

<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>9 JUNE 2011</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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### NORWOOD LANE CARAVAN PARK – ACTION PLAN UPDATE

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee on the 9 September 2010 asked for an update on work undertaken on the Norwood Lane Caravan Park, (formerly known as Paston Travellers Site, Norwood Lane) specifically in relation to fly tipping.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Norwood Lane Caravan Park action plan continues to be delivered and that a further more detailed action plan outlining specific areas of work, agreed with the Travellers from the Park, be implemented in partnership with Community Payback, Travellers from the Park, Neighbourhood Officers, Fire and the Police to renovate, regenerate and make safe the land on and around Norwood Lane Caravan Park.

Works to include:

- The creation and development of Community Allotments, which will be run by Travellers from the Park, a community composting programme and introduction of a recycling scheme.
- Litter Picking and Dyke clearance
- New presentation at Entrance
- Traffic calming scheme implemented in partnership with young people from the Park
- Resurfacing of the Lane and pathway
- A Crimestoppers Line

#### 3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The work undertaken through the action plan directly relates to the Sustainable Community Strategy through the Environmental, Social and Cohesion areas of work.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At a meeting of the Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee (formally Neighbourhood Council) held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, a request was made to report to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on issues relating to Paston Caravan Park and fly tipping. The Scrutiny Committee recommended that proposed actions from the Management Plan for Norwood Lane Caravan Park be implemented.

Areas of work undertaken included

- Full clearance of the entrance and length of the Lane
- A maintenance agreement circulated which outlined responsibilities of tenants
- The development of a communications plan
- New sign at the entrance of the lane and new name 'Norwood Lane Caravan Park'
- Work undertaken with the legal department to explore engagement with Magistrates on enforcement opportunities
- A single point of contact for the Travellers living on the Park

- Community development work, including consultation on family, health and welfare issues, the Digital Switchover and completion of the Census.

The neighbourhoods' team have worked with the local Police, Fire and Traveller community to continue to reduce the levels of fly tipping. Initially work was undertaken to clear the lane and regular enforcement checks were undertaken. During this time efforts were made to recruit a member from the Traveller community to manage both the Paston and Oxney Road Park. Unfortunately this proved difficult and we were soon made aware of further and ongoing fly tipping on the Lane. Through ongoing discussions with the Traveller community at Norwood Lane Caravan Park, it was agreed that a security firm would be employed to attend the Lane and surrounding area at various times of the day and night including weekends.

As a result of this a weekly report is submitted by the Security firm, with photographic evidence, which is shared with Neighbourhood Officers and the local police. These reports have enabled us to enforce on many issues including fly tipping, speeding and anti-social behaviour.

In early May a meeting was held with Travellers, the Police, City Council road safety and neighbourhoods' team to assess the current situation at the Park. Whilst members of the community reported that they feel safer, the area is cleaner and that the community feel that they have been listened to by the authorities, the widening of the Lane had led to some speeding and dangerous driving activity.

The meeting agreed a number of activities that were required to be undertaken to ensure that the Park became a safe and pleasant area to live in. It was agreed that a regeneration plan would be developed to address issues raised, where possible, and the Travellers agreed to work with the Police and City Council to assist in addressing those issues.

We have now engaged Community Payback assistance, in agreement with Travellers from the Park, to help us develop pleasant and practical surroundings, including allotments and a play area. We will also be introducing a 'Crimestoppers' Line for the Park to enable us to identify individuals who may be committing acts of fly tipping, vandalism and damage in the area. We will be operating a zero tolerance policy where individuals living on the park who break their licence agreements will be taken through the process for eviction.

A communications strategy will incorporate the above work and help to identify private businesses to help us obtain equipment and resources to help the Travellers, Community Payback and Neighbourhood Officers to deliver the regeneration Plan for Norwood Lane Caravan Park.

## **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1
- An action plan is being delivered by partners and is project managed by the Operations Director through a task and finish group
  - The instances of fly tipping have been reduced resulting in reduced clean up operations on the Park.
  - Improved partnership working with the police and targeted work by on Park Security firm with Neighbourhood Officers, has seen increase in fines and action taken against perpetrators of fly tipping and vehicle crime – 15 cases enforced to date
  - Ongoing police operation relating to anti social behaviour
  - Funding identified to operate covert CCTV at the Park
  - Security company engaged to monitor fly tipping and criminal activity
  - Ongoing exploratory work being undertaken to engage member of the Travelling Community to manage the Park

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None

**7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 Ongoing consultation with partners and the Traveller community.

**8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1
- Communications Strategy to share relevant information relating to Norwood Lane Caravan Park with the wider public
  - Detailed timetable and project regeneration plan produced in partnership with Community Payback for sustainable work programme
  - Sourcing of equipment and materials to undertake work required

**9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 None

**10. APPENDICES**

10.1 None

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