



Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

Time and Date

2.00 pm on Thursday, 21st April, 2016

Place

Committee Room 2 - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
 - (a) To agree the minutes of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks meeting held on 25 February 2016.
 - (b) Matters arising
4. **Proposed Public Space Protection Order for Edgwick Park** (Pages 7 - 34)

Report of the Executive Director of Place
5. **Recommendations from the Parks Task and Finish Group of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)** (Pages 35 - 50)

Report of the Executive Director of Place
6. **Outstanding Issues Report** (Pages 51 - 54)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources
7. **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

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

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

Usha Patel Tel: 024 7683 3198 Email: usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillor A Khan (Cabinet Member)

By invitation: Councillor J Birdi (Shadow 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 if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks
held at 3.00 pm on Thursday, 25 February 2016

Present:

Members: Councillor A Khan (Cabinet Member)
 Councillor J Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

Place: A Harwood, G Hood

Resources: U Patel

Public Business

34. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks meeting held on 21 January 2016 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

36. A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden - Update

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which provided an update on the development of a walled garden in Allesley Park.

Allesley Hall Park is one of the Area Parks within the City, with a rich history and the Council is supported in its management and on-going maintenance by very enthusiastic local people who are members of the Allesley Park Residents Association, Allesley Park Walled Garden Group and the Friends of Allesley Park.

In September 2014, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks approved the adoption of a document entitled A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden as a framework for the future development of the Walled Garden and furthermore also approved that a grant could be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund to Implement the Vision (Minute 5/14 refers).

The report provided an update on progress and changes to the original proposal following discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The park falls under the control of the Parks Service within the Place Directorate.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks approves the submission of an external funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Heritage Grants' scheme for c£480,000 to implement the Vision for the Walled Garden rather than an original proposal for submitting a bid to the heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' funding scheme.

37. **Annual Compliance Report - Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which presented the Annual Compliance Report – Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) Part 1 covers the acquisition and interception of communications data, and Part 2 covers covert surveillance and property interference. Each part of the Act is regulated by separate commissioners.

The Council's use of RIPA would be to support its core functions for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime where an offence may be punishable by a custodial sentence of 6 months or more, or are related to the underage sale of alcohol and tobacco. We determine this by reference to the legislation covering the surveillance e.g. The Trade Marks Act relates to counterfeit goods and has a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment. The three types of technique available to local authorities are: the acquisition and disclosure of communications data (such as telephone billing information or subscriber details); directed surveillance (covert surveillance of individuals in public places); and covert human intelligence sources ("CHIS") (such as the deployment of undercover officers).

The Act sets out a compliance structure within which Coventry City Council can request judicial approval to use directed surveillance techniques or acquire communications data in order to support core function activities (e.g. typically those undertaken by Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Benefits). The information obtained as a result of such operations could later be relied upon in court proceedings providing RIPA was complied with.

The Home Office Code for Covert Surveillance Property Interference recommended that elected members, whilst not involved in making decisions or specific authorisations for the local authority to use its powers under Part II of the Act, should review the Council's use of the legislation and provide approval to its policies for same. The Council adopted this approach for oversight of the authority's use of Part I of the Act.

The report indicated that there has been no material change in the legislation since the September 2014 report.

The Audit and Procurement Committee considered the report on 15 February 2016 and had no comments or recommendations to make to the Cabinet Member.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure Sports and Parks:

- 1. Notes that the Audit & Procurement Committee has no comments or recommendations to make.**
- 2. Approves the report as a formal record of the Council's use and compliance with RIPA.**

38. **Authority for Attendance at Conference**

RESOLVED that Cabinet Member approves the attendance of the Lord Mayor, the Head of Libraries, Health and Information Services and an Officer from Democratic Services at the Kiel Week and International City Forum 2016 to be held in Kiel, Germany from 17 to 20 June 2016.

39. **Outstanding Issues Report**

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

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member approves the deletion of item 2 “Progress report on the Hillfields Community Safety Action Plan” as Officers have undertaken to brief the St. Michael’s Ward Councillors on a monthly basis.

40. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 3.15 pm)

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Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

21 April 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Councillor Abdul Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

Foleshill

Title: Proposed Public Space Protection Order for Edgwick Park

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

Agencies have raised concerns, echoed by the local community regarding congregations of people, mostly male in the park at various times of the day. Often there is alcohol being consumed and this makes local people reluctant to use the park and there is the risk of child sexual exploitation.

The Council has consulted on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Edgwick Park to assist the Police with their duties.

The responses from the consultation demonstrated significant support for these additional controls and this report, seeks permission to create a Public Space Protection Order, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

- (1) Note the attached results of a recent public consultation along with supporting witness impact statements and agree with the rationale for creating the order.
- (2) Approve that the order should be created and effective at the earliest practical date.
- (3) Request that all partner agencies continue their current actions and patrol plans and also monitor the surrounding areas for any potential displacement of the issue.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Proposed draft order for Edgwick Park

Appendix 2 – Impact statements

Appendix 3 – Report outlining the consultation process and findings

Background papers:

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: Proposed Public Space Protection Order for Edgwick Park

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Edgwick Park is a relatively small park located in the Foleshill ward. It is bounded by the Foleshill Rd, Eld Road and Cross Road. There is also a primary school, Edgwick Community Primary School located within the park. The park has a children's play area and the park itself is particularly intended to be a community park where families with children will come to use the facilities.
- 1.2 For some time it has been noted that groups of males have been congregating in the park, drinking alcohol and socialising. Partnership intelligence reports identified that there were groups of young people, particularly girls that were attracted to the park to access alcohol from these same groups of males. There were concerns that this was resulting in sexual exploitation. An alleged serious sexual assault occurred in the Summer of 2015, which whilst related to the park, did not actually occur in the park.
- 1.3 Community safety partnership resources have subsequently been focused on this area. Police patrols in the park were increased along with dedicated youth workers. In addition, considerable landscaping works have been made to the park to improve visibility for patrolling officers.
- 1.4 The Council has consulted on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to prohibit congregations, or specific behaviours within the park. The wording of the proposed PSPO is attached at Appendix One. The consultation was supported by impact statements from partners and members of the public as attached at Appendix Two. Breach of such an Order can result in a person being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) up to the value of £100. Should someone continually breach the PSPO, or if the breach is felt to be serious enough, then the matter could be referred to court where an increased fine of up to £1000, or custodial sentence could be imposed.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Do nothing (not recommended). The seriousness of the situation is such that the Council and its partners should look to utilise all available tools.
- 2.2 Introduce a PSPO for Edgwick Park (recommended). Whilst the Police already have powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, the introduction of a PSPO would be a useful additional tool, in managing situations that could potentially escalate. The Council has consulted on the introduction of this power and a summary of the responses can be found at Appendix Three. Further details can be found in section 3 of this report.
- 2.3 A PSPO allows for byelaw type restrictions to be placed with a defined area, it can prohibit certain activities or gatherings of groups if they can be shown to be problematic and the PSPO is believed to be proportionate to address the problematic behaviour. An offence committed under a PSPO is when someone fails to comply with an instruction from a Police or Council officer. In this example that instruction would be for a group of individuals to leave the park if their behaviour was felt to be, or potentially to be, inappropriate.
- 2.4 The amount of the FPN for non-compliance with a PSPO will be set at £100 and reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days; this would be in line with the other PSPO in force in the City for controlling dogs. Where fixed penalties are not paid, the Police would have the option of prosecuting offenders.

