



West Area Committee

30th March 2023

Title	Petition response on measures taken to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in Colindale Area
Report of	Matthew Waters, Assistant Director, Capital Delivery, Growth & Corporate Services
Wards	Colindale Wards
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Maggie Higton-Brown Head of Community Safety, Enforcement, CCTV, and Intelligence Maggie.higton-brown@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 6101

Summary

This report details the work undertaken by the Community Safety Team to tackle anti-social behaviour in the noted location within Colindale, in response to the petition that was received by the West Area Committee on 30th January 2023.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the West Area Committee note and comment on the actions taken in response to the Petition.**

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 The following petition containing 118 signatures from Barnet residents was received by the West Area Committee on 30th January 2023.

Petition: Take Measures to Tackle Antisocial Behaviour in Colindale Area
Lead Petitioner/ Resident: Leva Unguryte
Ward: Colindale South Number of signatures: 118

The area around the 'Stay Club' located just next to the underground station is constantly surrounded by loiterers who seem uneasy, dangerous and under the influence of addictive substances. They make not only children, but also adults feel unsafe when travelling home from the station, or even trying to engage in daily activities such as exercise and taking their children to play in the park. Colindale has a lovely layout which was designed with families and young people living in a safe community. However, violence and crime rates have increased significantly, with recent events such as gang fights and stabbings taking place in the area, leaving our community highly concerned. We ask Barnet Council for the safety of families living in the area, very concerned members of Colindale community to urgently take action and stop tolerating loiterers and gangs around the area due to constant noise, increasing harassment, violence and crime rates.

1.2 On 30th January 2023 the West Area Committee decided to instruct an officer to prepare a report in response to the petition, for a future meeting of the committee on the issues raised with a recommended course of action.

1.3 This report aims to respond to the petition, detailing the action taken by the Community Safety Team to reduce anti-social behaviour within the noted location.

1.4 Action Taken – Patrols

1.4.1 In April 2022 a concern was raised via Members Enquiries regarding alleged anti-social behaviour within the location. In response to the enquiry, the Community Safety Team's Investigation and Enforcement Officer (IEO) for the Colindale ward was allocated the case and has carried out monitoring visits and patrols within the noted area between April 2022 to date.

1.4.2 As of 4th February 2023, a total of 74 patrols have been carried out in the noted area, with an increase in patrols from July 2022 in response to a further concern raised about the area. All of the patrols were carried out on foot and in pairs (with at least one other IEO). The Neighbourhood Policing Team were present on ten of the patrols to conduct joint operations and action days.

1.5 Action Taken – Public Spaces Protection Order

1.5.1 On 12th December 2022, a boroughwide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was implemented across Barnet and will remain in place for 3 years, whereby it can be extended for a further 3 years if necessary.

1.5.2 PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life. PSPO's impose conditions on the use of the area. These conditions apply to everyone and ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

1.5.3 Barnet's PSPO has 11 conditions, which range from prohibiting alcohol related anti-social behaviour, littering and spitting, to dog fouling, unlicensed music events and aggressive begging (see Fig.1).

Fig.1.PSPO Sign



- 1.5.4 Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence which can result in a fixed penalty notice of £100 or a fine of up to £1000, if prosecuted in the courts. IEO's, Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers are all authorised to enforce Barnet's PSPO.
- 1.5.5 All wards within Barnet have had PSPO signs erected in their area (see Table 1), which detail the 11 conditions. Colindale has had further signs erected within the last month and more signs are being added to the wards each week. Requests for further signage in particular areas can be requested by the appropriate ward Cllrs via the Members Enquiries process.

Table 1. Signage location.

North	East	West
High Barnet – 18 Barnet Vale – 13 Mill Hill – 11 East Barnet – 17 Edgwarebury – 10 Totteridge and Woodside – 18 Underhill – 10 Whetstone – 6 (overlap with T & W High Street)	Friern Barnet - 13 Brunswick Park – 11 West Finchley – 10 Finchley Church End – 10 Woodhouse – 10 Golders Green – 10 East Finchley – 10 Garden Suburb – 9	Colindale North – 11 Burnt Oak – 14 Childs Hill – 9 Colindale South – 11 Cricklewood – 14 Edgware – 12 Hendon – 9 West Hendon – 3
Total - 103	Total - 83	Total - 83

1.6 Action Taken – Effectiveness

1.6.1 To monitor the effectiveness of the action taken by the Community Safety Team and the Police, anti-social behaviour and crime ‘heat maps’ were generated from police open-source data for the noted area, to cover the period from Jan 2022 – Jan 2023. This timeline was chosen to provide a snapshot of the reported incidents before the intervention from the ward officer/police and to highlight any positive effects from the patrols/monitoring thereafter (see Table 2).

