

Appendix 2 – Impact Statements

Please find below a review of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) that is currently operational in Edgwick Park. I believe it highlights the good work that has occurred at the location since the introduction of the PSPO and reasons as to why I believe renewing the order would be the correct decision to make.

Following the consultation and partnership working we were able to make the following improvements to the park in early 2016 and during the early stages of the PSPO going live in April 2016.

- Removed a brick build dilapidated toilet block that was littered with used needles.
- Removed a metal shelter where youths were congregating under and causing low level ASB.
- Additional CCTV. (In centre of park to add to the one to the front of the park)
- Additional Lighting.
- Increase in patrols.
- Working closer with partners in LA to educate all re potential CSE.
- Bushes cut back to give a greater view of some of the secluded, wooded areas.

Upon the PSPO going live it would not be an exaggerated statement to say that my team use it frequently to remove people from the park that are deemed to be acting in a manner that can be deemed by us (or a member of the public) to be detrimental to other persons in the park. We have moved on well over 100 people in the last 3 years which is to the benefit of the park goes in the Foleshill area

The great element about the power this PSPO affords the Police and Local authority is that the persons being moved on get the message straight away and do not dare return to the park to commit further issues as they know they would then be processed for being in breach of the PSPO. To date we have moved on well over 100 (as previously stated) but we have not had cause to ticket anyone for breaching the PSPO.

Some of the main questions re the PSPO.

For what reasons do we remove people from the park?

A question that I get asked from time to time when talking about the park. The answer is for a multitude of reasons but to highlight the main ones I would say: -

- Drinking
- General ASB
- Smoking Cannabis (but not found on their person)

CSE was a real concern (and obviously remains a concern for us all) in the park when we implemented the PSPO but having policed the park for the last three years I am pleased to report that we have not recorded any offence of a CSE nature during this time. Staff in Policing and Local Authority we all educated re what to look out for and I feel sure if we had noted anything of concern we would have recorded it. I do not recall a call from any member of the public re any CSE concerns in the park either.

When have we moved the most people on from the park?

Summer. In the Summer the park is at its busiest. Due to the warm weather and lighter nights we have had cause to move people on late on into the evening. The busiest time is between 6pm and 10pm when we are on lates however we have and continue to move on people drinking and smoking in the daytime.

In the winter we find the footfall drops within the park thus we naturally move on less people.

Are we seeing repeat offenders?

Surprisingly not. My brief to my team was to always ask the offending person or group to leave, pointing out the PSPO and explaining the reason why we believe they are in breach of the order. We then give them a chance to leave or we will report them. This method has never failed. On a couple of occasions we have had some 'back chat' but they leave as they know if they don't they will be fined for their continued poor behaviour.

One of my big concerns re the order was that we obviously needed to have a boundary. My concerns were that the offenders would just cross the road and continue to behave in a manner that had them ejected from the park. This surprisingly has never happened that I am aware of. The offending person or group normally leave the area completely.

We have obviously moved on people that have returned to the park at a later date or time. The good news to report here is that they do not continue with their behaviour thus the PSPO is having a positive impact on that person and/or group. The offenders also see that we are not banning them completely, they are free to use the park like everyone else but we have standards of behaviour whilst you are in the park. Again evidence that the PSPO is working in this location.

Is the park now crime and ASB free?

Sadly I can't boast this. We still see crime and disorder in and around the park. The PSPO is a tool in our tool kit to restrict poor observed or heard behaviour in the park but it doesn't solve everything. This summer during the hot weather we did see a spike in personal robberies in and around the park being committed by a group of males late at night (after the patrolling neighbourhood teams go home – 11pm). Officers changed their shifts, worked OT in a bid to stop this and catch the offending males. A number of robbery arrests were made across the city (as the Robberies were not solely in Foleshill) and the robbery issue was resolved in the park.

Recently Colleen Fletcher MP for Coventry North East raised concerns that had been communicated to her from students at St Elizabeth's Primary School (located very close to the park). Their concerns were that they didn't use the park as they didn't feel safe there.

Obviously this news is disappointing to hear as my team and I have worked hard to promote the park and I can say without hesitation that this park is without doubt the most patrolled area on my patch (Foleshill) but I think it's clear we have to continue to work hard and ensure our children feel safe using the park. I suspect that it's the 'fear of crime' rather than crime itself that is fuelling this fear but I will continue to do all I can to ensure my community feel safe in this park and in the City.

The Foleshill Family Hub

Last year saw the introduction of the family hub in Foleshill. This is situated within the park and houses a number of Local Authority workers. The introduction of this facility has been a positive impact for the park as we have staff working within the location thus they are able to inform us of any detrimental behaviour they are hearing or observing. My staff visit the location on a regular basis and we have a good working relationship.

