



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Antisocial Behaviour Programme Quarterly Update
<b>Date:</b>	9 February 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Peter Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• report an overview of antisocial behaviour by electoral area; and</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<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"><li>• enhance the <b>environment</b> around Parks and Leisure facilities;</li><li>• develop <b>education</b> initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities;</li><li>• define <b>enforcement</b> as a deterrent against infraction of bye-laws and legislation; and</li><li>• develop sustainable <b>interagency</b> and <b>inter-departmental</b> networks and leading a <b>partnership</b> approach to reducing antisocial behaviour.</li></ul> <p>The Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator prioritises action and expenditure by collating evidence gathered through antisocial behaviour incident reports. This information is used to inform a coordinated partnership</p>

response, drawing on council resources, the support of local community resources, PSNI and the Community Safety Partnership (see Appendix 1 Summary of Interventions).

The evidence available in December 2011 indicates that there is an upward trend in antisocial behaviour in parks in Oldpark, Castle and Court and electoral areas (see Appendix 2). The increase in antisocial behaviour incident reports in these areas can in part be attributed to the development of improved reporting and recording systems which will be introduced across the city between April – October 2012. Although this will result in a rise in incidents throughout 2012-13, the data collected will provide a much more accurate picture of the type of antisocial behaviour in each area.

#### Increase in incidents

During April - December 2011, there has been an increase in the total number of antisocial behaviour reports in comparison to April -December 2010. The incident count rose from 546 to 567 (see Appendix 2). This increase is reflected in reported antisocial behaviour incidents in Woodvale, Waterworks, Cavehill and Ballysillan Parks (see Appendix 3). The park locations with rising levels of antisocial behaviour will be the focus of more intensive interventions to reduce antisocial behaviour in the next six months.

Falls Park and City Cemetery, Ormeau and Orangefield have experienced much less antisocial behaviour in comparison to the previous year while in Alexandra and Botanic the levels of antisocial behaviour are approximately the same. There is a continuing downward trend in these park locations.

The downward trend can be attributed to a number of factors:

- A seasonal winter trend, where there is less inappropriate use of parks and leisure facilities.
- The success of joint operations involving community networks, the council and PSNI to challenge youths drinking in Falls Park and City Cemetery.
- There were a series of mobile CCTV van operations within Ormeau, Orangefield and Botanic parks following a number of serious incidents during the spring and summer.
- An increase in resources from the department and antisocial behaviour programme supporting community led events at Alexandra, Falls and Orangefield parks.
- The park rangers have been working closely with PSNI to challenge drinkers in Ormeau, Orangefield and Botanic parks.

The changing shift in incident reports across the city during the last twelve months is illustrated in Appendix 4: parks with most incidents in April – December 2010 in comparison to April –December 2011.

	<p>The main antisocial behaviour issues that have been recorded (Appendix 6) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unauthorised use of council facilities: generally describes drinking after the park closes.</li> <li>• Property damage: indicates fire setting or damage from vehicle tyres.</li> <li>• ASB Other: Generally describes drinking and fire setting</li> <li>• Youths causing annoyance.</li> <li>• Under age drinking.</li> <li>• Theft: the majority of theft occurred in the Ozone.</li> <li>• Misuse of Vehicles: Motor cycles or scramblers travelling through the park.</li> </ul> <p><u>Communications to the Public</u></p> <p>Members had previously requested that details of resources invested in responding to antisocial behaviour or vandalism should be made available. Two separate communications initiatives are under development. One will link the cost of repair to reports of damage and ASB and the other will focus on a park or playground and report the cost of repairing damage in that area to the local community.</p> <p>Alongside the actions that have been implemented (see Appendix 1 Summary of interventions) or are being planned across the 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 a year end report will be presented in June 2012.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
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	<p>The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed antisocial behaviour budget 2011-12 which is approximately £250,000.</p>
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<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
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	<p>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.</p>
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<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of this update report.</p>
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<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
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	<p>Updates on the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme will be brought by the ASB Coordinator to the Committee three times a year, in February, June and October.</p>
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<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	ASB: Antisocial behaviour BCC: Belfast City Council PSNI: Police Service for Northern Ireland CCTV: Closed Circuit Television

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Summary of Interventions September to December 2011 Appendix 2: Comparison of incidents in Parks & Leisure facilities across electoral areas between April to December 2010 & 2011 Appendix 3: ASB across electoral areas and park locations Appendix 4: Parks with most incidents in April –December 2010 in comparison to April –December 2011 Appendix 5: ASB incidents by park location April to December 2011 Appendix 6: ASB type by park location