



Oldham
Council

Update in response to Public Question

Action Plan in respect of Car Parking Issues at Failsworth Soccer Centre and Brierley Avenue.

Report to: District Executive – Failsworth and Hollinwood

26th June 2014

Officer Contact: John Norris – District Coordinator

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1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the work that has begun in respect of this issue and also inform them of further work which will commence prior to the new Mini Soccer League Season.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To note and for discussion at the meeting

3 Introduction

- 3.1 At the District Partnership on 20th march 2014, a question was raised in relation to parking issues at Brierley Avenue and other Roads close to the Failsworth Soccer Centre. The question asked what action the District Executive can take to resolve this issue. The District Team was tasked by the District Executive to consider this issue and to find a solution to the issues raised.

The following document outlines the current parking situation for members of the public accessing Failsworth Soccer centre on Saturday mornings for the Manchester Youth and Mini Soccer League and will offer recommendations and possible options for resolving current issues in traffic and parking management.

The Manchester Youth and Mini Soccer league is one of the largest central venue leagues in the North West and is hosted on a weekly basis at Failsworth Soccer centre. The league facilitates and development mini soccer for children and young people age 6 – 13 of which there are approximately 800 participants from the borough of Oldham playing in competitive football each week.

In recent months, there has been growing concern with regards the car parking for spectators and parents of the league. There are currently two car parks that are available for use.

The soccer centre car park has 64 spaces and is used for managers and coaches only. The school car park with over 100 spaces is available for use and is utilised by some members of the public. A third car park at Failsworth sports centre is used however through consultation with OCL staff we have been advised that this car park should be for leisure centre users only.

4 Current Position at the Soccer Centre Brierley Avenue

4.1 At present the Mini Soccer League has ended for this season. It will however recommence in September 2014. Between now and then there will be some one off events and tournaments. By and large the issue has died down because of the close season.

4.2 The District Coordinator visited the Soccer Centre on Saturday mornings to review the situation. Whilst visiting he noted that some vehicles were parked on the pavement in front of houses. These were residents. He also noted that other vehicles had parked on the Road in a parallel line to those on the pavement which effectively trapped in those vehicles parked on the pavement. The cars parked on the road were parked quite legally. He also noted further up Brierley Avenue a number of vehicles parked on the pavement in front of the school. These vehicles all had warning flyers placed on their windscreens. These flyers asked them not to park in an anti-social manner and directed them to car parks that were free of charge and close by. There were Enforcement Officers on site on each visit. The District Coordinator also saw staff from the Soccer Centre working tirelessly to address the issue. They were leafleting vehicles which were parked inconsiderately and also challenging the drivers where possible and directing them to one of the car parks. On the three occasions where he visited he did not note any serious issues or altercations.

5 Action/Responses

5.1 The District Coordinator convened a Partnership Meeting in order to consider the problems that were faced and also to consider solutions and ways forward. The meeting was well attended and all requested organisations attended other than GMP. Natalie Craig who manages the Centre advised partners of the work that she and colleagues had already undertaken.

Below is a list of strategies that have been used by Natalie and her team so far:

2013/14 Season

- Traffic cones purchased for and given to residents on Brierley avenue and other surrounding streets to place outside their property.
- Yellow and Black cones placed along Brierley Avenue to the left and right of the soccer centre to restrict parking.
- Car park attendance on soccer centre, OCL and school car parks by MYMSL, soccer centre and school staff.
- Informing traffic enforcement department each week of issues.
- Talking to residents on a Saturday morning and ensuring if they require traffic cones for outside their house, we do our best to provide for them.
- Educating spectators and parents on the options of where to park
- Wardens issue tickets each week.
- GMP presence when resources will allow.
- Notices on Manchester Youth and Mini Soccer league websites suggesting car sharing, parking restrictions, use of the school car park.
- Fliers placed on car windscreens for those cars who continue to park on Brierley Avenue to inform them of alternative car parking arrangements.
- Attendance at monthly Manchester Youth and Mini soccer league meetings informing clubs if the issues and pleas to inform their parents and carers of the parking arrangements.
- Discount off hot food from the onsite catering for people who park in the school car park.
- The current 2013/14 season is now coming to a close with age groups now completing their season fixtures. This will mean that from April until end of May, there will be less traffic on a Saturday morning due to there being less fixtures and therefore the problems will ease.

At the meeting a number of Actions were taken by Partners in order to resolve the issue in both the long and short term. **(See Appendix 2 Action Plan)** The Action Plan lists a number of responses these are both medium and long term partnership strategies which we envisage will reduce the number of problems come the next season in September 2014.

The District Coordinator and Natalie Craig visited the complainant at home and advised her of the approach that was being taken to solve the issues and also of future plans to deal with the situations.

For Consideration by the District Executive

- The District Executive is asked to note the work that has already been done to resolve this problem. It is also asked to note and comment on the actions that have been put in place to resolve the issue moving forward.

- The District Executive should also consider if it wishes to hold a Community Forum in order to feed back to local residents the action that has been taken and the planned action or if it wishes for the District Coordinator to feed back to the complainant on a regular basis.