in the ward of Whoberley.

The petitioners outline issues including local roads and pavements in need of repair, fly-tipping, and obstruction caused by wheelie bins. Additionally they request that estate/letting agency signs should be removed and that all alleyways and entryways should be gated and any existing gates to be repaired to a good working order.

Signatories feel that such measures would significantly improve the environment and therefore deter and/or reduce crime and nuisance behaviour also.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is requested to:-

1. Acknowledge and endorse the work of officers to date as detailed in the report
2. Acknowledge the work of the Police who have also targeted additional patrols to the area responding swiftly to any issues raised or identified.
3. Request Officers to continue to work with local residents to explore opportunities to secure community funding with which to make local environmental and safety improvements to their area.

4. Request Officers to provide a further progress report to Cabinet Member meeting in October.

**List of Appendices included:**

Petition text - Appendix 1

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:**

Report in response to a petition asking Coventry City Council to improve the environment and security of the Hearsall area of Earlsdon in Coventry.

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 A petition was submitted to Cabinet on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 By Councillor B. Singh and Councillor Howells. The petition calls for the City Council to improve the cleanliness and address environmental issues which if addressed will subsequently improve the safety and security of the Hearsall area of the City.
- 1.2 In October 2013 a report was provided by West -Midlands Police to consider incidents of burglary in a defined number of streets in the Earlsdon/Whoberley area of the City. The report focused on six roads in the area including Broomfield Road, Kensington Road, Bristol Road, Kirby Road, Farman Road, and Latham Road. A site visit was conducted by officers and a number of issues were identified for which the Local Authority and partner agencies took interim action including: re-issuing of contact details for appropriate agencies, visiting individual properties that had been highlighted in regard to rubbish in gardens, having for sale/letting signs removed that had been in situ for a long period of time, police officers visited the area and offered advice, to residents in regard to security and their individual properties and encouraged the residents to form a network of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. The work is on-going and officers from the various agencies and departments visit the area to address issues as they are reported.
- 1.3 Since this action was taken there has been a significant reduction in incidents of crime including burglary. This is evidenced by the reduction in the number of reports to the police as follows:-

Crime

2013/14 = 57 offences, 26 fewer offences (31% reduction on previous year)

2012/13 = 83 offences

Crime: Burglary Dwelling offences

2013/14 = 12, 13 fewer offences (52% reduction on previous year)

2012/13 = 24

Additionally, further reductions in nuisance behaviour have also been recorded including:-

Reports to police regarding public place nuisance

2013/14 = 17, 26 fewer incidents (60% reduction on previous year)

2012/13 = 43

Reports to Council regarding nuisance behaviour (predominately associated with residential premises as opposed to public place nuisance)

2013/14 = 26, 1 incident less than the previous year,

2012/13 = 27

- 1.4 There have been a slight increase in the number of fly tips in this area; in 2013/14 there were 43 reported cases compared to 32 in the previous year (this represents 0.04% of City's total fly tipping episodes). However the City Council treats every fly tip seriously and will pursue cases where there is sufficient evidence. It is therefore important that residents report fly tipping to Coventry Direct promptly so that any available evidence can be secured. Any information received from residents as to who is responsible for the fly tipping will also be gratefully received. It is only by working in partnership with local people that the Council is able to reduce this blight on neighbourhoods.
- 1.5 Residents are also concerned by the number of wheelie bins stored/left on the pavements in between waste collection days. This is part of a much wider issue in the City and the Council is currently reviewing the evidence and options available before determining the best course of action to address this specific issue.
- 1.6 The lead petitioner has been contacted in relation to advice and guidance to support the implementation of a resident-led gating scheme to improve the security to their privately owned properties and entry ways.
- 1.7 The Highways Inspector has advised that roads and pavements are inspected regularly and repairs undertaken as required.
- 1.8 The Planning Enforcement Team have confirmed that they receive a large number of enquiries concerning the display of lettings boards within the area. The display of a 'To Let' board or 'For Sale' board is deemed consent under Class 3 of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 and consequently, subject to compliance with various limitations concerning the size and period of display, advertisement consent from the local planning authority is not required for the display of such boards. The above regulations require that the board shall be removed within 14 days after the completion of the sale of the property or the grant of a tenancy, and it is only after this 14 day period has elapsed that the local planning authority can formally request the board to be removed. The problems associated with the continued display of such boards are becoming more prevalent in areas of the City where there are a high number of properties to let, and this problem is not unique to Whoberley Ward. When officers become aware of a board which may have been displayed beyond the 14 day period (usually upon the receipt of a complaint from a local resident) the appropriate action (which is determined on an individual basis), is taken to secure the removal of the display once officers have themselves witnessed the breach in the legislation. In most cases the board is removed within three or four days of officers contacting the estate agent / letting company involved, without the necessity to undertake formal legal action.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 As part of the response West Midlands Police have patrolled the area and will continue to do so. A schedule of street briefings will be arranged including some specifically aimed at the student population in this area. In addition 3 Police action days have been scheduled for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014, and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
- 2.2 Target-hardening measures have been offered to the residents. These included individual crime surveys, registration of electrical goods via the "immobilise initiative", and the distribution of target-hardening products (i.e. window alarms, shed alarms, anti-vandal paint, window stickers, and personal attack alarms and DNA marking for products). Residents are also able to register their valuable property on the 'Immobilise' scheme and appropriate stickers, signs, window alarms, fence protectors, and anti-vandal paint have been provided.



