

Supporting Document

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN CREATED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES TO ACCOMPANY AN AGENDA ITEM



For FPC Meeting 12th December 2023

Notes from meeting regarding Anti-social Behaviour in Farnsfield

Background

Tuesday 28th November 2023, members of Farnsfield Parish Council (FPC) and the Parish Council Clerk were invited to meet with representatives of Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) and Nottinghamshire Police to discuss concerns raised about Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in Farnsfield.

This was an informal meeting between organisations, the main purpose of which, was to share information and understand which organisations are taking a lead on ASB and what that involves.

The meeting was attended by:

NSDC representatives

- ASB Officer
- Youth engagement worker

Nottinghamshire Police representatives

- Community Beat Manager
- Police Community Support Officer

All nine members of Farnsfield Parish Council and the Parish Council Clerk.

Main areas of discussion:

- Defining ASB
- Number of incidents reported in last 12 months by residents
- Scale of issues compared to other locations in Newark and Sherwood
- Themes from incidents
- Current approaches to tackling these incidents
- Remit of each authority
- Further actions which could be taken

Key themes:

- There has been an increase in reports of ASB since the skateboard park opened, however, not all incidents in the village are linked to this location or users of the skateboard park.
- Incidents appear to be linked to be a small group of people. Whilst the number of incidents is low compared to other locations in Newark and Sherwood it is recognised that the incidents are causing distress to residents.
- There's a disparity between the number of incidents officially reported and the number of incidents reported locally by residents on social media and in reports directly to Farnsfield Parish Council. This makes it hard to provide a coordinated response where evidence is scarce of what exactly needs to be tackled.

Take away points:

- NSDC and the police are responsible for responding and investigating to reports of ASB. They can only act on matters directly reported to them.

- If you are concerned about an incident that you have directly experienced/witnessed or observed then you should report this directly to Nottinghamshire Police through the 111 service.
- Taking photos of 'children' is not advised as this may present risks for the person taking the photos
- "Reports" made informally i.e. through social media will not be investigated
- FPC have no powers to investigate or respond to incidents but can collate a picture of incidences across the village. However, if residents want action taken they should be encouraged to report it via the appropriate route
- FPC can helpfully promote the help points on their social media platforms, noticeboards, newsletter and by word of mouth.

Upcoming action to be expected (including lead agencies):

- FPC to share an update from this meeting with residents for information
- NSDC to write directly to homeowners in the village particularly affected
- NSDC to draft a campaign notice regarding the importance of reporting - once agreed this will be shared a communication from NSDC, FPC and Nottinghamshire Police
- Beat Manager and PCSO will continue to patrol the area as will the Community Protection Officers. Beat Manager shared her email to be used as required.
- FPC will maintain a dialogue with NSDC and Nottinghamshire Police to understand their progress on investigating incidents reported to them
- FPC will explore positive solutions to offering youth engagement activities with the newly formed Youth Council
- FPC to also explore the feasibility and benefits of installing extra lighting in certain locations and updating the rules of use for the skateboard park
- The Nottinghamshire Police advised that those residents concerned about ASB consider the purchase of video door bell (plus notice) to assist in collecting evidence
- Further meeting to be held in six month's time to review the situation and any further actions that may be needed relevant to FPCs areas of responsibility

Farnsfield Parish Council are asked to agree these notes for accuracy. Subsequent to this, the Parish Council are asked to agree for these notes to be published in the following locations to update residents:

- Farnsfield Parish Council website news section (to ensure an alert is sent to those subscribed to email updates from HugoFox)
- Farnsfield Parish Council Facebook Page
- Physical and digital notice boards within the village
- Library, church and charity shop

Notes prepared by Councillor Charlotte Harris Sutton, Sally Savage and the Clerk