
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

25th October, 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:

Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Foleshill

Title: Response to a petition regarding concerns over; environmental issues anti-social and criminal behaviour in the vicinity of alleyway in between Freeman Street and Red House Park.

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition with 10 signatures was submitted regarding concerns over; environmental issues, anti-social and criminal behaviour in an alleyway between Freeman Street and Stoney Stanton Road. The petitioners requested that the alleyway be gated at either end.

This report details actions taken by the City Council and West Midlands Police to address the resident's concerns.

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 the Police and the Council as soon as they occur.

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; environmental issues, anti-social and criminal behaviour in the vicinity of alleyway between Freeman Street and Red House Park****1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 On 10th July 2018, a petition signed by 10 people was received by the Council. The petition highlights residents' concerns with regards to fly-tipping anti-social and criminal behaviour.
- 1.2 The main issues concerned a spate of alleged incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the alleyway between Freeman Street and Red House Park, mainly at night.
- 1.3 Residents feel that the ASB and criminal activity in the area make it an unsafe place and the alleyway should be gated by the Council.
- 1.4 Coventry City Council recorded data regarding flytipping and litter complaints from July 2017 to July 2018 and this amounted to 31 reports directly related to Freeman Street. Freeman Street is patrolled regularly, at least once a week by officers from the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team and referrals are made to ensure the area is kept clean. Of the 31 reports mentioned above, 20 were as a result of council officers logging the issues whilst on these routine patrols. None of the reports were connected to the alleyway in question.
- 1.5 The Councils Street Cleansing Team carry out cleaning schedules once a week in Freeman Street. In addition, specific visits are undertaken to collect reported fly tipping from council land. All cases of littering and fly tipping are investigated, with the appropriate course of action depending on any evidence found at the scene and witnesses to the offence(s).
- 1.6 Police data for the period 01/01/18 – 19/08/18 shows a total of 1 ASB log for Freeman Street. This again was not connected to the alleyway in question. The Local Neighbourhood Police Sergeant stated, that crimes had been committed in Red House Park and that offenders had used the alleyway to make their escape.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 In response to the petition, officers from the Council have made contact with the lead petitioner. The alleyway in question is a public right of way and although there is a procedure to close public thoroughfares because of public safety issues, they are only granted in exceptional circumstances. At this moment in time there are very few reports to the Police and Local Authority and this course of action is therefore, not an option.
- 2.2 West Midlands Police and the Council will continue to monitor the situation. Extra patrols take place as duties allow and individuals found to be causing issues are challenged and appropriate action taken.
- 2.3 In taking this matter forward the following recommendations are made to Cabinet Member:
 - 2.3.1 Request West Midlands Police and the Council to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance.
 - 2.3.2 Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area as there are none in the area and report incidents of concern to Police as soon as they occur.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Officers have been in contact with the lead petitioner.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Officers from the Council and the Police are already monitoring the area and will meet with residents when appropriate.

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 to try to address anti-social behaviour through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 dependant on the type of behaviour and the available evidence.

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 littering and 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