- 2.3 The Coventry Police Community Engagement Officer has encouraged residents to establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for this area and will support residents in its implementation.
- 2.4 Contact details and various methods of reporting have been provided to the residents to encourage reporting of incidents as and when they occur.
- 2.5 Guidance in relation to establishing a self- help resident-led gating schemes has been provided to the lead petitioner and has been further distributed by the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- 2.6 Environmental Protection will continue to visit the area and consider all cases of fly-tipping/rubbish dumping and obstruction of refuse bins and will take appropriate action to address the issues as they arise.
- 2.7 The City Council's Planning Department continues to investigate the displaying of estate/letting agency signs and will take action on an individual basis as and when identified to them.
- 2.8 The City Council's Highways Department will continue to conduct scheduled inspections of the area and will carry out repairs identified through these inspections or in response to reports by members of the public,

### **3 Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 Officers have engaged with the residents and are in regular contact with them, addressing issues as they arise.
- 3.2 Residents have been encouraged to report incidents to the relevant organisation as they occur. They have been furnished with relevant contact information and are encouraged to use the methods of reporting available to them.
- 3.3 Groups of individuals displaying behaviours likely to cause harm, alarm, or distress are challenged and their details taken. If suitable the individuals are referred to the relevant Local Case Management Forum.
- 3.4 Residents have been encouraged to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the area which will be supported by the West Midlands Police Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- 3.5 Target-hardening opportunities have been offered to the residents and have included the provision of some target hardening products including the 'DNA' marking of property, registration of property on 'Immobilise', appropriate stickers and signs, window alarms, fence protectors and anti-vandal paint where this has been applicable.
- 3.6 Local Street Briefings have been arranged, including student awareness events, particularly around the September to November period as the students return to the City.
- 3.7 The Highways Department has responded to individual complaints about the state of repair of the Highway and will conduct scheduled inspections as normal.
- 3.8 The Planning Enforcement team has responded to individual complaints about the estate/letting agency boards and will continue to do so as and when issues are reported.

#### **4 Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 The Local Safer Neighbourhood Group will monitor the area and works which are ongoing.

#### **5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

##### **5.3 Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### **5.4 Legal implications**

None

#### **6 Other implications**

None

##### **6.3 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

###### **Crime and Disorder**

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Police, Crime & Community Safety Plan and Strategic Assessment 2014/15.

##### **6.4 How is risk being managed?**

1. The Community Safety Officer continues to monitor crime and disorder levels in the area.
2. Police and Council Officers continue to incorporate the area in their patrol strategies and work schedule and will monitor behaviour of individuals and the condition and cleanliness of the area.

##### **6.5 What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

##### **6.6 Equalities / EIA**

N/A

##### **6.7 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

The purpose of taking action to address graffiti, vandalism, and fly-tipping is in an attempt to improve the environment and wellbeing of the community.

