



Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

Time and Date

12.00 pm on Thursday, 10th February, 2022

Place

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

Please note that in line with current Government and City Council guidelines in relation to Covid, there will be reduced public access to the meeting to manage numbers attending safely. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Governance Services Officers indicated at the end of the agenda.

Public Business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 4)

(a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022

(b) Matters arising

4. **Petition - Provision of a Tarmac Path around the outside edge of the Ponderosa, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill** (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

To consider the above petition bearing 208 signatures which was submitted by Councillor P Male, a Woodlands Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item.

5. **Extension of Existing Public Space Protection Order for Edgwick Park** (Pages 11 - 22)

Report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

6. **Outstanding Issues**

There are no outstanding issues

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

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 2 February 2022

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Usha Patel, usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member) and AS Khan (Cabinet Member)

By invitation Councillor J Lepoidevin (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Public Access

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<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

Usha Patel

Email: usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at
12.30 pm on Monday, 17 January 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor AS Khan (Cabinet Member)
 Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Councillor J Lepoidevin (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Service Area):

Legal and Governance G Carter, L Knight
Services

Public Health and J Mann
Wellbeing

Public Business

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

19. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

20. Proposed Equality Objectives 2022-2025

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, which proposed a set of five new Equality Objectives for 2022-2025 for publication.

The Cabinet Member noted that the report had also been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at its meeting on 12th January 2022. A briefing note indicated the Committee's endorsement of the proposed Equality Objectives and also set out an additional recommendation, which the Cabinet Member accepted.

The Council is committed to fulfilling its duty as a public authority under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As part of this general duty, the Council is required to comply with a specific duty to publish a set of Equality Objectives, which will further the aims of the general duty. The current set of Equality Objectives were set in 2020 for a period of two years and will expire at the end of March 2022. A set of five proposed new Equality Objectives were recently the subject of a consultation exercise which has now been analysed.

The report set out the progress against the Equality Objectives set in 2020 and how these informed the new Objectives. The five Equality Objectives proposed for the Council for 2022-2025 are:

1. Create a foundation to drive improved access to services through better use of equalities data.
2. Develop better understanding of our diverse communities in order to shape and deliver the Council's Integration policy and practice for the City and its residents.
3. To increase year on year the percentage of applications for employment received and appointments made to candidates who are either LGBT+, declare a disability or are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.
4. Increase the effective delivery of Council Services in key areas.
5. Increase participation from residents and visitors with disabilities in sporting and cultural activities in the city.

Consultation on these proposed Equality Objectives ran from 1st November to 6th December 2021. The outcome of the consultation was summarised within the report and would be fed into the development of action plans for each Equality Objective.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

1. **Notes the comments of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and approves its additional recommendation to ensure that the Council recognises Equality Day on 14th April and that the Diversity and Inclusion Calendar includes the national day for atheism.**
2. **Approves the formal adoption of the proposed new Equality Objectives for the Council for 2022-25.**

21. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

22. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.50 pm)

Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities

10 February 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor A S Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:

Tile Hill

Title: Petition – Provision of a tarmac path around the outside edge of the Ponderosa, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill

Is this a key decision? : No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition submitted by Councillor Male, a Woodlands Ward Councillor, bearing 324 signatures which requests the Council to allocate sufficient funding to provide a tarmac path around the outside edge of the Ponderosa in Tile Hill

The petition reads:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to allocate sufficient funding to provide a tarmac path around the outside edge of the Ponderosa in Tile Hill”.

The petition goes onto provide the following justification:

“The Ponderosa is an under utilised outdoor amenity in Tile Hill, bordering Mount Nod. The addition of a tarmac path around its outer edge would significantly improve access for the local community and encourage greater use of the field for exercise and outdoor activity. A path would also allow wheelchair users and those with pushchairs greater access to this great outdoor space”.

This petition relates to an area of land known as the Ponderosa which lies adjacent to Jardine Crescent in Tile Hill. The site is approximately 38,012 square metres or 3.81 hectares in size and contains several football pitches and an associated changing rooms. The changing rooms are leased to Mount Nod FC who use the pitches as their home ground.

