

Appendix 2 – Impact Statements

Impact Statement – WMP (Gangs)

My name is Paul Southern, I am a Chief Inspector that is responsible for, amongst other things, coordinating Coventry's approach to gangs in the City.

This has seen in recent years, significant incidents of public place violence that has resulted in murders and life changing injuries. Fortunately we have recently seen a downwards trend in those incidents and we intend to build upon that as violence specifically relating to young people aged under 25 years old is a priority.

One recent success we have had in the City was to issue approximately 30 injunctions on known gang nominals to limit their associations with other known gang nominals and away from key locations we felt would best limit their activities and protect the wider public.

Edgwick Park is a named location within those injunctions. Intelligence showed that it was somewhere where gang nominals met and associated.

We would support the extension of the existing Public Places Protection Order (PSPO) for the park. Any powers that can better control any groups that may congregate in the park and allow Police officers to disperse those thought to be acting in a manner not beneficial to the local community, is something that we would welcome. This would support our other activity in the park which includes weapon sweeps which are regularly carried out in the park and has resulted in the recovery of knives and other offensive weapons that are secreted in areas of the park to facilitate criminal activity such as robbery and violence.

Impact Statement – WMP (Neighbourhoods)

My Name is PC Nicholas Mansell I am the Civil interventions coordinator and Anti-Social Behaviour lead officer for Coventry. As part of my role I regularly work with neighbourhood teams throughout the city to address matters of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Edgwick Park is a location I am very familiar with. A number of years ago it was featuring very highly in terms of being a priority location for the Police where many incidents and concerns were being raised.

This was largely based upon large groups of males congregating and drinking alcohol as well as associated issues of Child Sexual Exploitation which saw some reports of serious sexual assault associated with the location.

Because of this, we were very supportive of the creation of the original Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Since it's introduction we have seen a marked improvement at the park. The number of reports we receive has decreased significantly and local officers report that having the available powers the order gives them, to disperse problem groups in the park, allows them to make much better use of their time and offers reassurance to other park users.

Even though we have witnessed a marked improvement, there are still significant challenges that we need to address in the location. From recent history we are still seeing fights, some that include weapons, drug related activity and gang related crime.

Should the order expire, our concern would be that dealing with problematic groups at the park would become far more time and resource intensive and would result in park users and the local community being less likely to visit the park, which could see a return to the position we were in before the introduction of the order.

As such, I would like to formally support the extension of the PSPO at Edgwick Park.

Impact Statement – Parks Service

My name is Graham Hood and I am the head of Streetpride and Greenspaces and as such I am responsible for the management of the parks in Coventry.

Edgwick Park is a location I am very familiar with. A number of years ago we regularly received complaints from park users about large groups of drinkers that congregated in the park. This discouraged many park users, with parents saying they would not allow their children to use the park and community groups reluctant to hold events.

We supported the introduction of the current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and since it has gone live we have experienced a marked improvement in the management of the park, and the use of the park by the local community. The order hasn't eliminated all issues in the park, but it has significantly decreased them and if there are issues officers can use the order to quickly move people on.

I support the extension of the current order as I believe the underlying issues haven't entirely gone away and to allow the order to expire would be to the detriment of the park, it's users and the wider community.