

Edgbaston Committee Briefing

Birmingham South Local Community Safety Partnership

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this briefing is to:

1. Provide an update to members about the review and refresh of the Birmingham South Local Community Safety Partnership.
2. To provide the opportunity for Councillors to get directly involved in the development of local partnership work to address the issue of off-road bikes.

Background and Context

The partnership is one of the city's four "Local Community Safety Partnerships" it is responsible for bringing together stakeholders to work as partners in identifying shared community safety priorities for the Birmingham South area covering Edgbaston, Northfield and Selly Oak Districts and jointly commissioning action to address those priorities, through the form of a local partnership plan. The agencies who actively participate in this partnership include, West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Fire Service, CGL, Bournville Village Trust and Selly Oak Caretaker Scheme.

For the period April 2015 – Mar 2017 the priorities of the partnership included:

- Business and Cyber Crime
- Involving Communities (including a small grants approval panel)
- Road Safety
- Vulnerable People (including a Supporting Adults Panel)
- Domestic Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Substance Misuse

The partnership has delivered a number of interventions in relation to these priorities which have included, provision of mental health first aid training, training in relation to domestic abuse and coercive control. Mental capacity awareness was completed for frontline workers and the First Night Campaign was coordinated locally.

The LCSP has commissioned activities for young people during school holidays which have been targeted to areas suffering with the highest levels of anti-social behaviour. The Road Safety sub group have focussed on issues such as inconsiderate school gate parking and anti-social use of off road bikes, this subject is covered in detail further on in the report.

We are currently in the process of reviewing and refreshing the Birmingham South Community Safety Partnership, including:

- The purpose, outcomes and functions.

- The membership and stakeholders.
- Re-drafting the terms of reference, including defining the linkages to other groups and themes.

The outcomes of this review is to:

- Draft a “partnership agreement” which all partners can contribute and sign up to this will underpin how the partnership operates and functions in the future.
- Ensure that we have an effective partnership of equal partners and provide the groundwork before refreshing the priorities and activity for 2017-2019

Since September stakeholder consultation has been carried out with a number of agencies and networks including all elected members within the area and between now and January the partnership agreement will be drafted this will be followed by the identification and agreement of priorities and drafting of a partnership plan. Work will commence in March to commission the activities required to deliver the plan.

Addressing the illegal use of off-road bikes in Edgbaston

Anti-social behaviour caused by off-road biking – what is happening locally

Anti-social behaviour describes any activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. In the context of off-road biking this can refer to any activity caused by the use of scramblers, mini motorbikes and quad-bikes which causes alarm, harassment or distress. This includes creating a fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance.

Historically this has been a pre-dominantly seasonal issue linked to good weather in Spring and Summer, from March to September. There are particular links to the involvement of young people and residential areas in and around green, open spaces such as parks.

Please see the attached leaflet “OFF ROAD MOTORBIKES, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, SAFETY AND THE LAW” for more information.

This issue features highly as a community safety priority, both strategically on a pan-Birmingham basis and locally in the Edgbaston District. The action being taken to address it is two-fold, via West Midlands Police, as the lead organisation in responding to off-road biking, but also in the delivery of a multi-agency plan for Birmingham South. This plan was commissioned by the Birmingham South Community Safety Partnership and is coordinated via the area’s Road Safety Group.

Whilst there is some work which can be done to educate and prevent young people from using off-road bikes illegally, the most successful approach centres around intelligence and enforcement. This is firstly increasing the quantity and quality of intelligence being reported to the Police from other agencies and communities. It is then also using all the multi-agency tools available to take the appropriate action against those offenders, including the seizure and crushing of bikes, as well as both

criminal and civil actions (including tenancy enforcement activity). As a result the local plan focuses on five main themes:

- Analysis and intelligence – profiling hotspots, sharing of information between agencies (particularly the council and police) and identifying people linked to the use of off-road bikes.
- Early intervention – identifying and engaging those individuals linked to and “at risk” of becoming involved in off-road biking, before the seasonal peak begins
- Intelligence and reporting – encouraging good quality reporting to the police by agencies and communities
- Enforcement – including warnings and the use of criminal, civil and tenancy enforcement powers to prevent further offending from perpetrators
- Communication – raising the awareness of communities about the action being taken to address off-road biking and what they can do to help the police and partners

As we come to the end of the current seasonal peak in off-road biking and associated anti-social behaviour there will be a review and evaluation of this year’s activity. This will include reviewing the impact of local action and making improvements and changes to partnership activity for 2017.

How can Members contribute?

As a community leader and representative of the Council, Members have an important contribution to make. On a day to day basis this includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Work with officers to better understand the issues in particular neighbourhoods or “hotspots”
- Share community intelligence with the police and/or council
- Share information and updates from the council and police with community networks – particularly around community reporting
- Alongside officers from the police and council to support community problem solving with local citizens, groups and organisations – particularly in hotspot areas
- Make contact with, build relationships and networks with local groups and organisations, which aren’t yet involved but could make a contribution

There is also an opportunity for Members to assist with the review and evaluation of this year’s activity in order to make improvements and changes to future plans and activity to address off-road biking. An event is being held on 15th November at The Factory, commencing at 1800 hours in order to review the activities adopted this year in relation to tackling the problem of off-road bikes. In addition to reviewing activity this event will start to develop what can be done moving forward to effectively respond to this issue and how we can improve community reporting and communications in the future.

The most successful tactic for addressing anti-social behaviour caused through off-road bikes is taking enforcement action against the individuals who are responsible for it. This relies on good quality information and intelligence to identify those responsible and is where local citizens and communities have an important role to

play. There are two asks of citizens, the first being to report incidents and intelligence to the Police via 101. The second is to try and make sure the information is as useful as it can be to the Police, including the following:

- The name and address of the owner of the off road motorbike
- Where the bike is stored
- When and where the bike is being used (e.g. days, times and routes)
- Any other useful information such as a description of those who use the bike and its make/model/colour

If Members witness live incidents taking place they are encouraged to report them to 101. Where Members are passed information and intelligence from the community they can complete and return a simple form to the police to pass it on. This is referred to as a “5x5x5” form, please see separate example of a completed form.

Sue Brookin

Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Manager
Birmingham City Council

Station Commander Lee Baker

Woodgate Fire Station
West Midlands Fire Service