

Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Y Sayers

Vice-Chairman : Cllr J Sayers

Councillors : Cllr J Desmond, Cllr S Doherty, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr A Lloyd

Officers : S Larking, A Spencer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Josh Burns, Cllr June Burns, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr D Mullen

2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

3 Public Participation.

Chair welcomed 2 residents to meeting. They informed Members about Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) on Round Meade Park. Key points:

- Grateful for opportunity to address Committee. More residents wanted to attend but due to time of meeting and Covid restrictions not able to. Attendance at meeting does not reflect the strength of feeling on the estate. Can arrange a petition if need to demonstrate concerns
- Disappointed that not able to attend a meeting arranged by Merseyside Police with Cllrs and Officers
- Worst ASB in 30 years; number of kids, time of day they are gathering (evenings until 11pm and later) and behaviour (noise, nuisance and swearing) is not a reasonable use of the park
- Affecting mental health e.g. stress caused a resident to miss a hospital appointment for child
- Report from Officers is a good summary but does not reflect reality on ground. It is up to 60/70 kids gathering not 30. It is like being next to a festival. Noise level amplified in gardens, can hear football being kicked against fences when windows closed and at front of house
- Need age appropriate facilities. 2 kids knocked on a residents door to apologise for noise. They said they have no where to go. They want goal posts/somewhere to kick ball and skate park like one in Ormskirk
- Understand need for balance. Don't want kids sitting on Xbox but want to keep park beautiful
- Residents around park want to be part of solution. Need other groups to help with problem; Need to work with kids on solution; problem will get worse before it gets better
- Appreciate Council looking at Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
- Residents upset about posting on Maghull Community Page by Cllr Wilson. Generated abuse. Possible breach of GDPR by naming residents
- What is £100,000 allocated to parks to be used for?
- Ring police to report ASB. Difficult to get through (up to 40 minutes) and for call handler to take issues seriously
- Happy to hold community fund raising event for a skate park

In response Cllrs made the following points:



- Understand residents are upset
- Maghull Town Council Ward Councillors disappointed not to be invited to a meeting organised by Merseyside Police
- ASB issues across Maghull not isolated to Round Meade include Old Hall Park (drug use and dealing) and Balls Wood
- Cllr Wilson is a Sefton Borough Council not a member of Maghull Town Council. He meant well. His house backs onto a park in Lydiate and he has experienced ASB
- Skate parks are popular but all parks in Maghull have houses nearby and residents don't want a skate park near them or memorial benches or bins. Bins removed due to vandalism
- £100,000 is for regenerating parks. Council committed to regenerating parks to same standard as KGV and Glen Park
- Sefton Council have set up a working group to look at increasing enforcement. Meeting on 15 July 2021
- Need to work with young children. Support sports clubs to put on events

The Amenities Manager made the following points:

- Council working to develop "Friends of Groups" in parks to increase ownership and reduce ASB
- Not just Round Meade Park affected by ASB
- Pursing a PSPO; would apply across Maghull and possibly Lydiate not just Round Meade. Would need to gather evidence and consult neighbours/residents. PSPOs can have an impact on house prices. Its not a quick fix as is long winded process - dog PSPO took 3 years. Resource issues e.g. Maghull Town Council officers not on duty when issues occurring , it would be Merseyside Police on the front line
- PSPO for dogs restricts the number of dogs in a park to 6 per person; leads no more than 2 metres. Issue is availability of Enforcement Officers at Sefton Council level
- Officer working together to join up work of Committees - Community Services Committee leading on ASB Strategy and youth engagement

PC Havive from Merseyside Police made the following points:

- Apologised for not inviting all Maghull Town Council Ward Cllrs
 - 2 PCs and PCSO support for Park and Suddell Wards. Try and spend time in Wards. However, need to provide support to other areas if issues
 - Has visited park but no one there so couldn't justify spending time there
 - Noise nuisance is a Council issue
 - Reviewed call logs. Between 15-27 June 2021 9 calls received
 - PSPO is a long process. They can make a difference but criteria e.g. no face coverings, limited numbers and enforcement are issues.
 - Conditions can be amended. Would need to be consultation and approval by Sefton Council. Ward Cllrs rejected some conditions as would impact on wider neighbourhood
 - Look for alternatives to deal with issues e.g. fencing to stop balls going into gardens
- Note Cllr Doherty left the meeting at 7.05pm.**
- Powers under ASB Act to request name and address for under 18s and take home. Arrest is an option for extreme ASB
 - Diversionary activities good



RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2021 be approved as a correct record

5 Amenities Manager Update - Committee Resolutions

Members were informed that all actions had been completed

RESOLVED that the report be noted

6 Reported Anti-Social Behaviour at Round Meade Park

Item discussed in detail under public participation.

RESOLVED that:

1. Officers to liaise with Sefton Council's Legal Department to determine whether a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for all parks within Maghull could be successful applied for

2. The report be noted

7 Proposed Standard Tree Planting Schemes Mersey Forest

The Amenities Manager reported that the first phase of tree planting had gone well. Approval was sought to apply for a grant of £25,123.80 for 60 standard trees in 5 parks (Dodds, Mersey Avenue, Moss, Hall Lane and South Meade) including 3 year maintenance. The grant is time limited with a deadline of 25th July 2021. The trees are established and include elders, oaks and ash. It was noted that there had been some vandalism at sites of first Phase (Hall Lane and Pimbley Playing Field). Cllr Sharp puts sleeves back if he spots they have been removed.

RESOLVED that

1. Tree planting be approved for Dodds, Mersey Avenue, Moss, Hall Lane and South Meade Parks be approved using funding from Mersey Forest Urban Challenge Fund

2. The report be noted

8 Permission Request from Maghull FC for erection of Football Stands, Fencing and Pay Booth

Members were informed that Maghull FC sought permission from the Council, as their landlords, to apply for planning permission to improve football facilities (stands, fencing, a payment office) on Old Hall Field. It was noted that

- although there are issue about water supply/charging and electricity charges on Old Hall Field there was no reason not to allow planning permission to be sought
- residents will be able to comment on the proposal during the planning process
- the Council, as landlord, can refuse permission for any development on the site

RESOLVED that

1. Permission granted to Maghull FC to apply for planning permission to improve football facilities at Old Hall Field

2. The report be noted

9 Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chair hoped that residents would help to come up with positive solutions to respond to ASB.