Table 2. Incident reports

Month (2022)	No. of reported Incidents	Month (2022-23)	No. of reported Incidents
January	17	August	0
February	21	September	0
March	19	October	0
April	11	November	0
May	20	December	0
June	14	January 2023	0
July	0		

1.6.2 It is noted that during the past year, reported incidents have reduced significantly; in January 2022 there were 17 incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour reported, and in February 2022 there were 21 reported incidents within the location. However, from April 22 (when intervention began), there was a notable decrease of reports of anti-social behaviour and crime in April with 11 incidents recorded, a slight increase in May with 20 incidents recorded and June recorded 14. Thereafter, there were no reported incidents recorded for July, August, September, October, November, December or January 2023.

1.6.3 The noted area continues to be subject to weekly patrols and monitoring for the IEO for the Colindale ward.

1.7 Reporting ASB & Crime

1.7.1 Instances of anti-social behaviour and crime should be reported to the Police on 999 in an emergency, or 101 for non-emergency incidents or online via www.met.police.uk Incidents of anti-social behaviour can also be reported to the Community Safety Team

via the council's website, via telephone 020 8359 7816 or via email on BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk

- 1.7.2 Any behaviour that makes people feel unsafe can be reported at one of our four Community Safety Hubs located around the borough (see Table 3).

Table 3. Community Safety Hub locations

Location	Opening times
Artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley N12 0GA	Mondays 3pm – 6pm
The Meeting Room, Boardwalk Shopping Centre, Station Road, Edgware, HA8 7BD	Tuesdays 2pm – 5pm
Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, EN5 4QT	Wednesdays 3pm – 6pm
The Community Hub, Gadwell House, Perryfield Way, Hendon, NW9 7DZ	Thursdays 2pm – 5pm

- 1.7.3 The Community Safety Team also co-ordinate planned visits to local areas, with councillors, council officers and police to investigate specific community safety related issues that have been raised via the Ward Walks project. Ward walks take place in each ward in the borough twice a year. Community safety issues that make people feel unsafe in the local area can be raised via safestreeets@barnet.gov.uk

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The committee is requested to note the content of this report as actions taken by the community safety team in response to the petition.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 None.

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 There are no post decision implementation recommendations for this report.

5. Implications of decision

- 5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 The council's Labour administration have made a commitment to work together for 'safer streets across the borough, with a strong focus on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour'. The action taken to tackle the reported anti-social behaviour at the stated location and the use of the Public Spaces Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 within the Barnet borough supports the delivery of this commitment.

5.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 N/A

5.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 Article 7 of the Council's Constitution, Section 7.5 Responsibility for Functions details:

5.3.1.1 The Area Committee has responsibility for all constituency specific matters relating to the street scene including parking, road safety, transport, allotments, parks and trees.

5.3.1.2 The Area Committee provides an opportunity for any resident to raise matters affecting the area.

5.3.2 Article 3 of the Council's Constitution, Section 3.6 states that where the petition relates to the functions and responsibilities of an Area Committee it will be reported to the relevant Area Committee.

5.4 **Insight**

5.4.1 Not relevant for this report.

5.5 **Social Value**

5.5.1 N/A

5.6 **Risk Management**

5.6.1 Not relevant for this report.

5.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

5.7.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

5.7.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

5.7.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Tackle prejudice, and
- b) Promote understanding.

5.7.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- a) Age
- b) Disability
- c) Gender reassignment
- d) Pregnancy and maternity
- e) Race
- f) Religion or belief
- g) Sex
- h) Sexual orientation
- i) Marriage and civil partnership

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 None in the context of this report.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 N/A

5.10 **Environmental Impact**

5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

6. Background papers

6.1 None.