

2nd October 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities)

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director – Place

Ward(s) affected:

Whoberley

Title:

Progress report on action taken to improve security to open land at rear of 2-66 Brookside Avenue

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

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

A report in response to the petition was presented to Cabinet Member on 3rd July 2014. The report detailed initial action taken by Officers in response to resident's concerns about environmental and nuisance behaviour on an open space at the rear of properties 2-66 Brookside Avenue in the Whoberley ward of Coventry.

This report provides an update on progress against further recommendations made by Cabinet Member

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

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is requested to:-

1. Endorse the additional action taken by Officers
2. Request Police to continue to patrol the area responding to any issues raised or identified and to exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour

3. Request Community Development Officers to continue to work with the community in tackling local issues including litter and environmental issues and to assist residents in seeking funding that they could use on private land to improve the security of their properties.
4. Request Officers to continue to monitor incidents of crime and nuisance together with the effectiveness of their action and to respond appropriately to any such issues.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Report to Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities) dated 3rd July 2014 entitled:

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

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:

Progress report on action taken to improve security to open land at rear of 2-66 Brookside Avenue

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A report in response to a petition containing 11 signatories was presented to a Cabinet Member meeting on 3rd July 2014. The report outlined initial action taken in response to concerns about the security of the open space outlined in the petition
- 1.2 The open space at the rear of properties concerned is maintained by the City Council, and services provided include grass cutting, litter picking and the emptying of a waste bin.
- 1.3 Cabinet Member recommendations from the meeting on the 3rd July 2014 were:-
 - I. Endorse actions taken to date by Officers and requested that the area continue to be monitored.
 - II. Police to continue to patrol the area responding to any issues raised or identified and to exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour.
 - III. Community Development Officers to work with the community in tackling local issues including litter and environmental issues and to assist residents in seeking funding that would contribute to security improvements.
 - IV. Officers to provide a report back on progress against recommendations 1-3 inclusive in October 2014.
- 1.4 In July 2014 a new metal waste bin was provided to replace a plastic bin which had been damaged by fire. The replacement bin has four times the capacity of the plastic one it replaced and so far has not been vandalised. It is emptied on two occasions per week, which ensures it does not get over filled.
- 1.5 Police records indicate 1 incident of reported crime taking place between April 2014 and August 2014 which was a burglary consisting of a theft from an out building in the rear garden of the premises. Police anti-social behaviour incidents totalled 6, these were youths causing nuisance including drinking alcohol and hanging around.
- 1.6 City Council systems indicate no recorded incidents of nuisance / anti-social behaviour associated with the residential premises. However, there was 1 report of environmental nuisance which was litter.
- 1.7 St Christopher's Primary School, which borders the other side of the green space, reported 1 incident of anti-social behaviour during the Summer of 2013.
- 1.8 The Youth Service Detached Response Team visited a number of sites in the locality and engaged with the young people they encountered. They have directed young people to activities and provision in the area. The team were deployed to the area on a weekly basis to consult with the young people on the activities with which they were interested in engaging. A summer programme was devised and funded by "Sportivate". Residents were made aware of this, some of which volunteered to help with the organisation and delivery of the programme itself.
- 1.9 Community Development Team Officers engaged with St Christopher's Primary School to offer support to ensure pupils understand the importance of considerate behaviour in their school and community. The team have also supported community litter pick initiatives and continue to work directly with residents in the area.

- 1.10 The Local Police team held a street briefing for residents in early August and a further briefing is planned in the autumn.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 A self-help gating scheme advice pack was forwarded to the lead petitioner for consideration by the Residents' Association and they will be assisted by Officers should they wish to pursue an application for the erection of security fencing on their land.
- 2.2 The Police Community Engagement Officer has supported local residents to become a formal Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The lead petitioner has also been provided with a Police Crime Commission application for funding works on private property.
- 2.3 The Safeguarding Children Licensing Officer has visited the area and the premises in the locality serving alcohol. All had up-to-date records and advised that they are vigilant to proxy sales and utilise the age verification scheme 'Challenge 25'. Advice was given to continue with their current procedures and continue to pass information to staff, especially around the prevention of proxy sales.
- 2.4 Trading Standards Officers have carried out 'Test Purchase' Operations previously and confirmed that premises operating in the area are compliant with the law on underage sales. Each concern raised in relation to this issue is considered on an individual basis and the team will take appropriate action as required. Locally there have been no new complaints about underage sales since the last report on 3rd July 2014.
- 2.5 The Parks Service rangers and Parks Development Officers are continuing to monitor the area of open space for evidence of vandalism, drug use or other Anti-Social Behaviour and any information will be shared with the police.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Police and Council Officers have engaged with the residents and are in regular contact with them via the Guphill Residents Association to understand the issues and to work with local people to address them.
- 3.2 Residents are encouraged to report incidences as they occur to the relevant organisation. Contact details have been issued in order to encourage regular reporting of incidents for monitoring and response purposes.
- 3.3 A Youth Service representative has committed to attending the Residents' Association regularly to update on action taken.
- 3.4 Youth provision in the area includes the Council's Detached Response Team, they are in the area every Wednesday evening.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

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

5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.3 Financial implications

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

5.4 Legal implications

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

6 Other implications

None

6.3 How will this contribute to the Council Plan?

Crime and Disorder

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

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

6.4 How is risk being managed?

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

6.5 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.6 Equalities / EIA

N/A

6.7 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

N/A

6.8 Implications for partner organisations?

N/A

Report author(s):

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Place

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Appendices

None