

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEMBER SIGNING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2023, 15:30 – 15:40

PRESENT:

Councillors: Adam Jogee

ALSO ATTENDING: Brian Elik, Eubert Malcolm, Bhavya Nair

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and this information was noted by attendees.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS

There were no deputations, petitions or questions.

6. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - FINSBURY PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE

That Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion considered the report that sought approval of the consultation for this proposed Public Space Protection Order to tackle anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED

1. To grant approval for consultation of the draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) as contained in Appendix 1.
2. To note that a further report will be required following the consultation.

Reasons for decision

The Council's commitment to creating a safer environment for all residents and visitors was clear in its vision for the borough. To achieve this vision, the Council was proposing the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal activity that were negatively affecting the park's atmosphere and the safety of those who used it.

The specific area in question was the south entrance of the park on Seven Sisters Road which poses certain challenges due to its design and layout. The main issues which had influenced the decision for the gating PSPO were as follows:

- Layout of the area. The narrow line of sight and the transition from nearby amenities like Lidl into an open space had created an environment where unlawful activities could occur without being easily detected.
- There was a lack of clear ownership or defined rules in the space which contributed to issues, as there were no clear indications of proper usage, including, poor pavement markings, the absence of signage and no clear parking restrictions.
- The environment also allowed individuals to conceal themselves around various corners, leading to decreased feelings of safety in the area. This contributed to the misuse of the space for criminal activities and anti-social behaviour.
- The issue was not limited to pedestrian traffic; mopeds parking on the pavement further compounded the problem. While some moped riders might have had legitimate reasons for being there, the presence of both legal and illegal users created an assumption that this practice was acceptable, essentially establishing a "desire line" for mopeds in the area. This became a challenge to rectify, even if it negatively impacted the general public. It's also noted that the majority of moped users were pretending to be delivery drivers but were, in fact, involved in facilitating the supply of drugs.

Closing off the area by erecting gates and implementing the PSPO would bring an end to or restrict the behaviours above and subsequently, bring about improvements to the area such as, an increase in feelings of safety for users of the park in particular women and in addition the area would be put to better, legitimate use.

Alternative options considered

Not to pursue a gating order under a PSPO. Given the length of time that the behaviour had been ongoing and the detrimental effect the behaviour was having on our communities and businesses, this was not an option.

7. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - DOVECOTE AVENUE GATES - NOEL PARK WARD

On 26th June 2023, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion gave approval to consult on the draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), in respect of installing gates in Dovecote Avenue that would restrict entry and anti-social behaviour.

The purpose of this report was to present the outcome of the PSPO consultation and to seek the Cabinet Member's approval for the proposed PSPO.

RESOLVED

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion to approve the draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) as contained in Appendix 1.

Reasons for decision

Over the years, the Dovecote Avenue had attracted significant ASB, including numerous reports of fly tipping, graffiti, drug dealing, drug taking, street drinking, discarded beer cans, drugs paraphernalia, urine, and faeces (see appendix 2). There was CCTV in the alley, however, due to the poor lighting and the bends, the alley had various hidden and blind spots. The residents were afforded no protection as they enter a dark and enclosed alleyway to make their way to their front door.

The activity in Dovecote Avenue, as detailed in Appendix 2, had or was likely that they would had, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, It was likely that the detrimental effect will be persistent, and such as to make the activities unreasonable; the effect or likely effect was such as to justify the restrictions imposed by the proposed PSPO.

A number of other alleyways within Noel Park ward, were gated with restricted access, in 2022, through the Safer Streets initiative. These alleyways had similar ASB issues as Dovecote Avenue, gating these alleyways had proven successful in significantly reducing ASB and crime in the locations. The proposed gates for Dovecote Avenue would have had similar security by design structure, compliant with required health and safety and fire regulations.

The PSPO will allow two (2) gates to be installed which would restrict access to only those residing or operating a legitimate business at the location. Other legitimate services and contractors will be provided the access through a key pad access code. A Gerda key box would be provided for Emergency Services to access which contain key pad access code. These restrictions would enhance the prevention of crimes and ASB at the location. The alley was not heavily used by pedestrians as a cut through, so gating it would not create access problems for pedestrians and the general public but would increase the security and safety of those residents living at this location. Restricting access would create a cleaner and safer environment, where business owners and residents would feel more secure in their properties.

The Council and the Police had exhausted other options such as the installation of CCTV, increase in police patrols, issuing ASB warnings, Community Protection Warnings, Community Protection Notices and Fixed Penalty Notices, but these actions had not enabled a long-term resolution to the anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues. These behaviours were having a detrimental effect on the lives of those living

and working in and around Dovecote Avenue. A PSPO would provide a more resilient and robust solution to the problems that residents experienced on a daily basis.

On 26th June 2023, the Cabinet Member agreed that the proposal for a gating order (PSPO) to restrict access to Dovecote Avenue should be taken to public consultation. The Consultation process began on the 31st July 2023 and continued for 6 weeks ending on 10th September 2023.

For the PSPO to be approved the Cabinet Member must consider the outcome of the consultation and make a decision.

Alternative options considered

Not to pursue a gating order under a PSPO. Given the length of time that the behaviour had been ongoing and the detrimental effect the behaviour was having on the residents and business located in and around Dovecote Avenue, this was not an option.

8. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Adam Jogee

Signed by Cabinet Member:

Date