



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Antisocial Behaviour Programme Update Report
Date:	13 March 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Pete Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Programme Coordinator

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an overview of antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents across parks and leisure facilities and electoral area; and• Update committee on the activities, interventions and future developments of the ASB programme. <p>Members are reminded that the objectives of the ASB 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.

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Trends in the available ASB incident data</p> <p>The ASB Coordinator prioritises action and expenditure by collating evidence gathered through ASB incident reports.</p> <p>The comparative data outlined in Table 1 below shows an increase in the number of incident reports of ASB in parks between August to December 2012 and August to December 2013 within the 4 electoral areas of Court, Laganbank, Pottinger and Upper Falls.</p>

The data highlights a downward trend in the number of reports of ASB in parks within Balmoral, Castle, Lower Falls and Oldpark electoral areas. This trend can be attributed to a decrease in visitor numbers due to seasonal variance - less people visit parks in autumn and winter.

The data also showed the following trends:

- Increase in reports of groups of youths gathering; and
- Increase in reports of fire setting and drinking.

Table 1: Comparison of the number of ASB incidents in Parks and Leisure Facilities across electoral areas between August to December 2012 and August to December 2013

August to December 2012		August to December 2013	
Electoral Area	Total ASB	Electoral Area	Total ASB
Balmoral	63	Balmoral	7
Castle	64	Castle	24
Court	33	Court	79
Laganbank	67	Laganbank	117
Lower Falls	20	Lower Falls	12
Oldpark	158	Oldpark	139
Pottinger	49	Pottinger	80
Upper Falls	27	Upper Falls	142
Victoria	19	Victoria	22
Total	500	Total	622

ASB in park and leisure facilities

The data presented in Appendix 1 illustrates a snapshot of ASB in parks between August and December 2013. The data details the three parks with the most incidents of ASB in each electoral area, the hotspot categories of ASB and where there were more than 20 incidents (these locations appear in bold type).

Citywide responses and interventions

Citywide responses and interventions are implemented proportionately across all of the city's parks. This approach is used to tackle low level, re-occurring ASB incidents (parks with less than 20 incidents) and is delivered using existing and available resources. Appendix 2 details the citywide responses and interventions that are implemented across all parks.

Planned Interventions

Planned intensive interventions are designed and introduced for parks that have more than 20 ASB incidents (see Table 2). The planned interventions span across all 4 objectives of the ASB programme: education, enforcement, environment and partnership. Interventions will resource and schedule enforcement operations in partnership with existing council services or PSNI and interventions also involve the environmental and physical development of a site.

Table 2 outlines the parks that have had more than 20 incidents during

August to December 2013 and the specific interventions planned for the coming months.

Table 2: Specific interventions planned to tackle ASB in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents

Court	
Woodvale	The Park manager will ensure that damage is repaired and motorcycle use is reported to the PSNI.
Laganbank	
Botanic	A series of enforcement operations are planned for the spring to address reports of rowdy behaviour and drinking.
Oldpark	
Ballysillan PF	Temporary signage will be sited in the playground to inform drinkers of consequences and playground inspectors will report damage to be repaired.
Waterworks	Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum
Pottinger	
Ormeau	Park Wardens will issue fixed penalty notices for dog control and dog fouling offences. They will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum.
Avoniel PG	Playground inspectors will report damage to be repaired. Park Wardens will issue fixed penalty notices for dog control and dog fouling offences.
Upper Falls	
Falls Park	The Park manager will ensure damage is repaired and Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum.
City Cemetery	A decorative arts project has been initiated to address graffiti in the cemetery. Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum.

Citywide ASB programme development

Alongside the intensive and citywide interventions planned to tackle reported incidents of ASB, a number of citywide ASB programme developments will be implemented during the coming months:

- Park Wardens will be deployed during St. Patrick's Day in support of the Councils safer city operations
- Park Wardens are currently deployed in parks as part of an ongoing enforcement programme. They will issue fixed penalties in relation to litter and dog fouling offences.

There also several steps that are being undertaken in the next stage of the development of the ASB programme which are outlined below. Detail on these will be brought to the Committee in the new Council term for

	<p>consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinements to ASB data collection and reporting methodologies will ensure that there is a consistent service delivered across the city. • The department is developing processes to formally communicate with the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP) structure. • It is intended that the ASB programme will establish sustainable synergies and interfaces with local area working groups that will develop more appropriate responses to ASB.
--	--

3.	Resource Implications
	The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed ASB budget 2013-14 which is approximately £250,000.

4.	Equality Implications
	Much of the ASB programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing young people together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is delivered 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 February, June and October.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>ASB: Antisocial behaviour BCC: Belfast City Council PCSP: Policing and Community Safety Partnership DPCSP: District Policing and Community Safety Partnership PACE: Police and Criminal Evidence PSNI: Police Service for Northern Ireland</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: ASB in Parks throughout Electoral areas (Aug-Dec 2013) Appendix 2: Citywide responses and interventions (Aug-Dec 2013)</p>