

Proposed Safe, Clean and Green Project, Springhead Football Club

Report of Colette Kelly, Assistant Executive Director, Neighbourhoods

Portfolio Responsibility: People and Communities

3rd December 2009

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Purpose of Report

To consider the crime and anti social behaviour issues facing Springhead Football club and the surrounding area and the proposed solutions.

Executive Summary

Issues relating to crime and anti social behaviour at Springhead Football Club and the surrounding area have been reported to Ward Councillors, Police and Council Officers and have been raised by local residents associations and at the Saddleworth West and Lees PACT meeting.

Possible solutions to these issues have been considered at the Saddleworth and Lees Area Action Team and a security survey has been carried out by Community Safety Services. The outcomes and costs associated with this work are outlined in this report.

Recommendations

To consider the recommendations of the Community Safety Services Security Survey in relation to Springhead Football Club clubhouse and the surrounding area.

To support the proposed fencing works (identified in 6.1.3) to be carried out by Community Safety Services using their crime reduction budget to secure Springhead FC Clubhouse.

To allocate £2,680 to increase natural surveillance and reduce litter and dog fouling using the District Partnership Safe Clean and Green budget as follows

Strim down under story nettles and rubus on the banked side of the path	£275
Thin out trees from ground level to open up site lines and chip pruning on site	£775
Prune down willow on top banking and arrange for litter picking	£250
Hire of chipper if necessary (If not required this element of the funding will go back into the Safe, Clean and Green budget)	£300
To supply and install 3 x Cardiff type litter bins in desired location	£1080
Total	£2680

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDING SYSTEM
REFERENCE NO:

Saddleworth and Lees District Partnership

3rd December 2009

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1 Purpose of Report

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2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Issues relating to crime, anti social behaviour, litter and dog fouling at Springhead Football Club and the surrounding area have been reported to Ward Councillors, Police and Council Officers and have been raised by local residents associations and at the Saddleworth West and Lees PACT meeting.

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4 **Background**

- 4.1 Springhead Football Club is sited off St Johns Street and is bordered by Ashfield Crescent. There is an area of public open space to the East of the football pitch with a path leading from Ashfield Crescent to the linear park. To the north of the pitch is a decommissioned play area. The open space area is owned and maintained by the Council (Parks and open Spaces). The club house is owned by Springhead FC on land leased by the Council.
- 4.2 This area has become overgrown due to a relaxed maintenance regime and as a result offers cover from natural surveillance. This has detracted from the amenity of the site and legitimate use has decreased. This has lead to the area being used by youths engaging in anti social behaviour. This is evidenced from the amount of litter, most of which is alcohol related. There have also been reported incidents of broken glass being thrown onto the football pitch.
- 4.3 The Clubhouse and changing rooms have suffered from burglary and damage, largely due to the lack of natural surveillance and the unrestricted access to the fabric of the building. As it is single storey there is easy access to the roof. The premises are alarmed and shutters are fitted to the windows offering some protection but there is no definition between public and private space.
- 4.4 The football pitch and surrounding public open space has also suffered from littering and dog fouling which has caused issues for people using these areas for sport and recreation.

5 **Current Position**

- 5.1 For the reasons outlined above, the club house and the surrounding area are a cause for concern for Springhead FC, the local community, users of the public open space and the Police. Litter, dog fouling and anti social behaviour are resulting in persistent complaints to the Police, Council Officers and Elected Members both directly and through the PACT meeting held in Saddleworth West and Lees.
- 5.2 As a result, the Area Action Team have looked at a partnership response to the problems and have initiated some initial actions. Parks and Open Spaces have done an initial clean up of the former play area and removed litter and some undergrowth and Environmental Protection have agreed to put up new and better positioned no dog fouling signs.

5.3 Whilst these actions are welcomed they will not form a long term solution to the problems being experienced at this location. Options to reduce the number of complaints and issues raised are identified below.

6 Options/Alternatives

6.1 To alleviate the problems being experienced by Springhead FC and the local community and to reduce incidents being dealt with by the Police it is recommended that the following options be considered as recommended by Community Safety Services:

6.1.1 Former play area site

It is proposed that this area is heavily cut back and the canopies of the trees lifted to give the appearance of ownership and natural surveillance. This will eliminate hiding places and reduce fear of crime for legitimate users and in turn increase natural footfall. It will also offer greater opportunity for the youths to be observed and challenged about their activities, removing the appeal for them to gather and engage in ASB.

6.1.2 This work has been costed by the Councils Parks and Open Spaces team as follows, including the cost of three additional litter bins to be installed around the site to help reduce littering and dog fouling in the area:

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6.1.3 Springhead FC Clubhouse

It is proposed that a perimeter fence is erected around the clubhouse creating a defensible space and a sterile area between the public right of way and the privacy of the building. This would create a barrier and reduce opportunity for criminal activity. Signage should be clearly displayed denoting public and private property. The fence should be at least 2m high and a good quality weld mesh (paladin type) which is visually permeable and offer good natural surveillance.

6.1.4 A quote has been provided by Community Safety Services preferred supplier, Lewbuild Fence Products as follows.

2m high green coated fence and gates as specified	£4,971
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7 Preferred Option

- 7.1 To achieve the optimum impact on the site the preferred option would be to carry out both the works to the former play area site and to erect fencing around the clubhouse.

8 Consultation

- 8.1 Saddleworth and Lees Area Action Team
Saddleworth and Lees Elected Members
Springhead FC

9 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The total cost of the preferred option is £7,651 which comprises of £2,680 relating to works of the former play area and £4,971 to erect fencing around the clubhouse.

These work schemes will be funded from the cost centre 12046 (Saddleworth & Lees – Clean, Green & Safe) which has a budget of £43,500 with a committed expenditure of £16,675 to date. (Karsan Kerai)

10 Legal Services Comments

- 10.1 The recommendations are within powers. (Bill Balmer)

11 Human Resources Comments

- 11.1 N/A

12 Risk Assessments

- 12.1 N/A

13 IT Implications

- 13.1 N/A

14 Property Implications

- 14.1 Terms have previously been agreed to grant a lease to Springhead AFC. Completion is expected shortly. If Committee agrees to fund the provision of fencing, permission to enter to erect the fencing will be agreed directly with the club.

Once erected the fence will become a fixture and fitting maintainable at the clubs expense without recourse to council maintenance funds (Malcolm Simister)

15 Procurement Implications

15.1 N/A

16 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

16.1 N/A

17 Community Cohesion Implications [including Crime & Disorder Implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Act] and Equalities Implications

17.1 N/A

18 Forward Plan Reference

18.1 N/A

19 Key Decision

19.1 No

20 Background Papers

20.1 None.

21 Appendices

None.