2.2 Recommendations. Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the attached results of a recent public consultation along with supporting witness impact statements and agree with the rationale for creating the order.
- (2) Approve that the order should be created and effective at the earliest practical date
- (3) Request that all partner agencies continue their current actions and patrol plans and also monitor the surrounding areas for any potential displacement of the issue.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 A public consultation was conducted between the 29th February 2016 and the 29th March 2016. A report in relation to the findings of this consultation can be found in appendix 3.
- 3.2 Impact statements were also obtained from key partners in relation to the park and activities and concerns and published with the consultation document. Statements were received from West Midlands Police (Neighbourhood and Public Protection teams), Edgwick Community Primary School and Horizon Child Sexual Exploitation team. These statements can be found in appendix 2.
- 3.3 Significant publicity for the proposed order was generated when the consultation process was started. There were several articles in the Coventry Telegraph as well as interviews with BBC television and local radio stations. Signage advertising the consultation was placed throughout the park and around the surrounding area and key community groups were contacted via e mail to advise them of the consultation.

3.4 Results of the Consultation

120 people responded to the consultation that was operational between 29th February and 29th March 2016. Of the 120 respondents only 112 answered the question, 8 skipping through it.

Of the 112 that answered the question as to whether the wording of the order was appropriate, 111 agreed with the wording of the order, the one objection felt that defining a group as only two people was unfair.

With an approval level of over 99% we feel the order clearly has the support of the local community.

Further details can be found in appendix 3 of the report.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If the Cabinet Member decides to proceed with a PSPO, the Order will be published on the Council's website and it will come into force immediately. Suitable signage will simultaneously be erected in the park following the implementation of the PSPO.
- 4.2 Patrols and patrol plans are already in place for the location and will be continuing. The order will be valid for a period of three years and can be extended or amended, providing due process is followed.

5 Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications. No additional resource will be required to implement the proposed PSPO. Any additional income generated by the introduction of a PSPO will contribute towards Council resources.

5.2 Legal implications. Under sections 59-75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Local Authorities have powers to make PSPOs. PSPOs can only apply to public places.

5.3 This means any place to which the public, or and sections of the public, on payment or otherwise, have access to as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission. Enforcement Officers can issue a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of a breach of a PSPO. It is a criminal offence to do anything without reasonable excuse which is prohibited under a PSPO or failure to comply with a requirement of a PSPO. Such an offence is punishable by a fine of up to £1000 on prosecution.

6 Other implications None

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

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 2015/16.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Officers from several agencies continue to monitor the area. The introduction of a PSPO will assist the Police in controlling anti-social behaviour.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation? None

6.4 Equalities / EIA N/A 6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The purpose of taking action to address behaviours in the park should increase usage of the park for legitimate purposes, in an attempt to improve the environment and wellbeing of the community.

6.5 Implications for partner organisations?

The multi-agency action plan outlines the individual and collective commitments from agencies to respond to the issues raised.

Report author(s):

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Members: Name				
Cllr A. Khan	Cabinet Member Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks		05.04.2016	05.04.2016

This report is published on the Council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
EDGWICK PARK ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Council of the City of Coventry (“the Council”) hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order (Edgwick Park Anti-Social Behaviour) under Sections 59 to 75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

1. This Order shall come into operation on (date to be decided) and shall have effect for a period of 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further orders under the Council’s statutory powers.
2. This Order relates to Edgwick Park and the bordering streets (“the Designated Area”) as shown edged in red on the attached plan.
3. The purpose of this order is to prevent any activities associated with Child Sexual Exploitation or any type of anti-social behaviour in the Designated Area including but not limited to fighting, drinking alcohol, drug taking and dealing, urinating and littering. The Council makes this Order because it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that groups of people within the Designated Area are and have carried out anti-social activities including the procurement of young people for sex. These activities are persistent and continuing and have resulted in members of the community feeling intimidated and unsafe.
4. The effect of this Order is to prohibit the congregation of groups of 2 or more persons in the Designated Area where the behaviour of some or all members of the group has or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community.

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Statement concerning Edgewick Park.

I have been Headteacher of Edgewick Community Primary School for 15 Years. The School adjoins Edgewick Park and over the last 10years especially, the level of antisocial behaviour in the park on a daily basis, often from as early as 8am, has become more frequent and more extreme. We have a clear view into the park and equally there is a clear view into our premises from the other side of the fence. These two way views are now even clearer, as our new school building looks directly towards the park from every classroom.

Since we moved into the new building 4 weeks ago, we have witnessed the following- large groups of men congregating by the metal "play shelter", where they drink and smoke cannabis (a strong smell pervades our playground on a daily basis)

they throw rubbish-cans, bags, needles, etc- by our school fence

They urinate against the fence

They use bad language, and watch, and occasionally try to engage our pupils through the fence

As the school is new and we do not currently have much of a playground, we have to go to the park area for Fire evacuation practice. On Tuesday 13th October, we had a practice and found that the area we needed to use as a Fire Assembly Point was covered in broken glass. This was a greater risk for our children than deciding not to do a Fire Evacuation.

The above are recent, but over the last few years there have been many issues:

Having to close the windows in summer because of the smell of cannabis.

Using the fence as a toilet- one morning we had to dispose of soiled underpants.

Disposing of needles, broken glass and rubbish thrown into the bushes by our fence. When the children use the MUGA courts for Sport Lesson and Afterschool Clubs, often it has to be abandoned because of abuse from those hanging about in the park, or they try to climb over.

Many parents report that they do not feel safe coming through the park, or allowing their children to play there. The men that congregate at the front of the park create a threatening and menacing atmosphere.

Jayne McHale
Headteacher

Community Impact Statement – Horizon Team

This statement is intended to offer an overview of the situation relating to Edgwick Park as outlined following frequent patrols and interactions by Horizon staff (Child Sexual Exploitation team) with members of the Community and particularly young people that frequent Edgwick Park and the surrounding area.

Horizon has been working in the park for some considerable time, there has been an increase in focus on the park following on from reported incidents over summer 2015

Summary

Listed below are the top three priority issues as identified by the Coventry Horizon team following discussions with the community:

1. Intimidating behaviour displayed by groups of men in park, sometimes drinking alcohol
2. Concerns about young girls interacting with groups of men
3. The reputational damage suffered by the park and reluctance of locals to use it.

It was agreed following regular multi-agency meetings that it would be appropriate to consult with local residents on the suitability of looking to apply for a Public Space Protection Order to allow officers more opportunity to challenge groups behaving inappropriately in the park and to offer additional protection to young people in the park. This consultation occurred in November 2015

Horizon, the child sexual exploitation team, visited the Foleshill area on 3 occasions during the consultation, between the 9th November and 20th November. The team undertook activities including:

- dropping leaflets to all of the businesses within a 150m perimeter around Edgwick park.
- posting leaflets through the doors of residents surrounding Edgwick park.
- attending Edgwick Primary to hand out leaflets to the parents of children at the School.
- handing out leaflets on the Foleshill Road to individuals visiting the area.
- attendance at local community meetings

During this activity the team were overwhelmed with the support that they received from local residents and businesses. It was very clear to the team that the local community are extremely unhappy with the way that they park is being used and that they are keen to ensure that change occurs so that they can use the park as a family recreation area.

