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## Meeting of Executive Members for City Strategy and Advisory Panel

14<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

### **PETITION REGARDING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

#### **Summary**

1. This report advises Members of the receipt of a petition presented to a meeting of full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007 on behalf of the residents of Rawcliffe, regarding alleged anti social behaviour.
2. The residents are asking that the council notes the issues raised relating to anti social behaviour and works with partners to seek a resolution.
3. Members are asked to note the actions taken by Safer York Partnership and the safer neighbourhoods policing team.

#### **Background**

4. Since January 2007, as part of an initiative to increase policing at a local level, dedicated Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Teams have been allocated to each of the wards in York. Part of their remit is to respond to the community safety concerns reported by communities and to work with partners to address those concerns. Safer York Partnership co-ordinates and facilitates multi-agency problem solving and works with the residents and the relevant agencies to develop plans to address concerns relating to unlawful activities including nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

#### **Options**

5. As this report is to note, there are no options to be considered.

#### **Analysis**

6. Between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the police incident log shows 39 reports of anti-social behaviour generated by residents in Rawcliffe. These incidents largely refer to reports of large gatherings of youths behaving in a rowdy and disruptive manner and/or causing nuisance and intimidation to the residents living close to the Recreation ground.

7. A small group of residents have approached the police, council, their MP and Safer York Partnership raising concerns about the increase in anti-social behaviour. This recently included the submission of the 88 signature petition to full Council. The petition is attached at Annex One.
8. Whilst the number of reported incidents is not high, both anecdotal and actual evidence gathered by Police Community Support Officers patrolling the area using head cams indicated that anti-social behaviour caused by large gatherings of young people was a problem.. Of all incidents of anti-social behaviour reported in the Skelton, Rawcliffe, and Clifton-Without Ward, 77% related to incidents associated with Rawcliffe recreation ground. However, to put this percentage into context, this equates to 2.5 incidents per week requiring police response.
9. The most common days of the week for incidents occurring were Mondays and Saturdays and the highest levels were reported between 9 and 10pm.

### **Police Response**

10. Since 6<sup>th</sup> August, the Safer Neighbourhoods policing team for this ward have run a proactive operation in this area to target anti-social behaviour. This has been comprised of provision of crime prevention advice to residents, engagement with the young people and feedback to the community.
11. Between 6<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Safer Neighbourhoods policing team has conducted 1883 hours of patrol time in this area and has resulted in six arrests and one summons to court. During these patrols, the following alcohol has been seized:
  - 266 cans/bottle of lager
  - 3 2litre bottles of vodka
  - 3 1litre bottles of vodka
  - 7 bottle of white wine
  - 5 1litre bottles of cider
  - 6 bottles of alcopops
12. During the period of the operation, 57 visits were made to the parents of young people encountered and letters were delivered to 21. The top ten regularly offending young people have been identified and a letter has been hand delivered to each stating that they will be visited and monitored regularly.
13. All victims and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour are visited by the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and suitable crime prevention advice is given. PCSOs have also conducted street sweeps where they have undertaken random door knocking to ask residents about their concerns. Whilst the recreation ground has consistently been highlighted as an issue, the skateboard park was not mentioned,

## **Multi-agency Response**

14. Whilst the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team have increased their visibility and activity in this area, they are aware that they are unable to resolve the problems without the support of other agencies. In October they contacted Safe York Partnership to seek assistance in resolving these issues, unaware that Safer York Partnership had also been contacted directly by members of the community and was very recently in receipt of the petition.
15. Following contact from the residents and receipt of the petition, the Safer York Partnership Architectural Liaison Officer carried out a crime prevention survey of the area.
16. On 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Director of Safer York Partnership chaired a multi-agency meeting which comprised of representatives from the Safer Neighbourhoods Policing team, City of York Council Youth Services, the Safer York Partnership Architectural Liaison Officer, two members of the Rawcliffe Recreation Committee and Councillors J Watt and R Moore.
17. At this meeting, the police statistics were presented and discussion centred around issues relating to the recreation ground. It was agreed that whilst the overall level of anti-social behaviour was not serious, it was sufficient to be causing alarm, harm or distress<sup>1</sup> to the residents in this and the surrounding area.
18. It was acknowledged that the majority of young people gathering in this area were not wilfully causing anti-social behaviour but that at times the noise and litter that resulted in them gathering was a cause for concern. Youth Services stated they would be willing to participate in working with other agencies to identify a solution.
19. Possible actions discussed included further engagement with the young people to identify their needs and work with them to develop a solution, consideration of the findings of the Architectural Liaison Officer's report to identify short medium and long term target hardening solutions and further work through the Safer Communities Policing team to feed back on actions to the community and continue patrols in the area. Safer York Partnership has identified funding to support implementation of these actions and further support has been offered from the Recreation Committee through availability of the hall for consultation and some limited financial contribution.
20. All of the actions agreed have now been documented in an action plan which is attached at Annex Two.

## **Consultation**

21. North Yorkshire Police and Ward Members have been consulted on the actions contained in this report.

## **Corporate Priorities**

22. Resolving the issues of anti-social behaviour in this area will impact on the following Council's corporate aims and priorities:
23. Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York.

## **Implications**

### **24. Financial**

Target hardening will require some funding. Full costings are yet to be determined.

Additional youth service provision will cost £2,500 This is to be funded from Safer York Partnership (Neighbourhood Policing SSCF funding)

### **25. Human Resources (HR)**

There are no human resources implications

### **26. Equalities**

There are no equalities implications

### **27. Legal**

There are no legal implications

### **28. Crime and Disorder**

The main purpose of this report is to identify solutions to reduce crime and disorder.

### **29. Information Technology (IT)**

There are no IT implications.

### **30. Property**

There are no property implications

### **31. Other**

There may be Highways issues relating to some of the specific recommendations regarding reducing access to pathways for motorcycles. Consultation will be undertaken once the full survey of the area is complete.

## Risk Management

32. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## Recommendations

33. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to:
- 1) Note the receipt of the petition
  - 2) Note the action plan attached at Annex Two

**Reason:** So as to respond to the petition presented to full council on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

## Contact Details

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Terry Collins

Director Neighbourhood Services

**Report Approved**



**Date** 3/01/08

## Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Report Author

**Wards Affected:** Skelton, Rawcliffe, Clifton Without (Specifically Rawcliffe)

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:** None

## Annex One

Petition

## Annex Two

Planning and action monitoring template: Anti-Social Behaviour in Rawcliffe