

Antisocial Behaviour at Recreation Grounds – Open Spaces & Highways

Notes of the Informal meeting by video conferencing on Friday 3rd March 2023 at 3pm

Present: Stuart McNair – Bucks Community Safety Team
Cllrs Peter Kinchin, Julie Cook, Peter Stanhope, Sarah Hutchins

Also Present: Pia Anderson - Administrator

Absent: Jeremy Day - Deputy Clerk (*elsewhere on Council business*)

Cllr Peter Kinchin opened the meeting and discussed the issues being experienced at our Recs – drinking, glass from thrown bottles, waste products not being put in the bins provided, racial slurs etc.

Cllr Julie Cook raised her concerns with the Grounds Team having to clean up waste e.g., broken glass bottles and how this is a health and safety concern for the grounds team. Increase of public drinking, drugs such as cannabis and gas canisters and loitering.

Stuart McNair mentioned that all these concerns is down to TVP/PCSO's as Buckinghamshire Council can't get involve as it is a policing matter. This is when Section 50 of anti-social behaviour act 2014 comes into place - **(If a constable in uniform has reason to believe you have been or are involved in anti-social behaviour, the police can demand your details under section 50)** Refusing to give your details is a criminal offence, and you can be arrested. Any signs of drug use should be reported to 101 or your neighbourhood Policing Team. Gas canisters – trading standards

Cllr Sarah Hutchins asked about the 12-18 age range and if anyone is seen to be using drugs or causing ASB who would we report this to?

Stuart McNair advised that the police or the school should do a referral to social services.

Cllr Cook mentioned the email received from the Headteacher of Iver Village Junior School and the schools concern to pupils using the Rec and asked whose responsibility this would be, to reply/respond back regarding safeguarding young children.

Stuart McNair advised that we as a Council can have patrols of the area during the times we have an increase of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Wendy Matthews advised that we have already done this.

Cllr Hutchins mentioned our CCTV system, Cllr Julie Cook, and asked if this can be lawfully used to provide evidence and how are cameras are positioned.

Stuart McNair said we can't change ICO (Information Commission Officer) cameras and private CCTV must have a restricted view showing our property only.

Cllr Mathews mentioned that the CCTV cameras are Parish Council property and that the Rec is not private land as it is for public use.

Stuart McNair said he would get in contact with the police and get back to us regarding direct surveillance to make sure we can move/widen our camera view to problem locations e.g., the playground area.

Cllr Hutchins asked what we do with our CCTV if we see ASB that can be used as evidence.

Stuart McNair advised that CCTV evidence can be passed straight to the police if the evidence is lawful.

Cllr Cook mentioned that even though we have this CCTV in place, we don't get enough people reporting incidents of ASB in our Rec for the evidence to be passed onto the police and we need more people coming forward and reporting. Cllr Cook also asked what we can do to be more proactive.

Stuart McNair said he would contact Chris and ask about our reaches, funding and get back to us.

Cllr Peter Stanhope asked about CCTV pointing directly on our play areas and asked if this would be lawful due to safeguarding issues and asked if we should change our policy to make this lawful

Stuart McNair advised that if we justify in our policy as to why we're using the CCTV and that it is for safeguarding children it should be lawful to point the cameras onto the play area. However, he will get in touch with Abdul to ask about safeguarding policies and make sure it is legal and get back to us.

Cllr Cook and Kinchin asked if we could change the signs under our CCTV to make our wording stronger and clear as to why we have CCTV and that it can and will be used for evidence.

Stuart McNair advised any sign and wording can be used.

Cllr Matthews asked about widening our cameras and how would go about doing this.

Stuart McNair mentioned that you can move your cameras if this is legal and Cllrs would have to check the ICO guidance and the guidelines on using private CCTV. Again, Stuart will talk to Abdul about Parish CCTV and get back to us. In the meantime, Cllrs should look over the CCTV policy.

Cllr Cook stated that she will do her own research on legalisation of CCTV and asked what Bucks can do once we have CCTV evidence of ASB.

Stuart McNair advised that Bucks could use non-statutory reports to monitor youths and create ASB contracts. Non statutory reports mean engaging and guiding the youths using early interventions before court proceedings follow. Iver Village Primary school will need to follow up formally on their pupils involved in ASB as it is the school's duty to follow up on safeguarding. Stuart advises that he can follow up on the email received from the school, if Jem wishes to pass on the school's details to him. Cllr Cook agreed that we should pass school details onto Stuart.

Cllr Kinchin asked if school incidents are down to Bucks.

Stuart McNair advised any incidents involving pupils would be down to Educational Services and it is the school's duty to report any incidents to Educational Services

Cllr Kinchin agreed as he started 'that Cllrs can't be responsible for the whole community'.

Cllr Stanhope asked if we could pass our CCTV policy for Stuart to read. Stuart advised he will read through our policy but he is no expert. Cllr Stanhope asked if we are ICO registered, Cllr Matthew advised we are.

Stuart McNair advised he would follow up with Abdul and Chris and get back to Jem.

Meeting ended 15:34

Notes taken by Pia Anderson

Jeremy Day
Deputy Clerk
March 2023