Comments received included:

- ‘ That girls were prostituting themselves within the park’ . The team advised them that this is actually Child Sexual Exploitation.
- ‘ There are always fights and trouble within the park’.
- ‘ A lot of men frequent the park and drink heavily’
- ‘ I would not take my children to the park it is unsafe’
- ‘ I always used to come to this park as a child but the playground is always empty now’
- ‘This situation has been going on for so long. Why haven’t the Council taken action before now?’
- ‘ There are a lot of drugs within that park’
- ‘ That there are a lot of needles within the park’
- ‘ The park is dodgy and young people are approached by Romanian men’ . This comment was made by young people.
- ‘ The community used to walk through the park to visit Foleshill Road but people don’t do that anymore they walk round’
- ‘ Our businesses are suffering due to what is happening in the park as people no longer want to visit the area’ .

The team received these comments from a wide range of individuals within the area but they were particularly surprised at how many of these comments came from young males , age 18-30, a group that would not normally engage so readily with Council Officers on the street. The team also reflected that there was a strong sense of community within the area and many individuals commented on how they would like to use the park with their families if the problems within the park were removed.

Edgwick Park

As a result of an application for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Edgwick Park, Foleshill in Coventry, West Midlands Police have been asked to produce an 'Impact Statement' which describes the geographical location that is Edgwick Park, the 'Intelligence' linked to Edgwick Park and detail relating to victimology, as well as the incidence of activity linked to Child Sexual Exploitation. This statement deals in the main with the geography and the activity of the local policing teams in this area.

The Geography

Edgwick Park is a public park in the Foleshill area of Coventry. It is largely a grassland area but also contains floodlit sports pitches, a younger child's play area and older children climbing equipment. The main entrance to the park would be considered by many to be off the Foleshill Road (Entry 1 on the below map). Edgwick Play Centre (Point A on the below map) which has room for several cars to be parked at the front is situated to the right of the main entrance of the park (if you were standing on the Foleshill Rd looking at the park). The Play Centre backs onto the park and the child's play area. The park is also next to Edgwick Community primary school, (Point B on the below map and to the left of the main entrance if you were looking at the park from the Foleshill Road). *Please note, the school highlighted on the map is no longer standing as Google maps for this area is outdated. This has since been knocked down and replaced by a new modern school bearing the same name on the same land.

Apart from the main entrance on the Foleshill Road (of which there are three footpaths into the park from this location) it also has a large alleyway/entrance from Eld Road (Entry 2 on the map). There are no other conventional walking entrances into the park however access can be gained on foot if a person was willing to jump over fences that back onto surrounding dwellings on Eld Road, Cross Rd and Culworth Court (see map below for a clearer understanding). The only vehicular entrance is for vehicles entering the car park for Edgwick Play Centre.



... there are three Entrances (Off the Foleshill Road) and an additional entry point located in Eld Road;

1. Middle Entry Point on Foleshill Road, next to Toilet block



2. Front Left on Foleshill Road



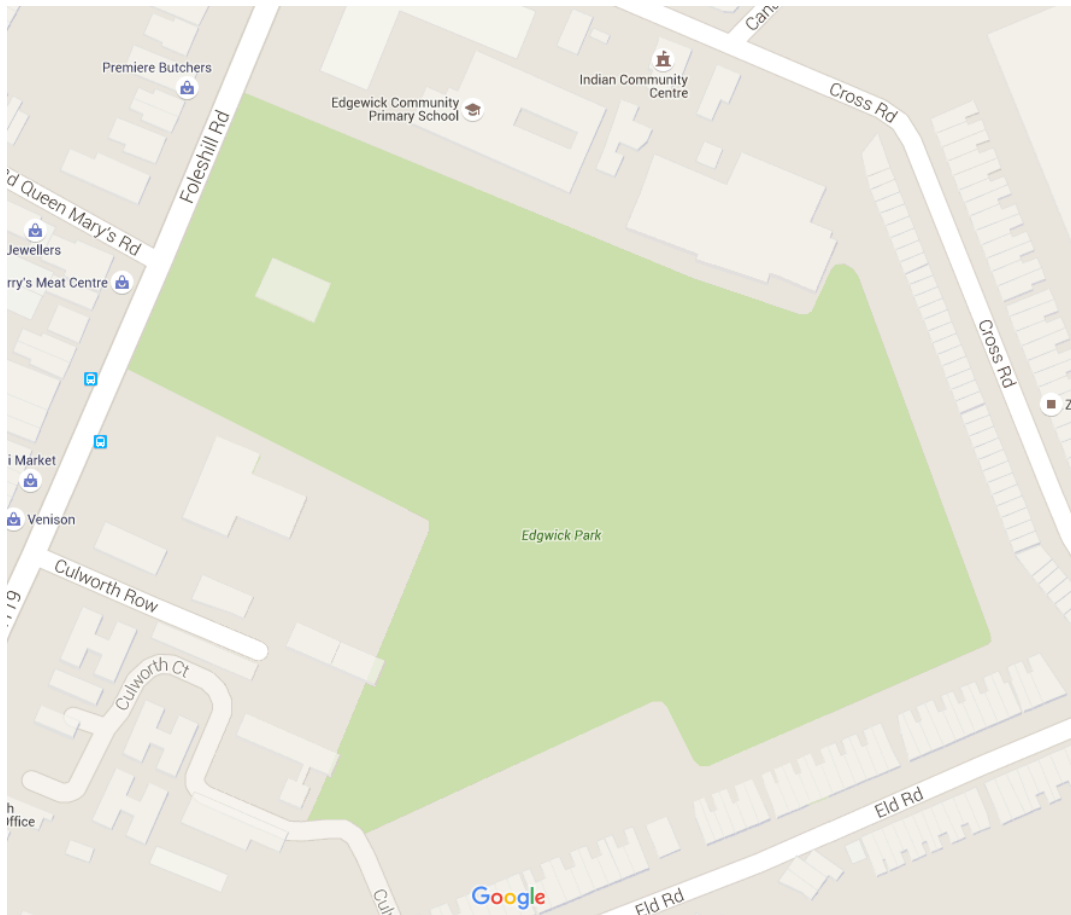
3. Front Right on Foleshill Road



4. Entrance from Eld Road



Street Map View Edgwick Park.



Community Use

The park is used by a multitude of people including families, couples, children and young adults, dog walkers, runners and larger groups etc.... The football pitches prove popular with young lads that play football and cricket within these caged areas. One of the pitches is floodlit until late into the evening. Families tend to use the children's play areas and the grassed areas in the summer where they will come and sit for hours whilst their children play. The park is a regular meeting site for larger groups of males from different nationalities. Recently officers have noted this is popular with Eastern Europeans including Polish, Romanian and Roma nationals. The park also appears popular with local alcoholics who do cause issues for other park goers on occasion.

During the evening the park can attract several groups of young adults (both male and female). Their behaviour can range from being civilised and respectful to unruly and anti-social. The main issues we face in the park are highlighted in more detail below;

1. Public Place Drinking

Adult drunks and youths drinking have been and continue to be a priority issue for the local neighbourhood team in and around the park. A Designated Public Place Order covers the

park which assists officers in tackling person drinking. The DPPO allows officers to confiscate any alcohol being consumed in the park when told by an officer to surrender it as no drinking of alcohol is allowed in the park.

Drinkers are more likely to litter, cause ASB and urinate in the park, to the annoyance of other park users. This behaviour also has a detrimental impact upon the reputation of the park, and a recent survey of local people identified that the park is very much under-utilised by local residents, given the perceptions which have manifested over time.

Underage drinking has been identified as a key concern during the spring/summer months. There has been evidence of officers confiscating alcohol from young persons who are demonstrating the effects of intoxication and behaving in an anti-social manner.

2. Controlled Substances

Drug dealing and persons smoking or injecting drugs within the confines of the park have been reported to officers. Drug paraphernalia has been and continues to be found in the park, in the toilets and next to the canopy area.

3. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Edgwick Park has been identified as a location within the city wherein activity linked to CSE is taking place. Intelligence indicates that young people (in the main young females) are coming to the park to access alcohol and controlled substances, provided to them by older males. The men are then engaging in/ attempting to engage in sexual activity with these young people whilst in the park or taking them to other locations within Coventry. In June 2015, two young girls reported being raped at an address in North Coventry, after having met males in this park. This incident became the trigger of a significant amount of multi-agency work, aimed at the early identification and diversion of vulnerable young people using the park, as well as to create a hostile environment within which offenders / potential offenders can operate.

4. Litter

Litter is an issue in the park and impacts on how the Community view open spaces in Coventry. Some of the litter is attributable to groups of drinkers, some to those who misuse controlled substances and a significant proportion is attributable to those who use the park for recreational purposes, but who demonstrate an irresponsible attitude towards their local environment by discarding rubbish other than in the refuse bins provided.

5. Anti-social Behaviour

Shouting, swearing, fighting, throwing things around, smashing bottles etc... are the more common issues reported to police. Officers note large groups of males (both adults and young lads) stood around, frequently near the front of the park (adjacent to Foleshill Rd) sitting on the wall. Many of these groups use the park as a meeting point and are not engaging in any criminal or anti-social activity. However there are also other groups who appear unaware or dis-interested in the fact that they are behaving in an anti-social manner, much to the annoyance of others in the park or those passing by on the main Foleshill Road. The mere presence of such groups appears to create an intimidating environment in the wider community, and reducing the usage of the park by those who might wish to.

Key Locations of Concern

Canopy

Up until last month a permanent metal canopy was in situ in the park next to the sports pitches. This canopy allowed persons to gather and stay dry during wet and cold weather. It also appeared to be a location used for the supply and use of controlled drugs (reported), and drinkers would use it to sit under whilst drinking. The canopy was removed in November 2015. Officers have already noted a decrease in litter in this area.

Toilet Block



The Toilet block is still currently open to the public and appears to facilitate the supply and use of controlled substances. Used needles, litter and disorder has been noted in and around the block. It is my belief that that this toilet block should be closed and demolished. There is very little evidence of it being used legitimately, and any social need for the provision of such facilities in Edgwick Park appears to be outweighed by the risks the structure poses to young people. The removal of the block

is also likely to have a positive impact upon the reputation and appearance of this open space, which in turn should lead to increased legitimate use by the local community.

Lighting

Lighting in the park is poor and needs improving. Poor lighting allows groups within the already dark corners of the park to avoid detection. As previously stated the sports pitches do have floodlighting but once this lighting is switched off, the park becomes a very dark and intimidating environment for a member of the public to walk through. The poor lighting also reduces the natural surveillance levels from the roadside, and has a detrimental impact upon the effectiveness of CCTV cameras (see below).

CCTV

There appears to be no local authority CCTV in the park.

West Midlands Police have a NOMAD camera which is placed on a lamppost on Foleshill Road looking into the park. It shows the front of the park through different camera views and its maximum effective range is the sports pitches located within the park.

Once daylight is lost, the existing lighting is too poor in the park for the cameras to be able to see anything going on. This can be evidenced in the below series of images which demonstrate the near total loss of visibility which occurs during the hours of darkness;





Images during daylight and darkness hours from our NOMAD Camera on the Foleshill Road

The Police Response

Edgwick Park remains a '**priority patrol area**' within the Foleshill Ward. It is patrolled daily by all teams who provide Neighbourhood Policing to the North East Constituency of Coventry. Support is also provided by other Local Policing Unit Departments from across the city, given the concerns regarding the need to identify and protect vulnerable young people from the harmful behaviour of others. A clearly documented plan which is continuously reviewed and updated at a senior management level exists and this drives all policing activity. The plan employs a variety of activity which seeks to identify young vulnerable people at the earliest opportunity, to disrupt and prevent criminal and anti-social behaviour within the park, and to work in partnership with other agencies and the local community to create a safe a pleasant environment within which all people can make use of the facilities available. Tactics used include;

Uniformed & Plain Clothes Patrols

Static patrols are in place and are completed several times during every tour of 'Early' or 'Late' shift. This can see up to 5 pairs of officers/PCSO's patrolling the park at different times during each shift. These patrols ensure that the park is subjected to a police presence at different times of the day and do take place up to 1am. Since June 2015, this tactic has seen the investment of hundreds of hours of policing resources, and has resulted in a demonstrable reduction in the presence of vulnerable young people at risk of harmful behaviour. Co-ordinated partnership activity has seen an increase in the level of engagement with young people who may be at risk, allowing us to better understand what might be making them vulnerable and how we might reduce that vulnerability.

At a very local level, I have dedicated much of the working day of two of my PCSO's to identifying and supporting vulnerable young females who may be using the park. They have been able to develop relationships and rapport with a number of the local girls and boys who they now know by face and name. Most if not all of them are happy to talk and engage with the PCSO's, thereby allowing us to regularly cultivate intelligence and updates regarding who may be vulnerable and who may be offending. I also on occasion ask my staff

to patrol in plain clothes in a bid to get closer to some groups in the park. I accept that often the very identifiable 'POLICE' uniform can act as a barrier to effective engagement, particularly within groups who do not feel comfortable being identified as freely engaging with statutory organisations.

Prevention versus Detection

All staff are given very clear direction regarding what our priorities linked to CSE are. Identification and early intervention remain at the forefront of policing activity, and the work which we have undertaken over the last 7 months has allowed us to have a far more informed understanding of who our vulnerable young people are, where they live, with whom they live, where they frequent, with whom they frequent and what makes them vulnerable. I am very keen for all my staff to engage with these young people at the earliest opportunity in a bid to obtain as much information as they are willing to give. My officers have highlighted a number of concerns about young females in and around the park in the past and in particular what their reasons for being in the park are? These young people were getting access to alcohol, cigarettes and controlled substances, increasing the concerns regarding their continued safety, particularly as we were unclear as to who they were associating with. By engaging with these young people, building relationships and increasing trust and confidence in our motivation for being in the park, I do believe we have reduced the levels of vulnerability associated with a number of these young people. We have also been able to refer young people into more specialist services, as well as to raise their profile within other statutory service providers, thereby increasing intervention levels.

Equally we have been able to negate CSE concerns around certain individuals when it has been suggested that they are a concern by association or given the area within which they frequent. This has only been possible due to the relationships my staff have been able to build and maintain. I feel it is extremely important that we do not 'label' young people as being linked to CSE if there is no evidence they are not. Young people respond adversely to being labelled, particularly when they do not agree with what is being suggested. This can weaken relationships, which remain the most effective way in which we are able to identify and safeguard. This is the message I am reinforcing to all policing teams and one which I am encouraging partner agencies to embrace.

Engagement with the young persons is also extended to visits to their home address and liaison with parents or guardians. We have a positive relationship with many of the parents of our young persons who frequent the park. On 20th December 2015 I chaired a meeting at Foleshill Police Station wherein West Midlands Police had invited the parents / guardians of some of those young vulnerable females we had identified over the previous months. Twelve invitations were sent out, of which four parents were able to attend. The meeting provided me with the opportunity to highlight my continuing concerns regarding their children's behaviour. As a consequence of that discussion, I obtained unanimous support for

facilitating the safe return of their children to the home addresses on those occasions where they were found to be in Edgwick Park or in the proximity thereof, in circumstances which gave cause for concern as to their continued safety and wellbeing. All parents were very keen for officers to return their children to their home or to ring parents should the young person refuse. I asked the mother's/guardians to ensure that in future they know where their daughters are and they satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the locations they were being told their children would be at. This reflected the fact that we had identified a number of occasions whereupon parents have been told children were at an address with friends, only for us to locate them out on the streets at inappropriate times. My belief is that the meeting was a success and we hope to hold another one just before Easter 2016 with the aim of casting the net wider and including many more parents.

