

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

10th January 2019

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:

Tile Hill

Title: Petition – Measures to prevent illegal encampments at the Ponderosa, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill,

Is this a key decision? : No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition submitted by Councillor Male a Woodlands Ward Councillor and requests that the Council undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the Ponderosa, otherwise known as Jardine Crescent Sports Ground, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill, is made secure in order to prevent further illegal encampments..

The petition reads:

“We the undersigned call upon Coventry City Council to undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the Ponderosa, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill, is made secure in order to prevent further illegal encampments.”

This petition relates to an area of land known as the Ponderosa which lies adjacent to Jardine Crescent in Tile Hill. The site is managed by the Councils Greenspace Service and is approximately 38,012 square metres or 3.81 hectares in size and contains several football pitches and an associated changing rooms. The changing rooms are leased to Mount Nod FC who use the pitches as their home ground.

Approximately 3 years ago the City Council's Streetpride & Green Space Service created a line of ditches and mounds along areas of the site's periphery as a defence to prevent unauthorised traveller incursions. Despite a vehicle access gate being installed at the same time, some localised flattening of the mounds seems to have taken place. This allowed an unauthorised traveller incursion onto the site in 2018. Subsequently the mounding has been bolstered and no further such incursions have occurred.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Consider the content of the petition and note the concerns of the petitioners'
2. Note that action has been taken to bolster the ditching and mounding around open space and that no further unauthorised incursions have taken place since
3. Agreement has been made with the local football club and keys supplied to allow access by the club to the site via a vehicular gate to prevent further damage to the mounding.
4. Note that the Council's Streetpride Service consider the defences adequate.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

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: **Petition** - . Measures to prevent illegal encampments at the Ponderosa, off Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill,

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. This petition relates to an area of land known locally as The Ponderosa or more formally as Jardine Crescent Sports Ground, which lies off Jardine Crescent in Tile Hill. The site is managed by the Council's Greenspace Service and is approximately 3.81 hectares in size. It contains several football pitches and associated changing rooms which are leased to Mount Nod FC who use the pitches as their home ground.
- 1.2. Approximately 3 years ago the City Council's Streetpride and Green Space Service created a line of ditching and mounding along much of the site's periphery as a defence to prevent unauthorised traveller incursions. We have found that such ditching and mounding to be one of the most effective methods of preventing such incursions.
- 1.3. In May 2018, the area of green space suffered an unauthorised incursion by travellers. It was found that a resident football club had been accessing the site with their vehicles over a long period of time by driving over the mounds and ditches. This had in one location flattened the defences and had consequently allowed the travellers the opportunity to gain access onto the site.
- 1.4. Immediately following the removal of the travellers, action was taken to bolster the site's boundary defences to prevent any further unauthorised access onto the site. Following discussions with the football club a key was issued allowing the club to gain access to the site via a locked gate (with height barrier).
- 1.5. Since the re-establishment and bolstering of the defences there have been no further incursions onto the park.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

The option to do nothing has been considered and we will continue to maintain and review the existing defences to ensure that as far as can practicably be achieved within the existing resources, unauthorised incursions onto the site will be restricted and or prevented in the future

3. Results of consultation undertaken

No consultation has taken place on this issue

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 To be agreed subject to approval of a recommendation within this report

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Customer Services

5.1 Financial implications

The requirement to maintain traveller defences at the Ponderosa will be met from the existing Greenspace Service budgetary revenue resources.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

Parks and green spaces are highly valued by the citizens of Coventry and contribute greatly to improving the quality of life to those that live and work in the City, help address health inequalities and provides valuable wildlife habitats. Deterring misuse by proactive capital work prevents even more costly repairs in the future.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risk will be managed through the existing Place directorate risk profile.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Continued maintenance of the site will be delivered using existing resources.

6.4 Equalities / EIA Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No equality impact assessments have been undertaken.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No direct impact

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

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Directorate: Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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Gill Carter	Team Leader, (Regulatory) , Legal Services	Resources	13 th Dec 18	18 th Dec 18
Michelle Rose	Governance Services co-	Place	15 th Dec	6 th Dec 18

	ordinator			
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Andrew Walster	Director (Streetscene and Regulatory Services)	Place	18 th Dec 18	19 th Dec 18
Councillor Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for (Policy and Equalities)	-	15 th Dec 18	15 th Dec 18

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