##### **6.8 Implications for partner organisations?**

None

**Report author(s):**

Beverley Massey

**Name and job title:**

Beverley Massey – Community Safety Officer

**Directorate:**

People Directorate

**Tel and email contact:**

02476 832804. Beverley.massey@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	19.6.2014
Mandie Watson	Head of Community Safety	People Directorate	9.6.2014	18/6/14
Craig Hickin	Head of	People Directorate	9.6.2014	23/6/14
Simon Brake	Assistant Director Communities and Health	People Directorate	9.6.2014	23/6/14
Marcus Fothergill	Head of Planning Enforcement	Place Directorate	9.6.2014	18/6/14
Andrew Keating	Highways Inspector	Place Directorate	9.6.2014	19/9/14
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director	Place Directorate		
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (officers and members)				
Finance: Diane Jones	Lead Accountant	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	19/6/14
Legal: Andrew Burton	Solicitor	Resources Directorate	18.6.2014	18.6.14
Director: Simon Brake on behalf of Brian Walsh	Director	People Directorate	9.6.2014	23/6/14
<b>Members:</b>				
Councillor Townshend	Deputy leader		20.6.14	20.6.14

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[www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)

Appendices



20/13-01

1/3

### Improve and secure the Hearsall - Earlsdon Area

#### 184 Signatories.

We, the undersigned residents, urge the Council to improve and help secure the Hearsall - Earlsdon area in the council ward of Whoberley.

Improve - Many of the local roads and pavements are in need of repair. Powers available to local authorities are not being used by the council to enforce against estate / letting agent signs that constantly remain displayed, or deal with wheelie bins that continually obstruct the pavements. We urge the council to act on this.



Secure - This area is identified by the local police as a burglary 'hot spot'. The police have produced a report calling for better gating. We urge the council to use funding available to invest in a programme of gating repairs and new gates in liaison with residents and the police.

NAME	HOUSE NUMBER & ROAD	SIGNATURE
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Address]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>

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OUR SIGNATORS - CLERS B. SINGH + HOWELLS

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3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities)

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director – People

**Ward(s) affected:**

St. Michaels

**Title:**

Report in response to a petition calling on the Council to request Whitefriars Housing Group to take action to address incidents of fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour taking place on an area of Whitefriars` land on the corner of Keppel Street/Wright Street

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition containing 22 signatories was submitted on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 by Councillor Akhtar.

The petition relates to environmental issues and anti-social behaviour on an area of Whitefriars` own land in Hillfields and calls on the City Council to request Whitefriars Housing Group to take appropriate action.

The area is a stretch of wasteland situated on the corner of Keppel Street and Wright Street. Local residents are asking that the land be secured to prevent unauthorised access and inappropriate use, or for it to be redeveloped.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is requested to:-

1. Note the results of enquiries into the matter.
2. Endorse the action taken to date to address the issues outlined by local residents.
3. Request Police to continue to patrol the area responding swiftly to any issues raised or identified and to exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour.
4. Request Officers to continue to monitor the issues associated with this land as part of the Hillfields Action Plan

5. Request Officers to explore opportunities to undertake targeted monitoring and surveillance in this location in order to deter and detect perpetrators of crime and nuisance, particularly fly-tipping.

**List of Appendices included:**

Copy of petition text – Appendix 1

Map indicating location of land – Appendix 2

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No



**Report title:**

Report in response to a petition calling on the Council to ask Whitefriars Housing Group to take action to address incidents of flytipping and anti-social behaviour taking place on Whitefriars' land on the corner of Keppel Street/Wright Street.

