

14<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) - Councillor Townshend

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director, People

**Ward(s) affected:**

Bablake

**Title:**

**Progress report regarding action taken to address nuisance behaviour in Thompson's Road, Keresley, Coventry**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition containing 7 signatures was submitted by Councillor David Galliers on 4th June 2014. The petition requested that action be taken by agencies to address anti-social behaviour, particularly nuisance from off-road motorbikes in Thompson's Rd, Keresley, Coventry.

A report in response to the petition was presented to Cabinet Member on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 outlining initial action taken by agencies. This report provides an update on additional action taken to date.

**Recommendations:**

**Cabinet Member is recommended to:-**

1. Endorse the additional action taken by Officers and note the reduction in incidents of nuisance behaviour.
2. Request that Officers continue to work with local agencies and residents in order to identify perpetrators and to monitor levels of incidents, and take action to prevent further offending behaviour.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Other Useful documents**

None

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**Will this report go to Council?**

Not applicable

## Report Title

Progress report regarding action taken to address nuisance behaviour in Thompson's Road, Keresley, Coventry

## Context (or background)

- 1.1 A petition containing 7 signatures was submitted by Councillor David Galliers on 4th June 2014. The petition requested that action be taken by agencies to address anti-social behaviour, particularly nuisance from off-road motorbikes in Thompson's Rd, Keresley, Coventry.
- 1.2 A report in response to the petition was presented to Cabinet Member on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 detailing initial action taken by agencies. At that meeting the Cabinet Member:
  - a) noted and endorsed the measures implemented by partner agencies to address the issues outlined in the petition and identified through further investigation by Officers;
  - b) requested Officers to monitor and review the effectiveness of initial actions taken and continue to work with residents and the wider community to improve the security to areas of land, whilst taking action against the perpetrators;
  - c) requested Officers to explore the most relevant legislation that may compel landowners to take or at least permit action to prevent access to their land and subsequent nuisance to residents;
  - d) requested that the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team continue to meet with Councillor Galliers and the local residents affected, to continue to address the challenges identified within the report and to provide appropriate community reassurance;
  - e) requested that the Community Safety Team consider the possibility of the urgent installation of mobile CCTV in the relevant area during the months of August, September and October 2014;
  - f) requested Officers to provide a report back on the outcome of recommendations 2 and 3 to the Cabinet Member meeting scheduled for 6th November 2014 in order to ensure the outcome of monitoring during the summer months could be included in the report.
- 1.2.1 Through work undertaken to date, Officers have identified two legal off-road biking sites around or near the City that could be used: one near Ryton and one near Packington. However there is a cost associated with the use of these sites, both of which are some distance from the Thompson's Road location.

- 1.2.2 Officers have also identified schemes which young people interested in bike maintenance may attend, and potentially gain qualifications in bike maintenance. This information is and will continue to be provided to anyone found to be using bikes inappropriately in Keresley.
- 1.2.3 Where offenders are apprehended, decisions will be taken on a case by case basis of the most appropriate course of action, ranging from advice, guidance and diversion schemes identified above through to prosecution and seizure of bikes.
- 1.2.4 Incidents of nuisance biking have reduced significantly with only 2 reports being made to the Police since the previous meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014.
- 1.2.5 Publicity and communication following on from the letter to local residents in relation to reporting and gathering local intelligence was distributed and work with local Councillors and the Parish Council has improved vigilance in the community in terms of these issues and may have discouraged potential participants.
- 1.3 Due to the reduction in and infrequency of the incidents, enforcement action has not been necessary. In terms of damage to hedgerows or boundaries, Planning Enforcement through Hedgerow Regulations has not been required.
- 1.4 Other legislative tools have been considered however, it is not proportionate or possible, due to the relatively small number of reports being received, notwithstanding the impact that these incidents may be having on local residents.
- 1.5 The position will be kept under review and the Council may take action where appropriate if the level of reports increase.
- 1.6 The local Police team has continued to liaise with local residents and agreed the use of the Parish Council website for reporting incidents and details of perpetrators anonymously.
- 1.7 CCTV in the area has been fully operational since the last meeting with full colour pictures available for review if reports are received

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

The previous measures and initiatives appear to have resulted in a reduction in incidents of off-road biking in the area however agencies will continue to work together to ensure that this continues.

Work will continue with local residents, the Parish Council and other agencies to encourage the regular reporting of any incidents should they occur. The CCTV camera will remain in situ for the coming months and this will allow us to investigate fully should reports be made.

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

Letters were delivered to all properties in Thompson's Rd, and the issue has been discussed at the local Safer Neighbourhood Group and by the Parish Council. Whilst this has not resulted in an increase in reporting or intelligence, it is hoped

that the increase in profile of the issue has made people reconsider their actions and has contributed to the reduction in incidents.

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

The Bablake Safer Neighbourhood Group will continue to monitor and review the situation locally. If individuals are identified, their details will be passed onto the North West Local Case Management Forum for them to be managed appropriately.

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

##### **5.1 Financial Implications**

There are no additional financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations within this report

##### **5.2 Legal Implications**

None, in that the current recommendations are effectively to monitor the situation and consider options as appropriate.

#### **6 Other Implications**

None

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

Reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour are key priorities for the Local Authority and in the Coventry Community Safety Plan 2014-15 as identified by the Local Police & Crime Board Annual Strategic Assessments

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

Risk will be managed through proactive work by partner agencies and on-going monitoring and guidance from the Bablake Safer Neighbourhood Group

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

Any additional resources required will be within operational capacities of partner agencies.

##### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

This is not considered to have any impact on equality matters, all victims of anti-social behaviour should be risk assessed when reporting incidents to see if they are vulnerable in any way through age, disability or similar.

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

None

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

Implementation of the recommended actions should result in an improvement in Community Safety and improve the quality of life of residents adversely affected by previous incidents.

**Report author(s):**

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