The cost of installing a tarmac path along the outer edge of the open space would cost approximately £130,000 to complete. The Parks Service does not have the existing resources to undertake this proposal.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Consider the content of the petition and note the concerns of the petitioners'
2. Note that there is insufficient funding for a new tarmac footpath to be provided from the existing Park Service budgets.
3. Agree that when opportunity and resources allow the installation of a footpath at the Ponderosa will be considered to improve access and use of the open space by the local community.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful 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: **Petition - . Provision of a tarmac path around the outside edge of the Ponderosa, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill**
Context (or background)

- 1.1. This petition relates to an area of land known locally as The Ponderosa or more formally as Jardine Crescent Sports Ground, which lies off Jardine Crescent in Tile Hill. The site is approximately 3.81 hectares in size. It contains several football pitches and associated changing rooms which are leased to Mount Nod FC who use the pitches as their home ground.
- 1.2. It is recognised that the Jardine Crescent Sports Ground is an important area of open space and very much valued and well used by the local community.
- 1.3. The creation of a peripheral footpath has been considered. Creating a self-bound gravel footpath (with timber edging boards) would cost approximately £77,760 - £97,200. A Tarmac path would be significantly more expensive at approximately £130,000 to complete. The Parks Service does not have the existing resources to undertake this proposal.
- 1.4. The Councils Park Service recognise the importance of installing good footpath networks in its green spaces, particularly peripheral footpaths which do much to encourage greater access and use of open spaces as has been recognised.
- 1.5. The creation of a new footpaths in the park will continue to be considered, if and when funds are made available. We will continue to explore and exploit all funding opportunity both external and internal to provide footpaths

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The option to do nothing has been considered and we will continue to explore and exploit all funding opportunity both external and internal to provide footpaths

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Consider the content of the petition and note the concerns of the petitioners'
2. Note that there is insufficient funding for a new tarmac footpath to be provided from the existing Park Service budgets.
3. Agree that when opportunity and resources allow the installation of a footpath at the Ponderosa will be considered to improve access and use of the open space by the local community.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

No consultation has taken place on this issue

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

It would be difficult to state a timeline for this to be completed as the work would be considered as and when a funding opportunity arises.**5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

and Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation

5.2 Legal implications

None

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

Parks and green spaces are highly valued by the citizens of Coventry and contribute greatly to improving the quality of life to those that live and work in the City, help address health inequalities and provides valuable wildlife habitats

6.2 How is risk being managed?

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

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Continued maintenance of the site will be delivered using existing resources.

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

No equality impact assessments have been undertaken.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No direct impact

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

Name and job title: Graham Hood, Head of Streetpride and Greenspace

Tel and email contact: 024 76972066 graham.hood@coventry.gov.uk
Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Cath Crosby	Accountant (Business Partner)	Finance	20 Jan 2022	26 Jan 2022
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	20 Jan 2022	20 Jan 2022
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Andrew Walster	Director	Streetscene and Regulatory Services	27 th Jan 2022	28 th Jan 2022
Councillor Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for (Policing and Equalities)	-	26 Jan 2022	27 th Jan 2022
Gill Carter	Team Leader, (Regulatory)	Law and Governance	20 th Jan 2022	21 Jan 2022

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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

10th February 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:
Councillor Abdul Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Director Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:
Foleshill

Title: Extension of existing Public Space Protection Order for Edgwick Park

Is this a key decision?
No

Executive Summary:

There is currently a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place for the environs of Edgwick Park that is due to expire in April 2022. This was introduced to address anti-social behaviour and crime concerns at the location.

It is requested that this order be continued for a further three years to 2025, to allow park users and the local community to benefit from the facilities of the park, without suffering the issues that blighted the park previously.

Contained within this report are impact statements from key partner agencies supporting the extension of the existing PSPO, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

- (1) Note the attached impact statements from key agencies and their rationale for extending the existing order.
- (2) Approve that the order should be extended for a period of three years from the date the current order is due to expire.
- (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

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 Historically, 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
- 1.3 As a result of these concerns a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was created in 2019 to address these concerning behaviours and to try to give ownership and usage of the park back to the local community.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 On the whole, the order has operated successfully. It has not eradicated issues within the park, but what it has meant is that when officers attend the park, they can disrupt groups quickly and easily, which was not the case prior to the order.
- 1.6 In recent times, Edgwick Park was identified by Police officers specialising in gang concerns as allocation where known gang nominals were congregating. Concerns were such that Edgwick Park was one of a limited number of named locations within injunctions served on a significant number of individuals. We believe this is a significant recent development that lends weight to the need to extend the existing PSPO

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Do nothing (not recommended). The potential seriousness of the situation is such that the Council and its partners should look to utilise all available tools to address known issues.
- 2.2 Renew the PSPO for Edgwick Park (recommended) for a period of three years. Whilst the Police already have powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, the renewal of the PSPO would be useful to Police officers in managing situations that could potentially escalate. The Council consulted on the introduction of this power previously upon its initial introduction and it was universally supported.
- 2.3 A PSPO allows for 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 Fixed Penalty Notice (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 supporting witness impact statements and their rationale for extending the existing order.
- (2) Approve that the order should be extended for a period of three years upon expiry of the existing order
- (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 in 2016 for the creation of this order. A full public consultation is not required for a renewal.