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 A petition containing 22 signatories was submitted by Cllr Akhtar on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The petition calls on the Council to ask Whitefriars Housing Group to take action to address a number of problems arising on their land on the corner of Keppel Street and Wright Street.
- 1.2 The petition states that the location attracts repeated fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour due to it being open wasteland. There are a number of residential properties situated nearby. A copy of the petition text is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 1.3 The lead petitioner has indicated local residents would like to see this land secured and redeveloped.
- 1.4 Police reports for the period March 2013 to March 2014 record 11 incidents of crime for both Keppel Street and Wright Street. These were not directly related to the site in question. Additionally, 9 incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported to the Police for the same two streets including reports of nuisance ball games.
- 1.5 City Council records show 5 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour specific to Keppel Street, none of which took place on the land itself. There were no reports relating to Wright Street. However, the City Council systems do indicate a total of 33 reports of environmental issues (30 for Keppel Street and 3 for Wright Street), all fly-tipping except one which was for an abandoned vehicle.
- 1.6 Whitefriars Housing Group advised that they have received two calls during the last 12 months associated with this land including one call as a direct response to this petition. Their Response Team continues to monitor the area between the hours of 22:00 and 03:00 at least three times a week.
- 1.7 West Midlands Police do patrol the area and take details of anyone causing nuisance and annoyance in order to refer them to the relevant multi-agency forum for further appropriate action.
- 1.8 Whitefriars Housing Group inspected the area and removed rubbish and litter and scheduled an overall clear-up of the site on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This will then continue to form part of their weekly clean up and inspection schedule.
- 1.9 In addition, an area of shrubbery at the junction of Cambridge Street with Keppel Street will be cleaned in order to add further value to the works carried out, and bulk items were removed on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014.
- 1.10 Residents have been re-issued with contact details for reporting incidents as and when they occur.

- 1.11 Officers have arranged for additional monitoring of the site by local Police Officers patrols and have requested that Youth workers work to engage young residents who may be using the site.
- 1.12 Whitefriars Housing Group has indicated that there are no plans to develop this site at the present time.

## **2 Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The site is very open and therefore attractive to young groups gathering to socialise in the area: the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team will provide additional monitoring through targeted patrols to the site and will ensure details of those involved in or causing nuisance behaviour are shared with relevant agencies to take appropriate action.
- 2.2 Whitefriars Housing Group, as owners of this land, will undertake regular inspections of the area and remove rubbish and litter as required. During the last 12 months, only 2 reports were made to them directly. Most reporting is made to the City Council in this respect. Environmental Services will ensure that all reports are shared with Whitefriars.
- 2.3 Relevant contact details and methods of reporting have been re-issued to the residents in order that they can report issues directly to Whitefriars Housing Group.
- 2.4 Whitefriars Housing Group Response Team monitors the area, as duties allow, outside normal office hours.

## **3 Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 The Lead petitioner has been contacted by the Community Safety Officer and residents have been encouraged to report incidents as they occur to the land owner for on-going maintenance and action. The lead Petitioner also reports that he was unaware of any further issues on this piece of land and all seemed quiet at the present time.
- 3.2 Whitefriars Housing Group were contacted about the petition and indicated that they had no immediate plans to develop the site.
- 3.3 Police were consulted in relation to the level of crime and nuisance being reported to them. Their records indicated issues mainly associated with residential households in the two streets that led off the land as opposed to the site itself.
- 3.4 City Council systems were checked to obtain level of incidents being reported in relation to the site which confirmed significant levels of fly-tipping.

## **4 Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The Local Safer Neighbourhood Group will monitor the issues associated with this land as part of the Hillfields Action Plan

## **5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

Removal of fly-tipping is carried out by Whitefriars Housing Group at their own expense.

### **5.2 Legal implications**

None

**6 Other implications**  
None

**6.10 How will this contribute to the Council Plan?**

**Crime and Disorder**

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Community Safety Plan and Strategic Assessment 2014/15.

**6.11 How is risk being managed?**

1. The Community Safety Officer continues to monitor crime and disorder levels in the area.
2. Police and Whitefriars Housing Group continue to incorporate the area in their patrol strategies and work schedule and will monitor behaviour of individuals.

**6.12 What is the impact on the organisation?**

None.

