

For the attention of:-
Cheri WRIGHT
ASB Team
Swindon Borough Council
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Date 27/08/2009

Your ref

Our ref

Reply contact name is **PC 1529 Matt BARNETT, Parks and Walcot NPT, Swindon**

Dear Cheri

SUBJECT:- DPPO for Cavendish Square, Park South And St Johns Church Park North, Swindon

Overview and Incidents

Parks and Walcot NPT have identified that there are concerning Anti Social Behaviour issues around the area of Cavendish Square and the car park area of St Johns Church, Park North which is situated opposite.

We have identified along with our community partners and local residents and shop keepers that the main cause of the anti social behaviour seems to be fuelled by a rise in the on street consumption of alcohol.

At present persons can sit directly in the main shopping area and drink alcohol and the Police have no powers to remove the alcohol unless they are under the age of eighteen years old.

In recent months we have seen a rise in street drinkers coming in from the town centre area of Swindon where there are already a number of successful DPPO's in place.

In the last three months we have had at least 12 police logs that relate to street drinking and they have included reports of hoax telephone calls, intimidating youths, persons with aggressive dogs making threats, alcohol related thefts and general swearing and shouting.

We have increased foot patrols in the area but without the power to remove alcohol from the offending persons we are not currently having the required impact on the area.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Community Impact

Cavendish Square is situated within a residential area and is immediately surrounded by a new housing development, a church and a local primary school.

Recently Cavendish Square has been subjected to a major redevelopment scheme and has seen significant investment in the area. This has led to a new shopping centre and housing estate being developed alongside each other. This has been a huge benefit for the local community and has made the area a much more desirable place to visit as a result. However the street drinkers have remained and are bringing the new development down as a result. More significantly they are having an impact on the developer's attempts to bring in new business to try and fill the last remaining unit.

If the street drinkers are not removed from the area then it is highly likely that the last unit will not be developed and this will leave the area looking tatty and unfinished. The centre will descend back into the old cycle of petit anti social behaviour and all the local businesses will suffer as a result of this.

As well as this Cavendish Square has one of the main bus routes into the area and some of the only phone boxes in the immediate area as well. Unfortunately this is exactly where the drinkers choose to congregate, this makes for an extremely intimidating atmosphere for anyone coming into the area by bus or anyone wishing to use the phone box.

We have had it reported to us that the drinkers are a problem through community meetings, being stopped in the street by local residents and through conversations with local shops. The problem has been getting people to come forward and give us the information as they have stated to us that they are scared of the drinkers.

What also needs to be taken in to account is the car park area of the church opposite which is also regularly used by the street drinkers due to its low wall. A lot of the time if the drinkers are moved on they will cross the road and sit on this wall and continue drinking. The church is a regular meeting point for a number of local community groups and only adds to the fact that this area is a major central hub of the community.

In the last three months we are getting on average 4 -5 reports a month directly related to street drinking, again because of the fact a lot of the community are intimidated by the drinkers I believe there are a lot of incidents going unreported at this time.

We have increased foot patrols in this area and tried to make ourselves more visible by locating ourselves in a local charity shop as a makeshift police point however our ability to patrol the area is limited by staffing and does not solve the problem long term. We need to send the message out that this will not be tolerated and in order to do this we need the power to remove alcohol from people in the area that are causing problems for the local residents.

Solution

Please find attached a map covering the area where we would like the DPPO to cover.