3.2 Impact statements were also obtained from key partners in relation to the park and activities and concerns. These statements can be found in appendix 2.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 If the Cabinet Member decides to renew the existing PSPO, the Order will be published on the Council's website and it will come into force just prior to expiry of the existing order. Existing signage is already present in the park.

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 the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

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 The Council is entitled to extend the existing 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 extension is supported by impact statements from key partners as attached at Appendix Two. Breach of such an Order can result in a person being issued with a 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

- 5.4** 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) climate change and 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):

Liam Nagle

Name and job title:

Liam Nagle – Strategic Lead for Offender Management.

Service:

Streetscene and Regulatory Services

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Graham Hood	Head of Streetpride and Greenspaces	Streetpride and Greenspaces	24/01/22	24/01/22
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	24/01/22	25/01/22
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Andrew Walster	Director Street Scene and Regulatory Services	-	24/01/22	24/01/22
Members: Name				
Cllr A. Khan	Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities		24/01/22	25/01/22

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Appendix 1 – Draft Order

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 29th April 2022 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 Exploitation of any type and 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. 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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Appendix 2 – Impact Statements

Impact Statement – WMP (Gangs)

My name is Paul Southern, I am a Chief Inspector that is responsible for, amongst other things, coordinating Coventry's approach to gangs in the City.

This has seen in recent years, significant incidents of public place violence that has resulted in murders and life changing injuries. Fortunately we have recently seen a downwards trend in those incidents and we intend to build upon that as violence specifically relating to young people aged under 25 years old is a priority.

One recent success we have had in the City was to issue approximately 30 injunctions on known gang nominals to limit their associations with other known gang nominals and away from key locations we felt would best limit their activities and protect the wider public.

Edgwick Park is a named location within those injunctions. Intelligence showed that it was somewhere where gang nominals met and associated.

We would support the extension of the existing Public Places Protection Order (PSPO) for the park. Any powers that can better control any groups that may congregate in the park and allow Police officers to disperse those thought to be acting in a manner not beneficial to the local community, is something that we would welcome. This would support our other activity in the park which includes weapon sweeps which are regularly carried out in the park and has resulted in the recovery of knives and other offensive weapons that are secreted in areas of the park to facilitate criminal activity such as robbery and violence.

Impact Statement – WMP (Neighbourhoods)

My Name is PC Nicholas Mansell I am the Civil interventions coordinator and Anti-Social Behaviour lead officer for Coventry. As part of my role I regularly work with neighbourhood teams throughout the city to address matters of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Edgwick Park is a location I am very familiar with. A number of years ago it was featuring very highly in terms of being a priority location for the Police where many incidents and concerns were being raised.

This was largely based upon large groups of males congregating and drinking alcohol as well as associated issues of Child Sexual Exploitation which saw some reports of serious sexual assault associated with the location.

Because of this, we were very supportive of the creation of the original Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Since it's introduction we have seen a marked improvement at the park. The number of reports we receive has decreased significantly and local officers report that having the available powers the order gives them, to disperse problem groups in the park, allows them to make much better use of their time and offers reassurance to other park users.

Even though we have witnessed a marked improvement, there are still significant challenges that we need to address in the location. From recent history we are still seeing fights, some that include weapons, drug related activity and gang related crime.

Should the order expire, our concern would be that dealing with problematic groups at the park would become far more time and resource intensive and would result in park users and the local community being less likely to visit the park, which could see a return to the position we were in before the introduction of the order.

As such, I would like to formally support the extension of the PSPO at Edgwick Park.

Impact Statement – Parks Service

My name is Graham Hood and I am the head of Streetpride and Greenspaces and as such I am responsible for the management of the parks in Coventry.

Edgwick Park is a location I am very familiar with. A number of years ago we regularly received complaints from park users about large groups of drinkers that congregated in the park. This discouraged many park users, with parents saying they would not allow their children to use the park and community groups reluctant to hold events.

We supported the introduction of the current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and since it has gone live we have experienced a marked improvement in the management of the park, and the use of the park by the local community. The order hasn't eliminated all issues in the park, but it has significantly decreased them and if there are issues officers can use the order to quickly move people on.

I support the extension of the current order as I believe the underlying issues haven't entirely gone away and to allow the order to expire would be to the detriment of the park, it's users and the wider community.

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