Continued Work

This year, similar to previous years has seen the park well used by the local community. In the summer the park was packed with families having picnics, young person's playing cricket and football, dog walkers and children using the playground(s). Sport in the park took place again and was a big success in early August pulling a big crowd. We also had prayers for Eid and other social events held without incident in the park.

Broad Street Meeting Hall staff has been able to successfully apply of a grant to continue the work we have all been doing in the park into 2019. Andy Duncan recently emailed Foleshill stakeholders this good news and we will all be getting together in the New Year to discuss plans and the best way to spend the money to ensure it benefits all who use the park.

Conclusion

Whilst it is concerning that local kids still feel unsafe in the park, it acts as a timely reminder that we need to continue to police and promote the park at every opportunity. The PSPO has been a great asset to the Police, Local authority and the law abiding community in Foleshill during the last three years and in order to continue the work we all have contributed to I would like to see the PSPO remain in place with no changes or amendments. I fear that should we not renew the PSPO we would see an increase in ASB and other poor behaviour that has blighted the park in the past.

Sgt 9183 Asa Morris
Foleshill Neighbourhood Supervisor
Coventry NPU

Statement concerning Edgwick Park.

I have been here at Edgwick Community Primary School for 13 Years and Headteacher for the last 2.

As stated in our last letter, the School adjoins Edgwick Park and over the last 10 years especially, the level of antisocial behaviour in the park on a daily basis, often from as early as 8am, has become more frequent and more extreme.

We have a clear view into the park and equally there is a clear view into our premises from the other side of the fence. These two way views are now even clearer, as our new school building looks directly towards the park from every classroom.

Since we moved into the new building 3 years ago, the park has benefitted from the PSPO conditions applied to it.

We do still witness large groups of men congregating between the school and a local nursery, where they drink and smoke cannabis (a strong smell pervades our playground on a daily basis), rubbish-cans, bags, needles, etc- by our school fence, but this is to a lesser extent than before the order was applied.

Men and women still urinate (and foul) against the fence in full view of the children and language is still an issue but the PSPO has been a considerable step forward in the management of this in collaboration with our local police.

I would, without reservation support the extension of the PSPO in order to further tackle these ongoing issues that affect the pupils of this school and their families.

Continued and strengthened collaboration under the PSPO with the local police is the only way forward, and without it, the risk of our pupils being exposed to more and more inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour only increases.

Sally Snooks
Headteacher

Edgwick Park PSPO

The PSPO for the Park was introduced in 2016 due to persistent issues with Anti-Social behaviour in the form of Drinking, Drug dealing / use, damage to play equipment and other items as well as CSE.

There have been some positive results from having the PSPO in place in the past 2 years, such as a good reduction in issue with CSE and a small reduction in levels of drinking and drug dealing but the latter two in particular as well as damage to facilities are still an issue

There are still daily problems around drinking in the park, with at times up to 8-10 adults (men and women), hanging around the park drinking alcohol.

There is also the issue with drinkers urinating and defecating near to the family centre and fence near to the flats at Culworth Court, as well as to the rear of the Community Centre.

This also leads to issues with littering around the areas the drinkers congregate

The drinkers tend to congregate near the local school, Edgwick Primary School, as well as near the children's nursery and Foleshill Family Centre which can make it very intimidating for legitimate park users, as well as for visitors to these three places, particularly as they are all sites with young children.

Some of the drinkers have been known to beg for drinking money, I have been approached by some of them in the past asking for "change".

The drugs problem is still apparent and the dealers are usually seen in the park most days and are usually found standing around to the rear of the family centre. Again this can be very intimidating for legitimate park users

In July 2018, one of the items of play equipment was set on fire causing damage costing around £5000, there are also regular issues with glass being broken in the park.

The following paragraph is taken from a briefing a consultant is preparing to apply for funding for improvements to the park, which sums up local residents current feelings about the park

"Edgwick Park, is perceived by residents as a no-go area for many Foleshill people for fear of encountering unpleasant or intimidating activity (e.g. Drinking, rough sleeping, drug dealing, needles, prostitution, anti-social behaviour, gangs). At Friends of Foleshill meetings, community celebrations in the park (e.g. Sport in the Park, Communities of Light) and consultation events involving hundreds of people over the past three years, we asked visitors and residents about key issues. They have repeatedly mentioned their reluctance to visit Edgwick Park, except for organized events, because they do not feel safe. Parents say they discourage their children from going to the park unless accompanied by an adult".

For these reasons we would like to PSPO to be continued and regularly enforced by colleagues in the Police.

Andrew Beechey, Parks Development Officer