
2nd October 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities) – Councillor Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director – People

Ward(s) affected:

St. Michaels

Title:

Update on Action to Address Incidents of Fly-tipping and Anti-Social Behaviour taking place on the corner of Keppel Street/Wright Street, Hillfields, Coventry

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A report in response to a petition was presented to Cabinet Member on 3rd July 2014. The petition signed by 22 signatories called on the Council to request Whitefriars Housing Association to take action to address fly-tipping and nuisance behaviour taking place on their land at the corner of Wright Street and Keppel Street in the Hillfields area of Coventry.

Further recommendations were made by Cabinet Member at this meeting and this report provides an update on further action taken by Officers in response.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

1. Note the action taken to date to address the issues;
2. Request the Police to continue to patrol the area responding swiftly to any issues raised or identified and to exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour.
3. Request that Officers continue to monitor the issues associated with this land as part of the Hillfields Action Plan and the effectiveness of interventions applied.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Update on Action to Address Incidents of Fly-tipping and Anti-Social Behaviour taking place on the corner of Keppel Street/Wright Street, Hillfields, Coventry

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A petition containing 22 signatories was submitted by Councillor Akhtar on the 29th April 2014. The petition outlined residents' concerns in relation to fly-tipping and nuisance behaviour taking place on land owned by Whitefriars Housing Group and requested the Council to call upon them to take action to address the issues.
- 1.2 A report in response to the petition, detailing the findings of Officers following their investigations, was presented to Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities) on 3rd July 2014. Further recommendations were provided to Officers including:-
 - A letter to be sent to the Chief Executive of Whitefriars Housing Group, requesting that they secured the land.
 - Police Officers were requested to continue to patrol the area responding swiftly to any incidents or issues raised and to exercise their powers to obtain identities of individuals and disperse groups that were engaging in behaviour likely to cause nuisance or annoyance, harm, alarm and/or distress.
 - The use of CCTV to deter inappropriate behaviour and/or aid police with their investigations.
- 1.3 The recommendations outlined in 1.2 above were implemented by Officers and incidents of crime and nuisance have been monitored by both Council and the Police. Reports to the Police for the period 1st July 2014 to 31st August 2014 identified one theft from motor vehicle left unlocked whilst in Keppel Street, but did not directly relate to the site in question. There were no reported incidents of nuisance behaviour for either street for the same period.
- 1.4 City Council records identify one report of nuisance associated with car sales on the public car park of Keppel Street and one report relating to Wright Street for the same issue. Both reports were made on the same day in August 2014. A further two reports of fly-tipping in Keppel Street were recorded.
- 1.5 Whitefriars Housing Association has continued to inspect the area and remove rubbish and litter as necessary as the area forms part of the weekly inspection and clean-up schedule. The security of the site has been monitored several times recently during the late evening by their Response Service and no incidents of nuisance behaviour have been witnessed. Whilst the Association has no immediate plans for this site; longer-term options are currently being considered in line with section 2 of this report and are outlined in paragraph 3.1 of this report.
- 1.6 The Community Safety Officer has met with one of the lead petitioners who stated that the area is considerably better. There is some small amount of litter that collects in the shrubbery but this is regularly cleaned. Other neighbours also report improvements but would like to see further improvement in the form of reducing the height of the shrubs and removal of one tree and reducing the height of others.
- 1.7 A further site visit is being arranged with Whitefriars Housing Group, Elected Member and lead petitioner to discuss future plans.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The site is very open and therefore attractive to young groups gathering to socialise in the area. The Local Neighbourhood Policing Team has provided additional monitoring through targeted patrols to the site.
- 2.2 Relevant contact details and methods of reporting have been re-issued to the residents in order that they can report issues directly to Whitefriars Housing Group.
- 2.3 Whitefriars Housing Group Response Team monitors the area, as duties allow, outside normal office hours.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Whitefriars Housing Group has indicated that it is currently exploring options for the potential future use of the site. Consideration is being given to a change of use for development purposes/gaining outline planning permission and options for alternative parking arrangements such as permit parking.
- 3.2 West Midlands Police continue to patrol the area responding swiftly to any issues raised or identified and to exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

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

5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

Removal of fly-tipping is carried out by Whitefriars Housing Group at their expense. There are no additional financial implications for the Council arising from the implementation of this report

5.2 Legal implications

None

6 Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan?

Crime and Disorder

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

6.2 How is risk being managed?

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

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

N/A

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

N/A

Report author(s):

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People Directorate

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Members: Name				
Councillor Townshend	Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities)		17.9.2014	

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