**6.13 Equalities / EIA**  
N/A

**6.14 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**  
N/A

**6.15 Implications for partner organisations?**  
N/A

**Report author(s):**  
Beverley Massey

**Name and job title:**  
Beverley Massey – Community Safety Officer

**Directorate:**  
People Directorate

**Tel and email contact:**  
02476 832804. Beverley.massey@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	16.6.2014
Mandie Watson	Head of Community Safety	People Directorate	9.6.2014	16.6.2014
Sara Roach	Deputy Director	People Directorate	9.6.2014	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
Simon Brake	Assistant Director Communities and Health	People Directorate	9.6.2014	17.6.2014
Carmel McCarthy		Whitefriars Housing Group	18.6.2014	20.6.2014
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	People Directorate	9.6.2014	11.6.2014
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (officers and members)				
Finance: Diane Jones	Lead Accountant	Resources Directorate	9.6.2014	17.6.2014
Legal: Andrew Burton	Solicitor	Resources Directorate	13.6.2014	16.6.14
Director: Sara Roach on behalf of Brian Walsh	Director	People Directorate	9.6.2014	16.6.2014
Members: Name				
Councillor Townshend	Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities)		20.6.2014	20.6.2014

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## Appendices

83/13-01

We the undersigned call on the City Council to ask Whitefriars Housing Group to take action to address a number of problems arising from Whitefriars land on corner of Keppel St/Wright Street.

- 1. Constant fly tipping on said plot of land
- 2. Anti-social behaviour – youths gather creating noise/disruption for residents
- 3. Groups of youths sitting in parked vehicles during the nights and smoking drugs and playing loud music.

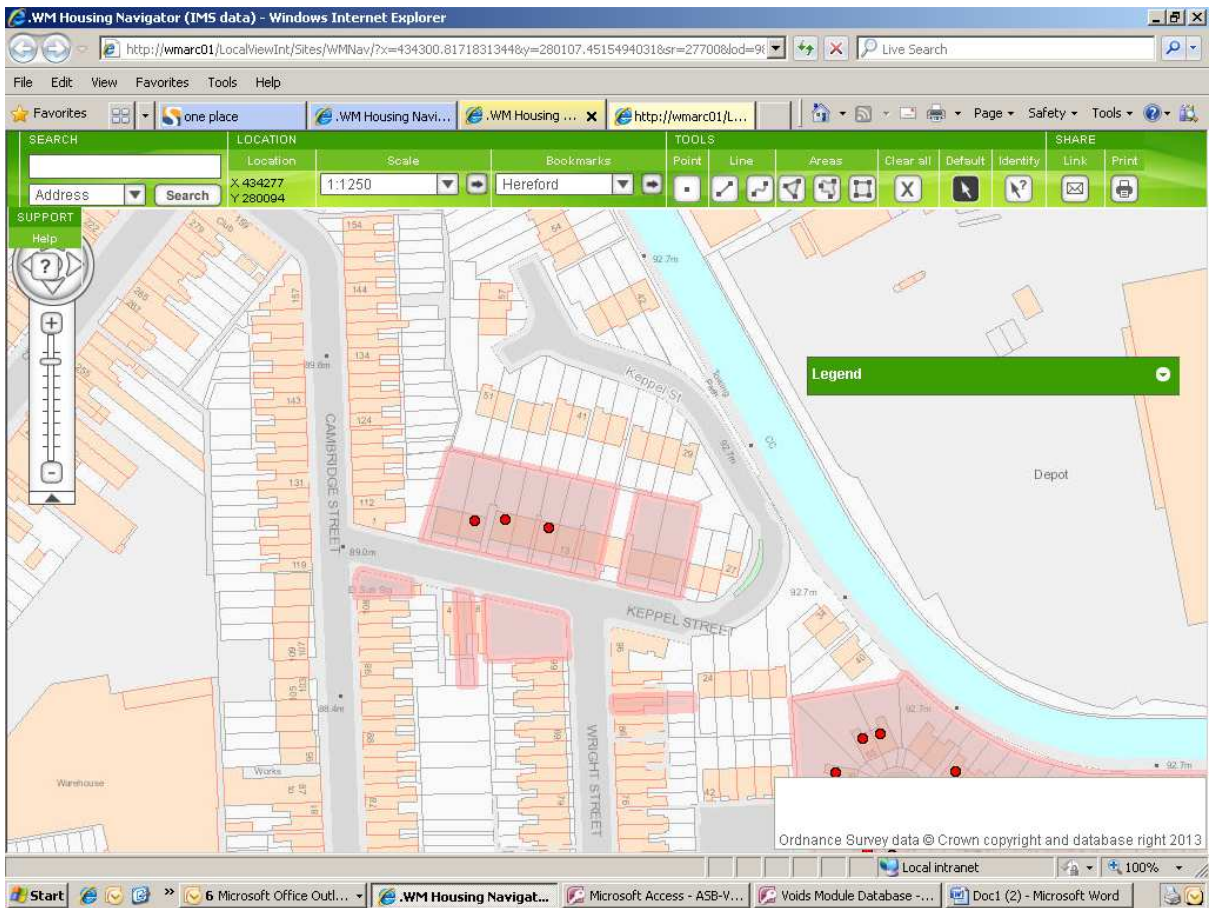
We recommend that Whitefriars either secure area with fencing or use it for development.

