
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

1st December 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Policing and Equalities – Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director – of Place

Ward(s) affected:

St Michaels

Title:

Response to a petition regarding the safety and appearance of Craners Road and surrounding streets.

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 39 signatures, regarding issues of Anti-Social Behaviour, including persistent flytipping, social drinking in the street, poor state of repair of the flower beds in the area and the run down state of rented properties in the area was submitted to the Council on 16th August 2016 by Councillor Welsh, a St Michaels Ward Councillor.

This report details actions taken by the City Council and West Midlands Police

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

1. Request West Midlands Police to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance and encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to the Police as soon as they occur.
2. The Street Enforcement Team to continue monitoring of this area and work with the lead petitioner concerning fly tipping and run down properties.
3. The Council's Highways department to continue their feasibility study into either removing some of the flowerbeds, or ensuring that repairs are undertaken to deter fly tipping

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: costing document for flowerbed removal / restoration.

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 the safety and appearance of Craners Road and surrounding area.

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 On 16th August 2016, a petition signed by 39 people was submitted to the Council, by Councillor Welsh a St Michaels Ward Councillor. The residents' were concerned about anti-social behaviour, including persistent flytipping, social drinking in the street, poor state of repair of the flower beds in the streets and the run down state of rented properties in the area.
- 1.2 Residents feel intimidated and are regularly disturbed by the activity of these groups and numerous incidents of littering and fly tipping. This makes the area look dirty and untidy and encourages more flytipping. Residents are keen to have the issues addressed at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.3 The street drinking is a particular issue which residents believe was addressed with an alcohol prohibition notice; this was successful for a short time however it appears to have simply diverted the issues to an area on the other side of the road.
- 1.4 Coventry City Council recorded data for flytipping from April 2015 to April 2016 shows; 36 reports directly related Craners Road, 15 relate to Trentham Road, 17 to Swan Lane and 9 to Newnham Road [77 in total] Police data for the period April 2016 to November 2016 shows a total of 6 logs for the areas specified these relate to Anti-Social Behaviour such as street drinking. Others reports relate to regular Police business and are not related to this report.
- 1.5 Residents have specifically requested that:
 - A method for disposing of additional waste is provided for the residents of these streets who are unable to afford to dispose of in the correct manner.
 - The untidy flower beds be looked into and would like to have them reinstated and kept to a decent standard.
 - Action should be taken against the owners of certain properties that bring down the aesthetic appeal of the Streetscene.
 - Residents have requested that the council reinstate its school education programme which they believed was successful.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 In response to the petition officers from the Council and the Police have made contact with the lead petitioner, and have carried out a number of visits to the area to ascertain the extent of the issues. The following initiatives are underway:
- 2.2 Street drinking. West Midlands Police and the Council are monitoring the situation. Extra patrols take place as duties allow and individuals found to be causing issues are challenged and appropriate action taken. The police ask that residents let them know as and when the street drinking is taking place. A specific log has been set up to collate all information as it is received; this has been passed on to the lead petitioner. It is believed that the creation of a neighbourhood watch scheme would be beneficial for this particular area; the Police would be keen to work with the lead petitioner in this matter.

- 2.3 Fly tipping. The main four streets are included in part of a wider initiative known as 'hot streets'; an initiative used on streets which suffer disproportionately from fly tipping. Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers are tasked with educating and then enforcing where waste offences are discovered.
- 2.4 Street cleansing. This particular area is on a regular fortnightly cleansing schedule by the 'Barrow man' and a 5 weekly schedule for the mechanical sweeper, as well as specific visits to collect reported fly tipping from council land. All cases of fly tipping are investigated and the action taken depends on the evidence found at the scene, or from any residents who witnessed the offence. The petitioners have requested the provision of 'bulk bins'. The Waste Services department continually review methods of waste collection and disposal, but it is believed that such bin provision is likely to be subject to anti-social behaviour and attract fly tipping around the bins. At this moment in time there is no plan to change the current waste receptacles.
- 2.5 Flower beds. The Council's Highways Department are currently looking into the feasibility of either removing some of the flowerbeds or ensuring that repairs are undertaken to deter the flytipping of waste in them. This is a programme that will include Trentham Road, Newham Road and Craners Road [see appendix 1: regarding specific costing for this work].
- 2.6 Run down properties. The Street Enforcement Team will work with the lead petitioner in identifying properties that are 'run down'. If applicable, these properties will be referred to the Housing and Planning Enforcement Team for action.
- 2.7 Education. The council does not currently provide an education programme aimed at young children; however colleagues in public health are keen to get involved with such issues and have offered to engage with the community as a whole and look at ways that the Streetscene and Greenspace can be improved.
- 2.8 The following recommendations are made to Cabinet Member:
- Request West Midlands Police to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance and encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to the Police as soon as they occur.
 - The Street Enforcement Team to continue monitoring of this area and work with the lead petitioner concerning fly tipping and run down properties.
 - The Council's Highways department to continue their feasibility study into either removing some of the flowerbeds, or ensuring that repairs are undertaken to deter fly tipping

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Officers and the Police have been in regular dialogue with the lead petitioner.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Officers from the Council and the Police will monitor the area and meet with residents where needed.

5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are some financial implications due to the removal or repair of the flower beds which will need to be met from Highways budget, any other costs will be met from within existing resources

5.2 Legal implications

None

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 Council Plan in improving the quality of life for Coventry people by making communities safer and our city cleaner and greener.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

See paragraph 4.1 above.

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 Council has a zero tolerance on fly tipping. Where evidence is available, Council officers will take legal action against the perpetrators.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s): Martin McHugh

Name and job title: Street Enforcement Manager
Directorate: Place Directorate

Tel and email contact: 02476 831809
martin.mchugh@coventry.gov.uk

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	Place Directorate	07.11.2016	07.11.2016
Graham Hood	Head of Streetpride and Greenspaces	Place Directorate	07.11.2016	11.11.2016
Neil Whitehead	Highways project technician	Place Directorate	07.11.2016	08.11.2016
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	08.11.2016	08.11.2016
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Resources Directorate	08.11.2016	11.11.2016
Legal: Amy Wright	Regulatory Crime & Licensing Lawyer	Resources Directorate	08.11.2016	11.11.2016
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director	Place Directorate	08.11.2016	14.11.2016
Martin Yardley	Director	Place Directorate	N/A	N/A
Members: Name				
Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities			

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Appendices: Appendix 1: Highways costing report.