

**01/03/2024 Safer Communities Partnership Board
Safety in Parks and Greenspaces**

<p>Rationale / Context</p>	<p>Barnet has a great collection of parks and open spaces, used by millions of visitors each year. Our parks vary in usage, size, scale and facilities.</p> <p>In 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified safety in parks and greenspaces as a topic for further exploration at the task and finish group. Safety in parks has also been identified as a key theme area following several community safety ward walks.</p> <p>A study on the safety in parks and greenspaces, under three principles of ‘Design, Management and Maintenance’, will enable us to explore what makes a park feel safe or unsafe. Typically, there are a range of factors that influence this e.g. park reputation, users, familiarity, security, personal experiences etc.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategy and needs assessment is a key legal duty for the Council and highlights the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnership working for a coordinated whole system approach to preventing and tackling violent offending in the borough. • Pro-actively monitor and tackle disproportionately of over-represented groups who are affected by violence and build data into key performance indicators and evaluation of all services. • Effectively engage and coproduce solutions to local problems with local people. <p>The study will explore the view of professionals compared with the views of others, in addition to gathering intelligence from a range of identified sources to support any recommendations. Evidence will be taken from a wide range of sources to provide a strategic analysis to identify immediate areas of concern and focus.</p>
<p>Strategic Outcomes</p>	<p>The study will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key manifesto commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will protect and enhance greenspaces ○ Ending violence against women and girls • Our Plan for Barnet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Safe, Attractive Neighbourhoods and Town Centres and our key outcome of Residents feel safe. ○ Community Participation and our key outcome of Residents feel informed about what the council does • Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment • Parks Strategy • Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-2025 • Community Safety Strategy 2022-2027 • Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan

<p>Service Areas/ Partners</p>	<p><u>LBB:</u> Street Scene (including lighting) Greenspaces Community Safety - Assurance (PSPO, enforcement, ASB) Community Safety – Family Services - (VAWG – Serious Violence SNA) Highways (including parking) Cabinet Members Ward Councillors</p> <p><u>External Partners:</u> Metropolitan Police Fire Service Partnership Boards/ External Groups/ Networks: Safer Communities Partnership (Board members) Combatting Drugs Partnership Barnet Greenspaces Network Resident Associations</p>
<p>Scope of Study</p>	<p>Examine a range of items which identify barriers and seek to address:</p> <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing out Crime • Involving stakeholders in park designs. • Considering equalities impact. • Assessment of connectivity to local area. • Design and placement of facilities. • Considering cctv/lighting for safety. • Accessibility and inclusion. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current method for reporting concerns. • Parks locking regime. • Review of Parks Patrol Service (LBB & Third Party) • Activation of spaces (level of use/ type of use) • Current training and management. • Bye laws and enforcement approach (eg PSPO) • Existing communication /Signage / Wayfinding. <p>Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing litter, graffiti, and maintenance issues.
<p>Evidence / Information</p>	<p>Information and intelligence to be gathered by a range of sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime statistics/ data (including breakdown of categories) • Serious Violence Needs Assessment • Parks data (usage) • Parks reporting (complaints / issues) • Budget information (maintenance, locking, patrols). • Park Patrol Summary Report (LBB and Third Party). • Community Safety Walks (Y1 Summary Information) • Interviews/meetings with identified stakeholders/ partners. • Case studies from other Local Authorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from work on Watling Park/Burnt Oak Parks with Light Follows Behaviour • Make Space for Women and Girls
Timescales	<p>A report will be presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) in June which will provide an overview of the existing approach, any identified barriers and engagement with key stakeholders on options to address.</p>
Risks / Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of engagement from stakeholders across the borough. • Data is not validated enough to support future decision making. • If the design phase is not inclusive of all individuals in our community, it could result in some barriers not being addressed. • Timescales for a report for June may be ambitious if engagement with stakeholders and data gathering is difficult. • Obtaining case studies from local authorities with similar demographics may not be feasible/provide sufficient evidence. • Resource available to carry out engagement and data gathering.