The Foleshill Neighbourhood Team has also begun to use 'Harbouring Notices' in order to deter and prevent the concealment of young people by adults. To this end, my team has received training and has now begun to identify individuals who may be supporting young people going missing or allowing them to conceal their location in circumstances which may give rise to the increased risk of exploitation. A very recent success has seen the identification of one female who was allowing young people to come and go freely from her address. Serving a 'Harbouring Notice' on her appears to have stopped activity at this address altogether and we are currently looking at other harbouring notices at other addresses identified across Foleshill.

Partnership Working

Partner Agencies including as Children's Services, the recently formed 'Horizon Team', Coventry Council's Greenspaces and Community Safety Team's are some of the many partners now collaborating in an effort to eliminate the exploitation of vulnerable young people. Information sharing has increased significantly and regular meetings have ensured that we are not duplicating work, but rather we are working towards a common goal. I remain committed to ensuring that partnership working, maximising the effectiveness of existing resources and pooling information with the ultimate aim of safeguarding young people at the centre of all activity.

Public Place Drinking

We have a zero tolerance on alcohol consumption in the park. If we observe drinking alcohol in the park the person identified is politely reminded of the DPPO and asked to discard it. The alcohol is confiscated if they refuse and we do issue tickets. Most - if not all - hand over/discard their alcohol immediately without incident. Early action is key to reducing the chances of alcohol finding its way into the hands of young people, increasing their vulnerability and exposure to the harmful behaviour of others.

Summary

Edgwick Park and the various issues we have at this location remain one of many policing priorities within the North East of Coventry. As a Neighbourhood Manager, I remain committed to using all of the resources and capabilities of staff around me in reducing the vulnerability the park creates for young people. A Public Space Protection Order will provide another tool to help remove people suspected or believed to be engaging in harmful behaviour towards young people from the park and its surrounding area. This will allow for the creation of a safer environment more conducive towards wider community use. The only individuals who would not benefit from the introduction of a PSPO would be those people motivated towards exploiting the vulnerabilities of young people. The use of the powers would be discretionary, and will be combined with the application of a balanced, common sense approach. This will ensure that groups will not be disproportionately targeted or disadvantaged, with the additional safeguard of appeals being dealt with by Coventry Council and not West Midlands Police.

Sgt Asa Morris

Foleshill Neighbourhood Team Supervisor

West Midlands Police

Edgwick Park Public Space Protection Order: Findings from Public Consultation – March 2016

There was an initial consultation carried out in November to assess if people were supportive of the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for Edgwick Park to address the issues commonly identified by park users and the local community as well as addressing concerns that other agencies had regarding potential Child Sexual Exploitation in the park.

When this consultation indicated people were supportive then it was necessary to carry out another consultation exercise regarding the precise wording and conditions of the order.

Response Rate

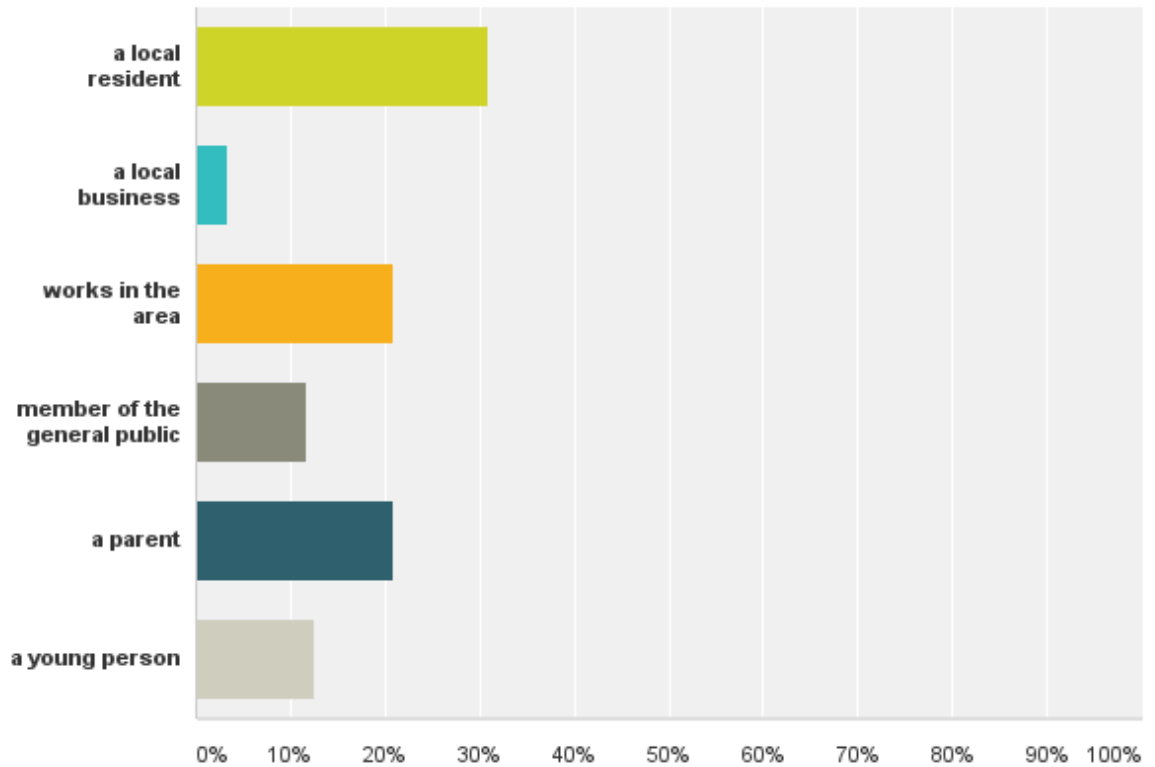
This consultation was carried out between 29th February and 29th March 2016.

120 responses were received.

Respondent Profile

Q1 Are you responding to this survey as? (Please tick only one)

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



The largest group of respondents were from local residents at 31% the next largest groups were parents and workers in the area at 21%

Are you responding to this survey as? (Please tick only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
a local resident	30.8%	37
a local business	3.3%	4
someone who works in the area	20.8%	25
a member of the general public	11.7%	14
a parent	20.8%	25
a young person	12.5%	15
<i>answered question</i>		120
<i>skipped question</i>		0

The respondents were then asked whether they supported the introduction of this public space protection order.

1. Do you support the introduction of this order?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	99.0%	111
No	1.0%	1
<i>answered question</i>		112
<i>skipped question</i>		8

The overwhelming majority of respondents support the introduction of this order.

The respondent who disagreed with the introduction of the order stated the following comment:

2 people do not constitute a group and the definition of what behaviour is included is too vague. All the examples you gave are already covered in law and it doesn't need further legislation, just for the current law to be enforced.

