
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

21 January 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks – Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director – of Place

Ward(s) affected:

St. Michael's

Title: Response to a petition regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the Strathmore Avenue area.

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 86 signatures was presented to full council by Cllr Naeem Akhtar on the 8th September 2015. The petition calls for the City Council and West Midlands Police to take action against those causing anti-social behaviour in the area, particularly around the St. Anne & All Saint Church and in the alleyways behind Strathmore Avenue.

Petitioners report that people regularly congregate behind the church and in the nearby alleyways during the evenings and sometimes until late at night causing Anti-Social Behaviour and allegedly using drugs.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

1. Note and endorse the action taken to date by officers of the City Council and West Midlands Police.
2. Request West Midlands Police to:-
 - continue to dedicate patrols to the area, paying particular attention to the identified, streets, alleyways and open space around St Annes & All Saints Church.
 - exercise their powers to obtain identities and disperse individuals in groups that are likely to cause public nuisance and/or offending behaviour, ensuring individuals are challenged about their behaviour where appropriate, but also have the opportunity for treatment and support.
3. Request that officers case manage individuals, through relevant forums and monitor behaviour and the effectiveness of interventions to support change as is appropriate.
4. Encourage residents to participate in a Community Speedwatch operation
5. Encourage residents to set up Neighbourhood Watch groups in the area.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1. Action Plan for Strathmore Avenue and immediate area.

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: Response to a petition regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the Strathmore Avenue area.

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A recent petition, of 86 signatories, regarding anti-social behaviour in the Strathmore Avenue area was submitted by Councillor Naeem Akhtar on the 8th September 2015.
- 1.2 The lead petitioner was contacted and reported that the area, as a whole, is suffering from many issues which are contributing to its degradation and the safety of residents. Some of the issues are anti-social behaviour, some are environmental and others are concerning the safety of residents. Residents believe that people from outside of their neighbourhood are causing many of the issues; local people are feeling distressed and they have concerns for their safety.
- 1.3 In summary the residents have raised the following issues:
- Speeding vehicles, particularly along Acacia Avenue
 - Highway and green spaces are littered with discarded rubbish
 - Blocked drain gullies leading to road flooding
 - Fly tipped and overgrown rear alleyways, with discarded drug materials
 - Properties left to decline by absentee landlords
 - Noise disruption from late night parties

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The lead petitioner has been contacted by the Community Safety Officer and has been furnished with relevant contact details for the West Midlands Police, Coventry City Council and the Universities. Following on from that, further actions have been taken as listed below.
- 2.2 West Midlands Police have patrolled and monitored the area on a regular basis, engaging with the public. There is a possibility of a Community Speedwatch in the area providing there are some community representatives willing to be trained and participate. The identities of individuals causing issues are obtained and are shared with relevant forums to monitor individuals and offer support where appropriate.
- 2.3 Parking Attendants have visited the area and will continue to do so, they have recorded the following information for the area

Location:	Visits (Since 1.4.15)	Vehicles Observed	PCNs issued
Strathmore Ave	17	23	17
Acacia Ave	55	29	22
Harper Rd	41	44	20
Seagrave Rd	6	8	4
Cornwall Rd	5	3	1

- 2.4 Residents have been encouraged to set up Neighbourhood Watch groups.
- 2.5 The area is on a regular weekly cleansing schedule. The street drains are on a schedule to be cleaned and inspected in line with the current schedule. However all of the cleansing schedules are currently under review and may alter in the future.
- 2.6 Ownership of the alleyways in the area have been confirmed as private and are the responsibility of the landowners to clear and repair. Enforcement Officers are supporting residents to address the issues within the private alleyways in the area.
- 2.7 Enforcement Officers are addressing issues with the absentee landlords regarding the state of repair of properties. Enforcement Officers are supporting residents to address the issues with the private alleyways in the area.
- 2.8 An alleyway clearance, using Community Payback, at Strathmore Avenue has been scheduled for January 2016.
- 2.9 Officers from the University, West Midlands Police and the City Council are working together in partnership to address the issues with students living in the City. This is concentrated in the first few weeks of term but continues throughout the year.
- 2.10 Coventry City Council recorded data from January 2015 to September 2015 shows no reports directly related to St Anne's & All Saints Church. In the direct area there is one report of an abandoned vehicle on Acacia Avenue.
- 2.11 Police data for the period January 2015 to September 2015 shows a total of 12 logs for Strathmore Avenue, these include 5 vehicle related crimes, 6 drug related crimes and 1 burglary. 5 logs are recorded for Seagrave Road, these included 2 vehicle related logs, 1 group of children playing in the street with a sling shot and 2 separate reports about a student party. 5 logs are recorded for Acacia Avenue these include 4 vehicle related logs and 1 drug related log.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The lead petitioner has been consulted on the action plan and has agreed the actions.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The Community Safety Officer will monitor the ongoing issues of Community Safety in the area.

5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report, all costs will be met from core budgets.

5.2 Legal implications

In the event that the suggested actions do not resolve the identified issues there are a number of legal enforcement options available to the Council including prosecution (where perpetrators can be identified). There are also a number of available powers contained within the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 designed to tackle anti-social behaviour.

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 2014/15.

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 schedule and will monitor behaviour of individuals and the condition and cleanliness of the area.

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

The purpose of taking action to address graffiti, vandalism, and flytipping, is in an attempt to improve the environment and wellbeing of the community.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The multi-agency action plan outlines the individual and collective commitments from agencies to respond to the issues in the petition.

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Appendices