

STANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Introduction

Stanfield Parish Council aims to deliver an efficient and high quality Antisocial Behaviour Service to all its residents. The Council does not tolerate antisocial behaviour (ASB) and is committed to intervening with whatever combination of enforcement sanctions, preventive measures and support is necessary.

Where necessary, the Council will take legal action and work closely with a number of other partner agencies, including the Police, to use the full range of tools and powers available to reduce the impact of ASB. As a general rule, preventative measures will be tried first, but the Council make take enforcement action immediately in serious or urgent cases, depending on each incidents' individual circumstances.

Types of Antisocial Behaviour

ASB is behaviour that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people not of the same household as the person responsible, or it I behaviour that unreasonably interferes with other people's rights to use and enjoy their home and community.

This may include

Noise nuisance

Intimidation or harassment

Aggressive and threatening language or behaviour

Environmental issues (for example: litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly tipping, nuisance vehicles, advertising hoardings).

Hate behaviour that targets members of identified groups because of their perceived differences (for example, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability).

This type of behaviour, which can be committed by an individual or a group, threatens the quality of life of those living and working in our community.

Reporting Antisocial Behaviour

Residents are able to telephone the Council and leave a message for the Clerk to report incidents of antisocial behaviour 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Council does not provide a 24 hour response service.

When the Council receives a report it will progressively:-

Make an initial assessment of the severity, impact and nature of each report.

Arrange an appropriate response through referring to the relevant Council service, or other agencies or simply log for information.

All report made will be logged in the Council's Complaints Folder, which will be filed by the Clerk. The information can then be analysed and shared with the Council's partners to identify trends and hotspots, so that longer term actions can be taken.

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

Most complaints received by the Council could be resolved by prevention and early intervention to stop antisocial behaviour without the need for legal action. As well as antisocial behaviour impacting directly on an individual (e.g. noise, intimidation and other behaviour that leads to a decline in the environment), it can have a significant impact on people's capacity to enjoy a reasonable quality of life. Such behaviour can include littering, fly-tipping, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and street drinking. When appropriate, the Council will work closely with the Police and other partners to protect the residents and the community using all available and appropriate powers to address and resolve issues.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

All information provided to the Council will be treated in confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The Council will not pass on the identity of the victim/witness to the perpetrator unless the Council receives consent to do so, although depending on the situation it may be possible for the perpetrator to work out who has complained. If the identity of the victim/witness needs to be revealed to pursue the complaint, this will be discussed fully with them. If consent is not given the Council may not be able to take any further action. If court action is taken and evidence is needed from the victim/witness their statement may be read by the perpetrator and their solicitor.

The Police Authority, local authorities, fire service and primary care trust are allowed to exchange information for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 establishes the power to disclose information, when such disclosure is necessary or expedient for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder. If the Council receives information that suggests there are issues around protecting children and vulnerable adults, safeguarding policies and procedures will be followed.

At all times the Clerk will adhere to Data Protection and Procedures.

Protection of Staff

The Council has a zero tolerance policy to deal with ASB, bullying, threatening and abusive language to the Parish Councillors or the Clerk. The Council will support any Parish Councillor or the Clerk if they are subjected to ASB while carrying out their duties and the Council will take the appropriate action which is available. If ASB is present at a Parish Council meeting, the Chair reserves the right to bring the meeting to close or deal with the situation as he/she feels is appropriate.

Agreed at the meeting held on 9th March 2020

Review date:- May 2024