Profile of Respondents

Are you		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Female	64.0%	71
Male	36.0%	40
<i>answered question</i>		111
<i>skipped question</i>		9

How old are you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 16	8.1%	9
16 24	7.2%	8
25 34	33.3%	37
35 44	36.0%	40
45 54	9.0%	10
55 64	1.8%	2
65 74	2.7%	3
75 84	1.8%	2
85+	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		111
<i>skipped question</i>		9

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	10.9%	12
No	89.1%	98
<i>answered question</i>		110
<i>skipped question</i>		10

What is your ethnic background?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White British (includes English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish)	23.9%	26
White Irish	0.9%	1
White Gypsy/ Irish Traveller	0.0%	0
White Other	3.7%	4
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	0.9%	1
Mixed White and Black African	0.0%	0
Mixed White and Asian	0.0%	0
Mixed Other	0.9%	1
Asian/ Asian British Indian	12.8%	14
Asian/ Asian British Pakistani	40.4%	44
Asian/ Asian British Bangladeshi	9.2%	10
Chinese	0.9%	1
Asian/ Asian British Other	1.8%	2
Black/ Black British African	2.8%	3
Black/ Black British Caribbean	1.8%	2
Black/Black British Other	0.0%	0
Arab	0.0%	0
Any other ethnic group	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		109
<i>skipped question</i>		11



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Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

21 April 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks – Councillor Abdul Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title:

Recommendations from the Parks Task and Finish Group of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

At their informal meeting on 24 June 2015, the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) established a task and finish group to look at how Friends of Parks groups could be supported to make parks and open spaces more age-friendly. This report introduces the recommendations identified by the task and finish group and the reasons behind them.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks is recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Streetpride and Greenspace to incorporate the following principles into his review of the Council's existing Green Space Strategy:

- 1) To ensure that parks and open spaces are considered as the city moves towards becoming an age-friendly city;
- 2) That when resources are available, improvements to parks and open spaces should consider age-friendly requirements such as footpaths and safety/anti-social behaviour concerns;
- 3) That support networks for Friends groups are supported by the Council both locally and regionally; and
- 4) To ensure that Section 106 agreements for green spaces are more flexible as to what can be funded on a specific site.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Age-friendly Cities Checklist

Appendix 2 – Notes from the Task and Finish Group

Other useful background papers:

None.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes

The recommendations, but not this report, have been endorsed by the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) at their meeting on 13th April 2016

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

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. At their informal meeting on 24 June 2015, the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) established a task and finish group to look at how Friends of Parks groups could be supported to make parks and open spaces more age-friendly.
- 1.2. The task and finish group consisted of:
 - Cllr Bigham
 - Cllr Lakha (Chair)
 - Cllr Lapsa
 - Cllr Walsh
- 1.3. The group met on four occasions and heard information about age-friendly cities, Section 106 funding and also from representatives of two community groups, as well as visiting several park sites across the city.

2. Age-friendly Cities

- 2.1. The Health and Well-being Board supported becoming an age-friendly city at their meeting on 7 July 2014 and subsequently this was adopted as part of the refreshed Council Plan at Cabinet on 7 July 2015.
- 2.2. Members heard from Kam Kaur, the Age-Friendly Transformation Manager, as well as Anne Lakin, Chair of Coventry Older Voices, about what was happening to support Coventry becoming an age-friendly city.
- 2.3. Members heard that the top priorities for older people when it came to public spaces were accessibility, such as suitable paths and walkways, feeling safe, and access to public toilets.
- 2.4. A check list from the World Health Organization of what is involved in becoming an age-friendly city is provided at appendix 1.
- 2.5. Anne Lakin also offered to become part of the group to advise and support on age-friendly matters.
- 2.6. Public Health also contributed to the discussion. Valuing green spaces is a key priority under Marmot, creating health and sustainable communities. There is no additional funding to implement the Marmot principles and they have not had budgets for next year confirmed yet. However they are committed to working together to support the work.

3. Section 106 funding for parks and open spaces

- 3.1. Members of the task and finish group considered information about Section 106 (S106 – planning obligation) agreements for open spaces.
- 3.2. Members heard that Section 106 monies form part of planning agreements and can be designated to a variety of different capital projects such as infrastructure, education and open spaces. S106 obligations must be proportionate and related to the development and any S106 monies must be spent on projects within the area the subject of the related planning permission.
- 3.3. Members heard that most capital funding for improving parks and open spaces comes through S106 agreements and is frequently designated for children's play facilities. Members also heard that although capital funding comes through S106 agreements, the on-going revenue costs for maintenance has to come from existing Council budgets.

4. Friends Groups

- 4.1. Members heard that the Council supports around 30 Friends and community groups associated with green spaces across the city. It was explained that these kinds of groups can access sources of funding unavailable to the local authority. Examples given were Gosford Park Residents Association, who had accessed lottery funding for play equipment and Willenhall Rangers who had accessed Woodland Trust funding for tree planting.
- 4.2. Members heard about the work that community groups do in terms of supporting the community use and maintenance of the green spaces. They also heard from one of the Parks Development Officers about the support offered through the Council to community groups and friends groups.
- 4.3. Members of the task and finish group heard evidence from representatives of 2 community groups that support green spaces in their local area. Representatives from Canley Green Spaces and Allesley Green Residents Association attended the meeting.
- 4.4. Members heard about some of the issues experienced by volunteer groups, with parks and green spaces, such as anti-social behaviour and sustaining membership.
- 4.5. The representatives from the two groups found it beneficial to be able to share information and experiences.

5. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 5.1. Option 1: Do nothing
- 5.2. Members considered the information presented to them and there were areas that could be improved to ensure that parks and green spaces in the city are more age-friendly. Members also realised that there was more the Council could do to encourage and support Friends groups. By doing nothing there would be a danger that groups in the city could be excluded from parks and green spaces, so doing nothing was not considered to be an option.
- 5.3. Option 2: Recommendations

The City's Green Space Strategy was established in 2008 and provides a framework for the management and development of the City's green space until March 2018. This document is planned to be reviewed and updated.

The Cabinet Member is recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Streetpride and Greenspace to incorporate the following principles into his review of the Council's existing Green Space Strategy:

- 1) To ensure that parks and open spaces are considered as the city moves towards becoming an age-friendly city;
- 2) That when resources are available, improvements to parks and open spaces should consider age-friendly requirements such as footpaths and safety/anti-social behaviour concerns;
- 3) That support networks for Friends groups are supported by the Council both locally and regionally; and
- 4) To ensure that Section 106 agreements for green spaces are more flexible as to what can be funded on a specific site.

6. Results of consultation undertaken

- 6.1. There has been no formal consultation on these proposals.

7. Timetable for implementing this decision

7.1. The existing Greenspace Strategy was approved in 2008 and provided a framework for the management and development of the City's parks and open green spaces for a period of 10 years terminating March 2018. It is anticipated that the review of the strategy will start during September 2016 and take effect on the termination of the existing strategy on 1st April 2018 following the appropriate approvals.

8. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

8.1. Financial implications

The recommendations in this report can be met within existing budgets or when resources are available. Increasing support and capacity within voluntary organisations such as Friends Groups enables Coventry's open spaces to be sustained with reduced public resource.

8.2. Legal implications

Planning obligations imposed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 must be: (1) necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms; (2) directly related to the proposed development; and (3) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development.

The Council has various powers to acquire and maintain parks and open spaces for public enjoyment, including the Public Health Act 1875, Open Spaces Act 1906 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

9. Other implications

None

9.1. How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Parks and green spaces are highly valued by the citizens of Coventry for informal recreation, sports or as venues for events and activities. Increasing access by all community groups contributes greatly to improving quality of life and addressing health inequalities in Coventry.

9.2. How is risk being managed?

Risk will be managed through the existing Place directorate risk profile.

9.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None

9.4. Equalities / EIA

No equalities/ Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) assessment has been completed for this report however a full EIA will be completed as part of the Greenspace Strategy review.

