SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – THE IMPACT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON THE TOWN

CORE QUESTIONS ANSWERS

1. As Northampton Borough Council Officers we deal with minor offenses using our devolved from Northamptonshire Police, such as dog fouling enforcement, litter offences, removal of tobacco and alcohol, these can result in a fixed penalty notice (FPN).

2. Regular patrols targeting anti-social behaviour, reporting of vandalism, reactive work to avoid the broken window effect. Any information gathered is forwarded to the police or relevant department. Conducting dog fouling rotas which target the worst affected areas. Work with community groups such as the Friends of the Park and Community Payback Teams conducting litter picks and clear ups in response to anti-social behaviour.

3. Regular patrols, FPN’s, warning letters, complaints from members of the public, verbally and written. Have the powers to remove members of the public from the park for escalated offences committed.

4. Limited funding, have access to small amounts of budget for purchasing items for tackling anti-social behaviour e.g. graffiti kits. However when significant damage is caused, we report it to the relevant department to assess the damage and remedial action.

5. We have partnership arrangements with the police for tackling anti-social behaviour. However, police attendance is not always guaranteed when reacting to anti-social behaviour. This most likely depends on the police availability and current priorities.

6. Building on current working relationships to ensure co-ordination and efficiency is improved when partnership working with agencies. Information sharing from the police. Having access to more information will improve our knowledge and reduce the risk, when challenging members of the public.

7. Anti-social behaviour is the number one issue regarding our role as a Park Ranger; it’s the perception of the public that we are responsible for tackling anti-social
offences. This includes drink and drug related incidents, litter, dog fouling and unpredictable members of the public.

8. The Grounds and Maintenance contractor (Enterprise/Amey) need to improve their strategies and priorities in cleaning in the parks. For example play areas and main walk ways within the parks should be cleaned up first as they are the first impression of the park, before proceeding to other activities. More visible patrols from the police, including joint patrols with Park Rangers on a regular basis. Currently the Neighbourhood Wardens and the police move people drinking out of the town this then impact on the parks where they then congregate. A more robust approach between the police and Council Officers would improve the negative impact on parks.


10. Essentially yes, however FPN’s/prosecution depend on manager’s discretion case by case.

11. We have had training on issues such as substance abuse training; however we have limited knowledge regarding the nature of the psychoactive substances within the market. We can contact Council Officers who will provide information if required regarding psychoactive substances.

12. From our experience on the parks it can have a detrimental effect on youths and adults within the community. The waste left behind the drug/alcohol usage within the parks can cause an eye sore as well as health and safety implications to members of the public, such as disposed needles and nitrous oxide bottles.

13. A more robust clear response, FPN’s followed through with a zero tolerance policy. More partnership working with agencies. Improve the cleanliness of the town.

14. Drugs and alcohol abuse within the parks and the town centre. Culture, such as unsociable hours when drinking/drugs, rise in legal highs, rough sleepers and the risen litter issue.
15. If we effectively and efficiently address anti-social behaviour we will reduce its obvious negative impact and the negative image the public’s perception of the town currently has.