Name	Signature	Address	Telephone No.
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Please return to Councillor Naeem Akhtar at the Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR  
Tel:07747003141.

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3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) – Councillor Townshend

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director, Resources

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title:**

Outstanding Issues Report

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**Is this a key decision?**

*No*

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**Executive Summary:**

In May 2004 the City Council adopted an Outstanding Minutes System, linked to the Forward Plan, to ensure that follow up reports can be monitored and reported to Members. The attached appendix sets out a table detailing the issues on which further reports have been requested by the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) so he is aware of them and can monitor progress.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) is requested to consider the list of outstanding issues and to ask the Member of the Management Board or appropriate officer to explain the current position on those which should have been discharged at this meeting or an earlier meeting.

**List of Appendices included:**

*Table of Outstanding Issues.*

**Other useful background papers:**

*None*

**Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

*No*

**Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report author(s):** Usha Patel

**Name and job title:** Governance Services Officer

**Directorate:** Resources

**Tel and email contact:** 024 7683 3198  
usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Other members	Not applicable			
<b>Names of approvers:</b> (officers and members)				
Finance: Name	Not applicable			
Legal: Name	Not applicable			

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	Subject	Date for Further Consideration	Responsible Officer	Proposed Amendment to Date for Consideration	Reason for Request to Delay Submission of Report
1	<p><b>Outcome of the review of the pilot twenty four hour, seven days per week noise service</b></p> <p>Updated report to be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014</p> <p>(CM(CS&amp;E) 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2013 (minute 57)</p>	4 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014	Executive People Mandie Watson Director,		
2	<p><b>Report back on Progress of ongoing Development of the Youth Space in Cope Street, Coventry</b></p> <p>Report back on progress</p> <p>(CM(CS&amp;E) 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2013 (Minute 73)</p>	tbc	Executive People Steve Wiles Director,		
3	<p><b>Equality Strategy</b></p> <p>Performance report for 2013/14</p> <p>(CM(CS&amp;E) 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Minute 98)</p>	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	Chief Executive Carol Dear/Jenni Venn		
4	<p><b>Hillfields petitions report – Community Safety Issues</b></p> <p>Progress on recommendations made at meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014</p> <p>(CM(CS&amp;E) 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Minute 94)</p>	tbc	Executive People Bev Massey/ Mandie Watson Director,		
5	<p><b>Covert Surveillance of Employees Policy and Procedure</b></p>	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	Executive People Director,		

	6 monthly report (CM(CS&E)- 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Minute 83))			Helen Lynch		
6	<b>Equalities in Employment</b>  Progress report (CM(CS&E) 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 (Minute 32))	tbc		Executive Director, Resources  Shokat Lal		
7	<b>Effectiveness &amp; Quality of recent consultation exercises carried out by CCC</b>  Further report reflecting broader consultation & Scrucro's recommendations  CM(CS&E) – 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 (Minute 60)	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014		Chief Executive  Helen Shankster/ Jenni Venn		
8	<b>Magistrates Court Building</b>  Progress report  CM(CS&E) 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2014 (Minute 82)	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014		Executive Director, Resources  Helen Lynch/ David Williams		
9	<b>Petition – Dog fouling &amp; Littering in Westwood Ward</b>  Outcome of enforcement action taken from 31.03.14 to 30.06.14  CM(CS&E) 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Minute 93)	On or before 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2014		Executive Director, People  Craig Hickin/ Steve Chantler		