9.5. Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No direct impact

9.6. Implications for partner organisations?

Officers within the City Council's Greenspace Service will continue to engage, support and work in partnership with the large number Friends of Parks and other voluntary Community Groups to improve access by all community groups to its parks and open spaces.

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This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings



Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities

This checklist of essential age-friendly city features is based on the results of the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities project consultation in 33 cities in 22 countries. The checklist is a tool for a city's self-assessment and a map for charting progress. More detailed checklists of age-friendly city features are to be found in the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide.

This checklist is intended to be used by individuals and groups interested in making their city more age-friendly. For the checklist to be effective, older people must be involved as full partners. In assessing a city's strengths and deficiencies, older people will describe how the checklist of features matches their own experience of the city's positive characteristics and barriers. They should play a role in suggesting changes and in implementing and monitoring improvements.

Outdoor spaces and buildings

- Public areas are clean and pleasant.
- Green spaces and outdoor seating are sufficient in number, well-maintained and safe.
- Pavements are well-maintained, free of obstructions and reserved for pedestrians.
- Pavements are non-slip, are wide enough for wheelchairs and have dropped curbs to road level.
- Pedestrian crossings are sufficient in number and safe for people with different levels and types of disability, with non-slip markings, visual and audio cues and adequate crossing times.
- Drivers give way to pedestrians at intersections and pedestrian crossings.
- Cycle paths are separate from pavements and other pedestrian walkways.
- Outdoor safety is promoted by good street lighting, police patrols and community education.

- Services are situated together and are accessible.
- Special customer service arrangements are provided, such as separate queues or service counters for older people.
- Buildings are well-signed outside and inside, with sufficient seating and toilets, accessible elevators, ramps, railings and stairs, and non-slip floors.
- Public toilets outdoors and indoors are sufficient in number, clean, well-maintained and accessible.

Transportation

- Public transportation costs are consistent, clearly displayed and affordable.
- Public transportation is reliable and frequent, including at night and on weekends and holidays.
- All city areas and services are accessible by public transport, with good connections and well-marked routes and vehicles.

- Vehicles are clean, well-maintained, accessible, not overcrowded and have priority seating that is respected.
- Specialized transportation is available for disabled people.
- Drivers stop at designated stops and beside the curb to facilitate boarding and wait for passengers to be seated before driving off.
- Transport stops and stations are conveniently located, accessible, safe, clean, well-lit and well-marked, with adequate seating and shelter.
- Complete and accessible information is provided to users about routes, schedules and special needs facilities.
- A voluntary transport service is available where public transportation is too limited.
- Taxis are accessible and affordable, and drivers are courteous and helpful.
- Roads are well-maintained, with covered drains and good lighting.
- Traffic flow is well-regulated.
- Roadways are free of obstructions that block drivers' vision.
- Traffic signs and intersections are visible and well-placed.
- Driver education and refresher courses are promoted for all drivers.
- Parking and drop-off areas are safe, sufficient in number and conveniently located.
- Priority parking and drop-off spots for people with special needs are available and respected.

Housing

- Sufficient, affordable housing is available in areas that are safe and close to services and the rest of the community.
- Sufficient and affordable home maintenance and support services are available.
- Housing is well-constructed and provides safe and comfortable shelter from the weather.
- Interior spaces and level surfaces allow freedom of movement in all rooms and passageways.
- Home modification options and supplies are available and affordable, and providers understand the needs of older people.
- Public and commercial rental housing is clean, well-maintained and safe.
- Sufficient and affordable housing for frail and disabled older people, with appropriate services, is provided locally.

Social participation

- Venues for events and activities are conveniently located, accessible, well-lit and easily reached by public transport.
- Events are held at times convenient for older people.
- Activities and events can be attended alone or with a companion.
- Activities and attractions are affordable, with no hidden or additional participation costs.

- Good information about activities and events is provided, including details about accessibility of facilities and transportation options for older people.
- A wide variety of activities is offered to appeal to a diverse population of older people.
- Gatherings including older people are held in various local community spots, such as recreation centres, schools, libraries, community centres and parks.
- There is consistent outreach to include people at risk of social isolation.

Respect and social inclusion

- Older people are regularly consulted by public, voluntary and commercial services on how to serve them better.
- Services and products to suit varying needs and preferences are provided by public and commercial services.
- Service staff are courteous and helpful.
- Older people are visible in the media, and are depicted positively and without stereotyping.
- Community-wide settings, activities and events attract all generations by accommodating age-specific needs and preferences.
- Older people are specifically included in community activities for “families”.
- Schools provide opportunities to learn about ageing and older people, and involve older people in school activities.

- Older people are recognized by the community for their past as well as their present contributions.
- Older people who are less well-off have good access to public, voluntary and private services.

Civic participation and employment

- A range of flexible options for older volunteers is available, with training, recognition, guidance and compensation for personal costs.
- The qualities of older employees are well-promoted.
- A range of flexible and appropriately paid opportunities for older people to work is promoted.
- Discrimination on the basis of age alone is forbidden in the hiring, retention, promotion and training of employees.
- Workplaces are adapted to meet the needs of disabled people.
- Self-employment options for older people are promoted and supported.
- Training in post-retirement options is provided for older workers.
- Decision-making bodies in public, private and voluntary sectors encourage and facilitate membership of older people.

Communication and information

- A basic, effective communication system reaches community residents of all ages.
- Regular and widespread distribution of information is assured and a coordinated, centralized access is provided.

- Regular information and broadcasts of interest to older people are offered.
- Oral communication accessible to older people is promoted.
- People at risk of social isolation get one-to-one information from trusted individuals.
- Public and commercial services provide friendly, person-to-person service on request.
- Printed information – including official forms, television captions and text on visual displays – has large lettering and the main ideas are shown by clear headings and bold-face type.
- Print and spoken communication uses simple, familiar words in short, straightforward sentences.
- Telephone answering services give instructions slowly and clearly and tell callers how to repeat the message at any time.
- Electronic equipment, such as mobile telephones, radios, televisions, and bank and ticket machines, has large buttons and big lettering.
- There is wide public access to computers and the Internet, at no or minimal charge, in public places such as government offices, community centres and libraries.

Community and health services

- An adequate range of health and community support services is offered for promoting, maintaining and restoring health.
- Home care services include health and personal care and housekeeping.
- Health and social services are conveniently located and accessible by all means of transport.
- Residential care facilities and designated older people's housing are located close to services and the rest of the community.
- Health and community service facilities are safely constructed and fully accessible.
- Clear and accessible information is provided about health and social services for older people.
- Delivery of services is coordinated and administratively simple.
- All staff are respectful, helpful and trained to serve older people.
- Economic barriers impeding access to health and community support services are minimized.
- Voluntary services by people of all ages are encouraged and supported.
- There are sufficient and accessible burial sites.
- Community emergency planning takes into account the vulnerabilities and capacities of older people.

Appendix 2 – Notes from the Task and Finish Group

Meeting One

Task and Finish Group – Parks Task and Finish Group

Site visits

17th September 2016

Members of the Task and Finish Group visited three parks in different areas of the city. All three parks are very different and officers talk about the different issues the parks faced.

Feedback, comments and observations were made at the next meeting.

