
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

12 November 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

Whoberley

Title:

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

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 11 signatures, from 6 households, was submitted to the Council on 25 March 2014 by Councillor B Singh.

Reports in response to the petition were presented to Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities on 3 July 14, 2^d October 14, 18th December 2014 and 23rd April 15 and detailed the action taken by Officers in response to resident's concerns about environmental and nuisance behaviour on the open space at the rear of properties 2-66 Brookside Avenue, Whoberley, Coventry.

At the meeting held on the 23rd April 2015 the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities resolved to:

1. Endorse the additional actions taken by officers as outlined in the report and thanks officers for their efforts in this respect.
2. Request officers to liaise with the Police and request that they continue to patrol the area and to respond to any issues raised or identified and, if appropriate, to exercise their powers to obtain identities of and disperse groups of individuals that are likely to cause nuisance or offending behaviour, and that a letter be sent by the Cabinet Member to the Local Police Commander Chief Inspector Bell requesting that the presence of police officers be reinforced in the area. A copy of the letter to be sent to Councillors Innes and Singh, Whoberley Ward Councillors and the petitioner for information.
3. Endorse the continued efforts of the Community Development Service to work with the community in tackling local issues including litter and environmental issues.

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.
5. Request an updated report detailing any further issues or incidents to be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities or his successor on or before 31 October 2015.

The open space is owned by the Council and managed by the Parks Service of the Place Directorate.

This report provides a further update on progress against additional recommendations provided by Cabinet Member at his meeting on 23rd April 15.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is requested to:-

1. Note the actions taken by Officers as outlined in this report
2. Endorse officers continued liaison with the Police to ensure they continue to patrol the area and to respond to any issues raised.
3. Endorse the continued efforts of the Community Development Service to work with the community in tackling local issues including litter and environmental issues.
4. Endorse that officers continue to monitor incidents of crime and nuisance and to respond appropriately to any such issues.
5. Agree the removal of the CCT Camera from Brookside Avenue and that it be repositioned at Caludon Castle Park which is presently suffering from high levels of anti-social behaviour.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

- i. Report to Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities dated 3 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”
- ii. Report to Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities dated 2 Oct 2014 entitled:
“Progress report on action taken to improve security to open land at the rear of 2-66 Brookside Avenue”
- iii. Report to Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities dated 3 July 2014 entitled:
“Further progress report on action taken to improve security to open land at the rear of 2-66 Brookside Avenue “
- iv. Report to Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities dated 23rd April 2015 entitled:
“ Further progress report on action taken to improve security to open land at the rear of 2-66 Brookside Avenue”

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:

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

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A report in response to a petition containing 11 signatures was presented to Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities meeting on 3 July 2014 and further progress reports on 2nd October, 18th December 2014 and 23rd April 2015 provided details of additional work to address local concerns in relation to the open space at the rear of their properties in Brookside Avenue.
- 1.2 The open space is maintained by the City Council and services provided include grass cutting, litter picking, and the emptying of waste bins.
- 1.3 The provision of £5,000 by the Coventry Community Safety Partnership funding was used to fund the replacement of metal palisade along the Allesley Old Road boundary of the open space to the rear of the properties in Brookside Avenue. The fencing works were completed in February 2015.
- 1.4 During July 2015 works were completed to erect palisade fencing around the pipe and inspection chamber covers preventing access. The works were financed via the residents' successful £5,000 grant application from the Community grant Fund.
- 1.5 A CCTV camera which had been located at Allesley Park as part of on-going efforts to reduce the high levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) being experienced at that site was removed and allocated to Brookside during June 2015. Its positioning was agreed following liaison with a local Ward Councillor. It was recommended that a CCTV camera be sited at the location to offer surveillance opportunities over the problematic area. This involved the adaption of a lighting column on Allesley Old Road and the relocating of a camera from Primrose Hill Park to the Allesley Old Road site. At the request of the local Elected Member, a second column was adapted at the entrance to the open space on Brookside Avenue. The camera was duly moved from Allesley Old Road to Brookside Avenue. As there were significant increases in issues at another location; the camera, a Nomad style camera, was exchanged for a different type of camera, a Domehawk style camera, as the Nomad was required in the other location.
- 1.6 A thorough review of the CCTV footage taken since the cameras' installation has shown no incidents. In light of this officers recommend that more effective use of the equipment could be made by its removal from this location and repositioning at Caludon Castle Park which is presently suffering high levels of anti-social behaviour.
- 1.7 Since the last Cabinet Member meeting, Officers within the Council's Parks Service and Community Safety Team have received no reported incidents from local residents or other members of the public.
- 1.8 Police records for the period covering April to August 2015 indicate 21 incidents of crime and nuisance taking place. The incidents are mainly youth related nuisance, road traffic accidents and shoplifting. It is not possible from the data to establish the exact location of the incident only that is in Brookside Avenue therefore it is not possible to determine if these incidents occurred in the locality / rear of between numbers 2 and 66 Brookside Avenue.

- 1.9 City Council systems indicate no recorded incidents of nuisance/anti-social behaviour associated with the locality, however 5 reports of Environmental issues are recorded; 2 Fly Tipping, 2 Rats and 1 Dog Fouling.
- 1.10 During July 2015 the Councils Parks Ranger Service undertook works on the site to remove some undergrowth from the base of the adjacent trees to provide a clear line of sight to the subject area. In October and November the Ranger Service will remove further undergrowth to provide better visibility through the woodland and deter misuse of the area.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Officers of the City Council continue to monitor this open space area for evidence of vandalism, drug use, or other Anti-Social Behaviour and any information gathered to be shared with Police colleagues and appropriate interventions initiated.
- 2.2 The effectiveness of the measures provided to be monitored by the Community Safety and the Park Rangers Teams.

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.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Officers of the Community Development Service will continue to work with the community in tackling local issues including litter and environmental issues. Reported incidents of crime & disorder are monitored by the Community Safety Officer.

Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There is no additional major expenditure recommended within this report, any minor works will be funded from existing resources.

5.2 Legal implications

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

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.

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

6.2 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.

6.3 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):

Name and job title:

Graham Hood - Head of Streetpride & Greenspace

Directorate:

Place

Tel and email contact:

02476 832194 graham.hood@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above persons.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	28.10.2015	30.10.2015
Andrew Walster	Assistant	Place Directorate	15/10/2015	02/11/2015

	Director Streetscene and Greenspaces			
Bev Massey	Community Safety Officer	People Directorate	12/10/2015	14/10/2015
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby	Finance Manager	Place Directorate	13/10/2-15	14/10/2015
Legal: Helen Lynch	Legal Services Manager	Resources Directorate	13/10/2015	30/10/2015
Director: Martin Yardley	Director	Place Directorate		
Members: Name				
Councillor A Khan	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks			

This report is published on the Council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Appendices

None