
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

25th October 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

St Michaels

Title:

12 month update:

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

Is this a key decision?

No

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 focused around the greenspace to the rear of 16 – 22 Priors Harnall, was submitted to the Council on 14th June 2017. This was presented before the Cabinet member in July 2017.

An outcome of the meeting was that the police and council agreed to carry out more proactive patrols in the area. It was also agreed to adapt a lamp column within the grassed area adjacent to both streets so that it can accommodate a CCTV camera in readiness for the lighter nights this was installed. This will allow the monitoring of any ASB throughout the summer months when footfall is perhaps much higher. Additional patrols have been carried out by both the police and the council to ensure that any ASB can be monitored.

The police have also agreed to look into increased youth provision during the summer months.

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 continue to report incidents of concern to Police and the Council as soon as they occur, police to engage with those perceived to be engaged in antisocial activity.
3. Request that some form of youth engagement be initiated in the area to mitigate the impact that large numbers of children may have on the area.
4. To continue with the use of CCTV in the area if it felt that there is a need to monitor criminal activity.
5. To continue to look at the feasibility study into developing the greenspace [it is appreciated that this will be a long term solution].

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities meeting agenda 27th July, 2017 and minutes
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities meeting agenda 13th March 2018 and minutes

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

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 On 14th 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 The report was heard on the 27th July 2017 the recommendations agreed were :
 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, with the support of officers and to report incidents of concern to Police and the Council as soon as they occur.
 3. Look at the use of CCTV in the area to monitor criminal activity.
 4. Request that some form of youth engagement be initiated in the area, with the assistance of the Positive Youth Foundation.
 5. Request that Council officers, Ward Councilors and local residents consider the feasibility of a camera, with signage, in an appropriate place.
 6. Agree that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities discuss and investigate further, with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, the ownership of the land and potential solutions.
 7. Request that a progress report back be considered in 6 months' time and the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to the meeting.

1.4 The 6 month update was heard on the 13th March 2018 it was agreed that the recommendations agreed at the initial hearing were to carry on but also for residents to report specific issues directly to the local policing team using a non-crime number. This will allow a better picture of the issues to be obtained.

1.5 A further update was requested which will take place on the 25th October 2018.

2. Options to be considered:

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 continue to report incidents of concern to Police and the Council as soon as they occur, police to engage with those perceived to be engaged in antisocial activity.
3. Request that some form of youth engagement be initiated in the area to mitigate the impact that large numbers of children may have on the area.
4. To continue with the use of CCTV in the area if it felt that there is a need to monitor criminal activity.
5. To continue to look at the feasibility study into developing the greenspace [it is appreciated that this will be a long term solution].

3. Results 12 month update:

3.1 Review of the issues raised by the petition: Update on the actions taken:

3.1.1 Request West Midlands Police and Council officers to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requests for assistance. Officers will monitor the sites and report back on extent of the issue.

Issues of an ASB or Police nature: Update on issues in the area. Officers have made contact with the local policing team to ascertain if there had been any further issues of an ASB or Police nature in the 12 month period since the original petition was raised.

- **Cawthorne close /Priors Harnall:**
- The police have created a non-crime code upon which all referrals made to the local policing team are logged. The local police inspector has provided a summary of their actions over the past 12 months.

Summary from the police: [Inspector Meade]

- As a general overview of the situation, where possible officers respond to the reports of ASB in this area. The CCTV footage has been downloaded on several occasions and it shows very young children playing football on the grassed area. On every occasion that my staff have approached the children, they have been polite with the officers and they have been advised not to kick their balls against walls and resident's private property.

Issues of an environmental nature: Officers have checked the council's database for both locations and have ascertained that in the 10 month period 01/01/2018 til 01/10/2018 there were the following:

- **Cawthorne close:**
 - 1 incidents of flytipping reported to street services.
 - 2 abandoned vehicles reported
 - 6 reports of ASB – [also referred to the police]. These were duplicate queries already received by the police.
- **Priors Harnall:**
 - 1 incidents of flytipping reported to street services
 - 1 reported by enviro crime
 - 1 abandoned vehicle reported
 - 6 Reports of ASB– [also referred to the police]. These were duplicate queries already received by the police

3.1.2 Residents were encouraged to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area, records show that residents from Cawthorne Close has one set up, and that Priors Harnall have made initial enquiries, the police have held meetings on site and have managed to get residents to sign up to the online reporting system.

3.1.3 The local policing team are looking to work with partner agencies in the community In order to provide youth engagement.

3.1.4 It was agreed that a lamp column on the green space would be adapted to as to assist the police and the council in identifying perpetrators of ASB. Officers had requested that a lamp column be adapted in the area, this camera has been in situ for some time now and has allowed officers from the police to respond to issues in the area and has provided valuable Intel

- 3.1.5 Agree that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities discuss and investigate further, with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, the ownership of the land and potential solutions.
- 3.1.6 As part of the second meeting it was agreed that a review would be undertaken 12 months' from the original meeting [25th October 2018 is the earliest available date].

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

Officers from the Council and the Police will continue to monitor the area and respond to all referrals from residents in a timely manner and meet with residents when needed.

Officers from the councils projects and planning team are working on a long term solution which may include developing the site, there are no firm updates regarding this proposal as yet.

5 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/)

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 5.1 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

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Cllr A S Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities		05/10/2018	

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Appendices : NA