



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Antisocial Behaviour Programme Quarterly Update
Date:	14 June 2012
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;• update committee on the activities of the Safer Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour programme during January – May 2012

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 enables 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 to:</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 or legislation; and

- develop sustainable interagency and inter-departmental networks and leading a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour.

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

The evidence available in May 2012 indicates an upward trend in antisocial behaviour in Oldpark, Court, Pottinger, Castle, Lagan Bank, Balmoral and Victoria. (See Appendix 2: Comparison of incidents in Parks and Leisure facilities across Electoral areas between February to May 2011 and February to May 2012).

Increase in incidents

Members will recall the quarterly report in February 2012 indicated that a new reporting system would lead to improved reporting and therefore would illustrate an increase in reports of antisocial behaviour.

CRM reporting system

A Customer Relationship Management system has been developed and implemented throughout the Council to record ASB in specific categories. The CRM system will provide more accurate reports and provides more opportunity for specific services to respond to specific ASB issues. The CRM system is currently in use in parks operations only and will soon extend to leisure operations. It is envisaged that a Parks and Leisure ASB hotline will shortly be available to residents of Belfast. This will allow the public to report ASB the moment it happens. The telephone number used will be communicated initially to friends groups and members, then to households who are neighbours of hotspot areas and eventually advertised publically.

The anticipated outcomes will provide residents of Belfast with a better facility to request services and will support a better “One Council” response to service requests.

As the CRM system has only been operational since February 2012 it is difficult to reliably compare data collected before and after February. Reports will improve, as use of the CRM system develops and better analysis will feature in future quarterly ASB committee reports.

The available data provides an accurate baseline which indicates that the following parks have significant problems during the quarter:

- Botanic Gardens: Drinking
- Waterworks: Drinking
- Woodvale: Vehicle nuisance
- Ormeau Park: Drinking

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Park: Criminal or environmental damage • Cavehill: Drinking • Orangefield: Criminal or environmental damage • Belfast Castle: Drinking • Tynedale Playground: Rowdy behaviour <p>(See Appendix 3: Reports of ASB in parks using CRM categories February to May 2012)</p> <p>From the incident reports it is very clear that staff can deal with Criminal or environmental damage as it occurs. This category refers to damages to the grounds, graffiti or vandalism.</p> <p>The reports of vehicle nuisance in Woodvale park refers to scooters using the site as a short cut and scramblers accessing the site. This issue is unlikely to re-occur in the foreseeable due to the imminent closure during the re-development of the park.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the reports of drinking will be addressed through the roll out of the Park Warden pilot together with coordinated joint alcohol enforcement operations which will take place during the summer months in Botanic, Cavehill, Belfast Castle and Ormeau Park.</p> <p>During this financial year, a more intensive response will be directed to the parks recording more than five reports of ASB and resources will be targeted to reduce their most frequent ASB issues. (See Appendix 4: Parks with more than 5 reports of ASB)</p> <p><u>Under reporting of ASB incidents</u></p> <p>There are a number of park locations which have few or no reports of ASB. This does not necessarily indicate a downward trend in ASB, as anecdotal evidence would indicate they have experienced a number of incidents of ASB. More work is still needed to ensure the consistent reporting of ASB. (See Appendix 5: ASB in parks across electoral areas)</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed antisocial behaviour budget 2012-13 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 update report

6.	Decision Tracking
	Updates on the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme will be brought by the ASB Coordinator to the Committee three times a year, in June, October and February.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	ASB: Antisocial behaviour BCC: Belfast City Council CRM: Customer Relationship Management PSNI: Police Service for Northern Ireland CCTV: Closed Circuit Television

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Summary of Interventions January to March 2012 Appendix 2: Comparison of incidents in Parks & Leisure facilities across electoral areas between February and May 2011 & 2012 Appendix 3: Reports of ASB in parks using CRM categories between February and May 2012. Appendix 4: Parks with more than 5 reports of ASB between February and May 2012. Appendix 5: ASB in parks across electoral areas between February and May 2012