

## **NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE SAFER COMMUNITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

**20 November 2023**

Present: Councillor Jarvis in the Chair.

Councillors Barnett, Bates, Clews, Davey, Jackson, Melia, Osborne, Ririe, Symonds, Watson and Whapples

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Humphreys and O Phillips

#### **5 Question Pursuant of Standing Order No 7**

The following question was received pursuant to Standing Order No 7:-

**Lisa Ledbury:**

"I live in the Parish of Middleton and in recent months have felt unsafe in my community. There is an issue with residents & non residents walking their dogs off lead on the public highway and this has led to confrontations when residents have asked them to get their dogs under control & put them on a lead. There have been two major incidents, one where our postman was verbally abused and aggressively confronted and another incident that led to threats and intimidation to myself. This was reported to Warwickshire Police and on receiving a crime number I forwarded the evidence requested. Disappointingly, the police did not investigate even though they had photographs, video evidence and witnesses and have ignored my further emails. Having contacted NWBC to ascertain who I should speak to in regards to dog control and never getting a response, I emailed the Environmental Health Officer and Chief Executive directly. I was told that NWBC do not have a dog control PSPO and therefore cannot enforce dogs being walked off lead and it is the responsibility of the Police. However, my Community Policing team have advised it is the responsibility of the Council. I am repeatedly being told I am the only resident in North Warks who has complained about this issue & the council require numerous complaints before considering a dog control PSPO. So I would like to ask the Safer Communities Committee, is one resident feeling unsafe not enough and how many people have to feel unsafe in their community before action is taken by the Police and the Council?"

**The response from Councillor Ray Jarvis, Chair of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee was:-**

"Thank you for your question and you raise an issue that officers have proposed a course of action which is set out below, as I understand you are aware.

Firstly, it is clear that acts of aggression are criminal matters for the Police to consider and it would not be appropriate for the Council to comment, particularly

if that matter may be ongoing given your dissatisfaction with the original response.

The Council does not have a Public Spaces Protection Order with regard to dogs off leads and historically has had very few complaints. I am aware that you made a Freedom of Information request for the number of complaints over the last three years and were informed that the Council had only received one complaint on this topic, which was from yourself. By way of context, over the same period the Council has recorded 258 complaints/queries with respect to dog fouling.

The Local Government Association guidance on PSPOs make it clear that evidence of a harm needs to be established before making a PSPO. The consequences of breaching a PSPO are significant and therefore before a Council imposes restrictions on behaviour they need to be satisfied 'that it is a proportionate response to the level of harm and nuisance being caused'. It also makes it clear that the evidence of this harm and nuisance should come 'from a variety of sources'.

There is not a fixed number of complaints that is necessary before a PSPO can be considered but in Officers' view it is likely that this would need to be from more than one person. As you have been advised, the Council is not against considering a PSPO on this issue and, as you have also been advised, Officers will be consulting the public on this issue once the current PSPO relating to dog fouling has been considered".

**6 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

**7 Minutes of the Meeting of the Safer Communities held on 3 July 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2023, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**8 Fly Tipping Update**

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update on the work that the Environmental Health, Transformation and Streetscape Teams had undertaken in order to try and reduce fly tipping across the Borough.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

## **9 The Serious Violence Duty**

The Chief Executive provided an update on the requirements of the Council in meeting the Serious Violence Duty.

### **Resolved:**

- a That the funding of £10,000 to support local interventions 2023/24 be noted;**
- b That both the commitment to participate and contribute to the development of the countywide delivery plan, develop the Local Delivery Plan, and contribute to the implementation of the Local Delivery Plan to reduce serious violence in North Warwickshire be noted; and**
- c That the amendment, following the last meeting, to the Terms of Reference for the Safer Communities Sub-Committee, to include a specific reference to scrutinise the crime and disorder and serious violence duties, be noted.**

## **10 North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Update**

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update on recent activities with the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership. Information was provided about the progress with the agreed priorities from the Strategic Assessment 2021/2022 and the latest crime statistics.

### **Resolved:**

- a That the update be noted and areas for further scrutiny and consideration were identified;**
- b That the progress of the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership be noted; and**
- c That the success of Funding bids, set out in the report of the Chief Executive, be noted.**

## **11 Atherstone Town Centre PSPO**

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update on progress with the proposal that a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) be made in relation to Atherstone Town Centre.

### **Recommendation to Executive Board:**

- a That the formal consultation on the proposed PSPO, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive be commenced; and**
- b That provided that consultation does not identify any significant reason not to make an Order, the proposed PSPO be approved.**

Councillor Jarvis  
CHAIR