Edgwick Park



Stoke Green



Allesley Walled Garden



Allesley Park



Meeting Two
Task and Finish Group – Parks Task and Finish Group
Notes of the meeting from 20th October 2015

Present:

Cllr Bigham	Anne Lakin – Chair of Coventry Older Voices
Cllr Lakha	Kam Kaur – Age-friendly Cities
Cllr Lapsa	Graham Hood – Head of Green Space and Streetpride
Cllr Walsh	Vicky Castree – Scrutiny Co-ordinator

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

Cllr Bigham's husband is Chair of Friends of Longford Park, Cllr Lapsa is a trusted trader with Age UK.

2. Feed-back from site visits

Visited three parks - Edgewick, Stoke Green and Allesley. Graham reported on the parks - Allesley is a huge neighbourhood park - well maintained, lots of features - popular. There were some issues - quality of footpath and seating. Edgewick has lots of antisocial issues attached it - gathering spot for drinking. Issues of child sexual exploitation, prostitution and lots of work going into making it safer. Gentleman's Green, Stoke - some investment - clock going in. Less antisocial behaviour but some rough sleeping. Not much would attract someone into the site other than dog walking. Parks Service know there is need to develop parks in line with community need. There is clear evidence to demonstrate the environmental and health benefits of parks. Links with Coventry being a Marmot City but it is a challenge to get the funding.

Parks work with 20 plus community groups to support the groups. They work to get external funding not accessible for Council. The Council rely heavily on Section 106 money to develop parks. There is no capital programme to speak of.

There are 400 open spaces in the city, so they have to be selective in the ones that are supported. Developing a management plan is a lengthy process. Public Health have supported the development of management plans for parks in areas of deprivation.

3. Age-friendly Cities

Anne reported that one of the main barriers for older people was concerns about safety and access to public toilets. In any consultation the top 4 things that come up are, presence on site, toilets, control of dogs and litter. In London they have looked at different ways of providing toilets.

Safety can be done in a number of ways - in designing the sites and getting more people into parks and encouraging greater use. Then, when people are in the park, there is lots going on. Start with existing groups and how they think and feel, what

their membership is and what issues they've identified. Seating, paths, simple things such as walking groups etc.

Manchester is an age-friendly city. Look to see what has been done there with parks.

4. Next steps

For the next meeting Members requested:

- Information on Section106 money available
- Look at how Longford have accessed additional money
- List of which parks have community groups associated with them
- More information about Manchester's age-friendly city work
- Invite a representative from Public Health to the next meeting.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

The next meeting will take place on
17th November 2015 at 3-4pm in Committee Room 7

Meeting Three
Task and Finish Group – Parks Task and Finish Group
Notes of the meeting from 17th November 2015

Present:

Cllr Bigham

Cllr Lakha

Cllr Walsh

Anne Lakin – Chair of Coventry Older Voices

Kam Kaur – Age-friendly Cities

Graham Hood – Head of Green Space and Streetpride

Gennie Holmes – Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Hannah Watts – Public Health

Apologies: Cllr Lapsa

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

2. Age-friendly Cities - Manchester

The age-friendly charter from Manchester was circulated. A request for information about what had been done in Manchester to encourage age-friendly parks had been made. When information is available this will be circulated.

3. Next steps

For the next meeting Members requested:

- Information on Section 106 money available
- Look at how Longford have accessed additional money
- List of which parks have community groups associated with them
- More information about Manchester's age-friendly city work
- Invite a representative from Public Health to the next meeting.

4. Public Health

Hannah talked about her role and the link with Public Health and Place Directorate.. Valuing green spaces is a key priority under Marmot, creating health and sustainable communities. There is no additional funding to implement the Marmot principles and they have not had budgets for next year confirmed yet. However they are committed to working together to support the work. Hannah had a background in older people's social care so has an understanding of the needs of older people.

5. Friends Groups and others interested in local open space

Graham Hood had circulated information about all the local and community groups his team work with. Most of the groups are small and are reliant on a few key individuals so are vulnerable. They take a lot of support to keep them involved and active. Working with communities is a key priority for the local authority. He also talked about how they had linked with Public Health to develop management plans for parks in areas of deprivation, through support on the consultation process and potential funding. External funding needs an active community and consultation to

support it. The Community Development Service also works to support local community groups and they work alongside this team.

6. Section 106 monies

Graham Hood shared information about Section 106 money (S106). The money comes from developers and is part of the planning process. The money can be allocated for parks, highways and education. Parks receive a smaller contribution of about just of £1million. However this money will fluctuate depending on the number and scale of developments happening in the city.

There are very clear guidelines on what the money can be spent on, usually children's play facilities or sports facilities and within a clear geographical area.

Also maintenance of parks is a revenue cost which has to be met by the Council.

7. Next steps

To hear from Friends of Parks groups to see how they have worked to access funding. Also to try and focus on areas of Marmot priority.

The Older Peoples Voices group offered to support any Friends groups if they were looking to access external funding.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

Meeting Four
Task and Finish Group – Parks Task and Finish Group
Notes of the meeting from 9th December 2015

Present:

Cllr Bigham	Tony Simons – Allesley Green Residents Association
Cllr Lakha	Colin Smith – Allesley Green Residents Association
Cllr Walsh	Michael Wileman – Friends of Canley Green Spaces
	Gennie Holmes – Scrutiny Co-ordinator
	Andrew Walster – Assistant Director, Streetscene and Greenspace
	Mark Yates – Parks Development Officer

Apologies: Cllrs Bigham, Lapsa

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

2. Comments from Friends of Parks

Members heard that the Council supports around 30 Friends and community groups associated with green spaces across the city. It was explained that these kinds of groups can access sources of funding unavailable to the local authority. Examples given were Gosford Park Residents Association, who had accessed lottery funding for play equipment and Willenhall Rangers who had accessed Woodland Trust funding for tree planting.

Members heard about the work that community groups do in terms of supporting the community use and maintenance of the green spaces. They also heard from one of the Parks Development Officers about the support offered through the Council to community groups and friends groups.

Members of the task and finish group heard evidence from the representatives of 2 community groups that support green spaces in their local area. Members heard about the benefits of volunteering, especially about links with the University in Canley.

Members heard about some of the issues experienced by volunteer groups, with parks and green spaces, such as anti-social behaviour and sustaining membership. Volunteers were particularly downhearted when work they had done was affected by vandalism and anti-social behaviour such as drinking and fire starting.

The representatives from the two groups found it beneficial to be able to share information and experiences.

3. Next Steps

Members will meet to identify recommendations to the Cabinet Member, arising from the information provided.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

21 April 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks – Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

Outstanding Issues Report

Is this a key decision?

No

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 for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks so he is aware of them and can monitor progress.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks 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

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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

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www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

	Subject	Date for Further Consideration	Responsible Officer	Proposed Amendment to Date for Consideration	Reason for Request to Delay Submission of Report
1	Withdrawal of Council Services from Spencer Park Petition - Request that the Council keep the Pavilion open for at least part of each week in the 2015 season and to re-open the tennis courts and the flat green: Progress report on this work be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member (minute 3/15 refers)	No date specified	Andrew Walster Assistant Director for Streetscene and Greenspace Place Directorate		
3	Place Directorate Enforcement Policy Report on outcome of consultation CM(CLSP) 12 November 2015 (Minute 16)	First meeting in New Municipal Year (June 2016)	Executive Director of Place Craig Hickin		
4	Passport to Leisure and Learning Review Outcome of full review of the Passport to Leisure & Learning Card	First meeting in the New Municipal Year (June 2016)	Executive Director of Place Amy Dowall/Steve Wiles		
5*	Friends Groups and Age Friendly Parks Recommendations from SB3 Task & Finish Group	21 April 2016	Executive Director of Place Graham Hood/Gennie Holmes		

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