



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Antisocial Behaviour Programme Update
Date:	13 October 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Peter Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• report an overview of antisocial behaviour by electoral area; and• update committee on the recent work of the Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator in Parks and Leisure and the key areas of focus and expenditure at present.
2.	Key Issues
	<p>The antisocial behaviour programme contributes to the achievement of the departmental vision of providing quality parks, open spaces and leisure environments that people value and use. In particular, it will enable the delivery of the departmental objective regarding the provision of programmes and services to make people feel safer.</p> <p>In line with the departmental plan, the objectives of the antisocial behaviour programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enhance the environment around Parks and Leisure facilities;• develop education initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities;• define enforcement as a deterrent against infraction of bye-laws and legislation; and• develop sustainable interagency and inter-departmental networks and leading a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour. <p>The Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator prioritises action by collating evidence gathered through antisocial behaviour incident reports. Once the information is collated, it is used to inform a coordinated response.</p> <p>Members will recall that the previous antisocial behaviour update report</p>

(June 2011) set out the programme methodology and the importance of monitoring incident reports to ensure appropriate actions are taken in response to antisocial behaviour reports.

The purpose of the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme is to reduce antisocial behaviour. The evidence available indicates an overall decreasing trend in antisocial behaviour taking place in parks and leisure facilities across electoral areas in Belfast (See Appendix 1: Comparison of antisocial behaviour incidents between April 2010 to August 2011).

The information recorded in Appendix 1 and 2 illustrates antisocial behaviour by electoral area. The chart shows incidents of antisocial behaviour taking place throughout an area and indicates potential hotspots.

As antisocial behaviour occurs at neighbouring sites within electoral areas, this may indicate that antisocial behaviour is displaced following action by rangers or PSNI. This information will inform how we implement joint operations and ensure that we do not move a problem on to another site.

Reductions in incidents

During the last year, there has been a marked reduction in reports of antisocial behaviour in park areas such as Ormeau, Falls and City Cemetery and Orangefield (Appendix 3, chart 3). This could be attributed to a number of factors:

- The development of community networks and management plans to attain the Green Flag award at Ormeau and Falls Parks.
- Following the last antisocial behaviour programme update report there was a more intensive approach to Ormeau, Falls and City Cemetery and Orangefield as recorded incidents were significantly high.
- An increase in resources from the antisocial behaviour programme supporting community events at Falls Park and a youth participation programme in Ormeau, Falls and Orangefield parks.
- The last antisocial behaviour report identified that drinkers were an issue in Ormeau and Orangefield Parks – since then the East Parks antisocial behaviour partnership group, council officers and PSNI have identified more frequent opportunities to challenge drinkers in the park.

Identifying further actions

Although recorded antisocial behaviour incidents have reduced from the previous year, the park locations which experienced the highest recorded incidences of antisocial behaviour during the months April to August 2011, were Waterworks, Cavehill, Woodvale, Ormeau, Alexandra, Botanic, Ballysillan, Falls and City Cemetery (Appendix 4, Chart 4).

The main antisocial behaviour issues that have been recorded (Appendix 5, chart 5) are:

- Unauthorised use of council facilities: generally describes drinking after the park closes.
- Property damage: Indicates fire setting or damage from vehicle tyres.

- Youths causing annoyance.
- Under age drinking.
- Misuse of Vehicles: Motor cycles or scramblers travelling through the park.
- Graffiti.

Alongside the actions that have already been planned and are being implemented across the whole city, the antisocial behaviour programme resources will also focus on reducing the types of antisocial behaviour found in these areas during the remainder of the financial year and an update report will be presented in February 2012.

Summary of interventions

There have been a series of successful actions implemented throughout the period of April to August 2011. Parks operations are separated into three distinct areas: North, East and South/West. The details of thematic interventions within these areas include:

North Belfast

Environment

- Finlay Park fencing, razor wire and installation of a gate to reduce damage to a play park
- Woodvale Park replacement of perimeter fencing section

Education

- Grove Playing Fields: FASA (Forum against substance abuse) Interventional Cup 100 young people participated in a football tournament
- Woodvale Park July Cultural celebrations, support for a week long youth football tournament in the park

Enforcement

- Cavehill Country Park CCTV: a sophisticated camera has been installed at the gate to the park
- Cavehill Country Park: Joint operations with the council and PSNI patrols

East Belfast

Environment

- Belmont Park tree reductions through out the park to enable access for a mobile CCTV Van
- Orangefield tree reductions to improve visibility around a kick about area.
- Knocknagoney Park removal of fly tipping and graffiti

Education

- Belmont Park: Support for "Bark in the Park" event, led by the Friends of Belmont group to encourage responsible dog ownership.
- Ormeau: Support for FASA and the Mount community association youth football tournament in the evenings during August and September
- Victoria: Support for FASA and Exit to lead a family fun day in the park

Enforcement

- Ormeau: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van deployment
- Orangefield: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van

	<p>deployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmont: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van deployment • Botanic: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van deployment <p>South & West Belfast</p> <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield Park tree and shrub reduction • Half Moon Lake tree and shrub reduction <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falls Park support for summer festival and family camp out • Falls Park support for mini soccer resources • Half Moon Lake support for family fun day • Springfield avenue play park support for family fun day • Wedderburn Park July Cultural celebrations family fun day <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield avenue play park installation of CCTV and fencing to secure site <p>All areas</p> <p>Interagency and Interdepartmental networks</p> <p>The antisocial behaviour programme coordinator has been engaged in a range of internal and external partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area based antisocial behaviour partnership meetings have been established. Park staff, Community safety officers and PSNI officers meet to monitor and co-ordinate interventions around park and leisure facilities. • Joint working with Community Safety Officers, Dog Wardens and Litter Wardens are improving our ability to effectively respond to antisocial behaviour. • Participation in the internal officers Bonfire group has provided support for park based bonfire groups to reduce antisocial behaviour and ensure safer park events during the summer.
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3.	Resource Implications
	The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed antisocial behaviour budget 2011-12 which is approximately £250,000.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	Much of the antisocial behaviour programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing youth together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is in line with the council's equality and good relations policies and procedures.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Updates on the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme will be brought by the antisocial behaviour Coordinator to the Committee three times a year, in June, October, and February.
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	BCC: Belfast City Council PSNI: Police Service for Northern Ireland CCTV: Closed Circuit Television
8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Comparison of antisocial behaviour incidents in Parks and Leisure facilities across electoral areas between 2010 and 2011 Appendix 2: Antisocial behaviour across electoral areas and park locations Appendix 3: Comparison of park locations April –August 2010 & 2011 Appendix 4: Antisocial behaviour incidents by park location April to August 2011 Appendix 5: Antisocial behaviour type by park location

