

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

13th March 2018

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:

Holbrooks

Title:

Response to a petition regarding concerns over; lack of site protection, extensive flytipping and anti-social behaviour in the entry which serves Kirkdale Avenue and Selworthy Road.

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 17 signatures, sponsored by Councillor Lucas, Holbrooks Ward Councillor, regarding concerns over; lack of site protection, extensive flytipping and anti-social behaviour in the entry which serves Kirkdale Avenue and Selworthy Road was submitted to the Council on 16th January 2018.

The council has subsequently arranged for a clearance of the site, and has improved site security with the introduction of 2 bollards and has arranged for a lamp column in the vicinity to be adapted so that it can accommodate a CCTV camera to allow for monitoring of the site.

This report details actions taken by the City Council

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

1. Request Council officers [and West Midlands Police if relevant] 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. Reinstate the missing / broken bollards on the access roads from Selworthy Road so as to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to the rear entry.

4. Install a lamp column on Marshdale Avenue which has the capacity to accommodate a deployable CCTV camera. [This will allow all vehicles which enter the entry to be observed and footage can be checked if there are any further incidents of tipping]
5. Arrange for a clearance of all waste from site so that the area is left in a clean fly-tipped free state, this will allow the council to note any subsequent tipping. And hopefully deter further tipping on the site.
6. Install a no flytipping sign in the area, this will emphasise that flytipping is not acceptable and offer advice to residents as to who to report any subsequent tipping to.

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; lack of site protection, extensive flytipping and anti-social behaviour in the entry which serves Kirkdale Avenue and Selworthy Road.

Context (or background)

- 1.1 On 16th January 2018, a petition signed by 17 people was received by the Council. The petition highlights residents' concerns over; lack of site protection, extensive flytipping and anti-social behaviour in the entry which serves Kirkdale Avenue and Selworthy Road.
- 1.2 The residents highlight that the area is constantly being fly tipped on and whilst the council will clear the site they want a long term solution to this issue.
- 1.3 Residents state that there are numerous incidents of anti-social behaviour, 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.
- 1.4 Coventry City Council recorded data from January 2017 to January 2018 shows; 17 reports related directly to flytipping to the rear of Selworthy Road and Kirkdale Avenue. The Council therefore agrees that some action is required to reduce this activity and had been working with residents prior to receiving this petition.
- 1.5 Residents have requested that the council install 2 new bollards [drop down] within the entry to only allow authorised vehicular access the entry.
- 1.6 It must be stressed that the entry that runs between the 2 roads is effectively privately owned and is therefore the collective responsibility of all the residents who abut the entry [there is no deed of ownership therefore it is essentially a patch of no-mans land]. The council doesn't have any ownership or liability for this piece of land, however it was decided that in the interests of public health that the waste that has been dumped in the area would be removed at cost to the council.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 In response to the petition, officers from the Council and have made contact with the ward Councillors, and officers have made numerous site visits and have spoken to many residents.
- 2.2 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 has been highlighted as a 'Hot Street' and as such weekly patrols are made of the area. In addition, specific visits are undertaken to collect reported fly tipping from this private 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 that the Council to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance.
 - 2.4.2 Request that the council look into further target hardening of the site to include anti flytipping signs and the use of CCTV on the approach road to the entry.

- 2.4.3 Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to the council [and Police if relevant] as soon as they occur. **[note this was encouraged previously]**
- 2.4.4 Encourage community groups to assist the council with monitoring of the site, look to engage with local residents to set up 'street champions' in the area so that they can educate and inform others in the community leading to increased awareness of the issue on the site.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Officers have been in regular contact with the ward Councillors and have met with residents on numerous visits.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Officers from the council have already implemented some target hardening measures in the area notably the installation of the bollards on the access passages from Selworthy Road. This will ensure that only authorised vehicles are able to access the rear entry via this route. Officers will continue monitor the area and meet with residents when needed.
- 4.2 Officers have arranged for the adaption of the lamp column on Marshdale Avenue so that it can accommodate a CCTV Camera, this has been completed.
- 4.3 Officers from the council have arranged for the entry to be cleared of all waste, this has been completed.
- 4.4 It is not the intention of the Council to install the 2 new bollards within the entry itself. It is believed that the introduction of these bollards would be problematic, as no one would take ownership of the padlocks, and that leaving the site open but with monitoring of the site is the better option.
- 4.5 It may be an option to review this at a later date and look at installation of a height restriction barrier.

Comments from the 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 Environmental Protection Act 1990 and 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/)?**

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. Where evidence is available, Council officers will take legal action against the perpetrators.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Appendices : NA