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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

27<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

St Michaels

**Title:**

**Response to a petition regarding concerns over; anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close.**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition of 39 signatures, sponsored by Councillors Welsh, O'Boyle and Akhtar St Michael's Ward Councillors, regarding concerns over; anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close, notably focussed around the greenspace to the rear of 16 – 22 Priors Harnall, was submitted to the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

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 and Council officers to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requests for assistance.
2. Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to Police and the Council as soon as they occur.
3. Request that some form of youth engagement be initiated in the area.

**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:**

**Response to a petition regarding concerns over; Anti-Social Behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close.**

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, a petition signed by 39 people was received by the Council. The petition highlights residents' concerns with anti-social behaviour notably that young children and youths congregate around the green open space between Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close in the St Michaels Ward. The residents highlight that young children are playing ball games within the grassed area within Cawthorne Close. They also state that in the evening there are older youths who congregate to the rear of the garage area and it is believed that they are taking drugs.
- 1.2 Residents feel intimidated and are regularly disturbed by the activity of these groups and state that there are also numerous incidents of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping in the same area. 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 Coventry City Council recorded data from June 2016 to June 2017 shows; 3 reports directly related to Cawthorne Close. Of those reports, 2 relate to abandoned vehicles and one is a pest control referral. Priors Harnall shows no reports related to any form of anti-social Behaviour over the same time period. The Council therefore has no reports relating to the behaviour described in the introduction to the petition.
- 1.4 Police data for the same period shows **a total of 14 logs for Cawthorne Close** and **11 logs for Priors Harnall**. Other logs relate to regular Police business and are not relevant for the purposes of this report.

**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. A site visit was held on the greenspace [04.07.2017], and a number of residents attended along with the ward councillors and Martin McHugh [report author], a further meeting was held with the local policing team the following day [05.07.2017].
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 This particular area is on a regular fortnightly cleansing schedule by the Barrow man and a 5 weekly schedule for the mechanical sweeper. In addition, specific visits are undertaken to collect reported fly tipping from council land. All cases of fly tipping are investigated, with the appropriate course of action depending on any evidence found at the scene and witnesses to the offence(s).
- 2.4 In taking this matter forward the following recommendations are made to Cabinet Member:
  - 2.4.1 Request West Midlands Police and the Council to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance.
  - 2.4.2 Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to Police as soon as they occur. Encourage residents to engage with the police via WMNow online messaging service <http://www.wmnow.co.uk/>.

2.4.3 Encourage community groups to engage with the children in the area and attempt to focus their energy in a more constructive way. Police have referred this to Sidney Stringer Academy and it is hoped the positive youth foundation may offer some assistance.

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

3.1 Officers and the Police have been in regular contact with the lead petitioner. Site visits and subsequent community meetings have taken place.

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

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

## **Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

### **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**

The Council has powers under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to obtain orders in relation to individuals or areas where there is evidence of behaviour which is persistent and continuing and causes harassment alarm and distress to members of the community or is unreasonable and has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Informal approaches should be considered in the first instance.

### **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/))**

#### **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 approach to fly tipping, littering and dog fouling. 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

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**Directorate:** Place Directorate

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Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities		29/06/2017	12/07/2017

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**Appendices : NA**