
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

10th December 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 Michael's

Title:

Response to a petition relating to Anti- Social Behaviour at Cephass Court Hillfields

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 15 signatures, sponsored by Councillor Jim O'Boyle St Michael's Ward Councillor, reporting that Anti-social behaviour issues associated with Cephass Court are having a detrimental impact on residents and the wider community.

The petition specifically mentions acts of alleged drug dealing, property damage, forced entry to communal areas and access doors, use of drugs and other substances.

This report details actions taken by the City Council and West Midlands Police.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

1. Encourage residents of Cephass Court to report incidents of concern to Police, Orbit Housing Group and the Council as soon as they occur.
2. Request West Midlands Police, Orbit Housing Group and Council officers to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requests for assistance.

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 relating to Anti- Social Behaviour at Cephass Court Hillfields****1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 In October 2018, a petition signed by 15 people was received by the Council requesting that we look at the ongoing issues at Cephass Court and look to tackle the issues surrounding the building and the impact the issues raised in the petition is having on the residents of Cephass Court and the wider community.
- 1.2 The petition highlights residents' concerns with regards to alleged drug dealing, property damage, forced entry to communal areas and access doors, use of drugs and other substances.
- 1.3 Anti-social and criminal behaviour. The main issue concerned a spate of ongoing incidents during 2018, during which some local resident's witnessed the main entry door being vandalised to gain entry and using the communal areas to use drugs, by unknown persons. Coventry City Council's recorded data regarding Antisocial Behaviour from 1st January 2018 to 1st December 2018 shows;
- 1.4 2 reports directly related to Cephass Court logged with the City Council for various issues. Only one of these calls related to the issues raised in the petition – (6th June 2018 reporting unsightly land / fly tipping) the other report (19th November 2018 reporting drug misuse) which council officers passed to the Police.
- 1.5 Police data for the same period shows a total of 33 logs for Cephass Court. A large proportion of these logs relate to criminal damage, reporting of drug taking, smashed windows, gaining entry to the building via breaking the fire door and main doors.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 In response to the petition, officers from the Council have made contact with the lead petitioner. Via telephone and email on 13th December 2018.

West Midlands Police, Orbit Housing Group and 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. From a housing perspective Orbit Housing Group have responsibilities to manage the Anti-social Behaviour in their building and land.

- 2.2 Orbit Housing Group have written to the petition spokesperson outlining some of the remedial steps that they have taken in response to the issues raised. Orbit Housing Group and the Police have been invited to attend this Cabinet Member meeting.
- 2.3 In taking this matter forward the following recommendations are made to Cabinet Member:
 - 2.3.1 Request West Midlands Police, Orbit Housing Group to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance around any reported issues.
 - 2.3.2 Encourage residents to report all issues to the relevant agencies, so that evidence may be gathered to assist agencies in looking at a resolution to the issues raised in the petition.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Officers have been in regular contact with the lead petitioner.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Officers from the Council and the Police and Orbit Housing Group will monitor the area and meet with residents when needed. A meeting shall be arranged with the ward councillors to visit the site to take a look at the issues and to speak to residents about their concerns.

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

Report author(s): Lee Millar

Name and job title: Street Enforcement Manager
Directorate: Place Directorate

Tel and email contact: 02476 831855
lee.millar@coventry.gov.uk

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	Place Directorate	14/12/2018	14/12/2018
Graham Hood	Head of Streetpride and Greenspaces	Place Directorate	14/12/2018	17/12/2018
Michelle Rose	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	14/12/2018	14/12/2018
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Resources Directorate	14/12/2018	21/12/18
Legal: Gill Carter	Regulatory Crime & Licensing Lawyer	Resources Directorate	14/12/2018	21/12/18
Andrew Walster	Director	Place Directorate	14/12/2018	17/12/2018
Members: Name				
Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities		18/12/2018	02/01/19

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www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Appendices: Letter from Orbit Housing Group to Lead Petitioner outlining their actions at Cephass Court.