

**Unauthorised Vehicle Deterrents – Parks and Green Spaces**

**1. Contacts**

**Report Author:**

Andy Howard – Operations Manager CCS  
Telephone: 01243 534695 E-mail: [ahoward@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:ahoward@chichester.gov.uk)

**Cabinet Member:**

Mark Chilton - Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Chichester Contract Services  
Telephone: 07836589342 E-mail: [mchilton@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:mchilton@chichester.gov.uk)

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council the release of £141,000 from reserves to fund vehicle deterrent measures at Florence Park, Oaklands Park, Whyke Oval and Sherborne Road.**
- 2.2 That Cabinet authorises the commencement of project planning and the procurement process.**
- 2.3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Divisional Manager for CCS following consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance, Corporate Services and CCS, to complete the procurement process and award the contract following Council approval of the budget.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In September 2021 Cabinet approval was given for officers to prioritise vehicle deterrent measures at East Broyle and New Park open spaces.
- 3.2 Officers were tasked with collating resident feedback and developing deterrent schemes for both sites. These were costed and taken back to Cabinet in October 2021. Approval was granted to install earth bunds at New Park and ditches and bunds at East Broyle.
- 3.3 Both schemes were delivered by Spring 2022, but the exceptionally dry summer prevented the bunds at East Broyle from binding. Unauthorised access was gained by levelling a section of bund and an encampment took place. Following eviction, remedial works were completed to reinforce the bunds and a year has been allowed to test their effectiveness.
- 3.4 Over the past year there have been no incursions at East Broyle or New Park. This suggests the deterrents have been effective. While this is a success it has, as predicted, moved the problem to other sites. Encampments have taken place at Northgate car park, Florence Park, Oaklands Park, Sherborne Road, Marine Drive car park green space East Wittering and Kingsway Selsey. Although an encampment has not occurred at Whyke Oval, it is particularly vulnerable as it can be driven onto with ease.

- 3.5 Officers have prioritised site deterrents on the basis of frequency of incursion, site usage and disruption to residents . It is proposed that the following sites are treated as the priority at this time: Oaklands Park, Florence Park, Sherborne Road and Whyke Oval.
- 3.6 It is recognised that new deterrents are likely to move the problem of unauthorised access to other council owned sites or those of others. Therefore section 6 of this report presents a list of additional sites (in suggested priority order) and indicative costs for enhancing their security.

#### **4 Outcomes to be Achieved**

- 4.1 Demonstrate to local residents that the council is taking reasonable and balanced steps to deter unauthorised vehicle incursions and maintain our parks and green spaces for the enjoyment of all.
- 4.2 Deterrents to be installed around the perimeter of prioritised sites with work completed by April 2024.
- 4.3 Ensure that any deterrent measures installed do not significantly restrict the functionality of the space and is in keeping with the current 'look and feel' of the site.

#### **5 Proposal**

- 5.1 Installation of earth bunds around the perimeter and at vulnerable points on the four sites prioritised. The bunds will replicate those at New Park i.e., approximately 600mm in height and 2000mm in width at the widest point of the base.
- 5.2 The bunds will be sectional or continuous, using gentle curves, to ensure a suitable look and feel for each site. The bunds will be top dressed with soil and sewn with amenity grass seed to blend with the green space.
- 5.3 Vehicle access gates will be positioned to enable authorised access such as grounds maintenance work and event bookings. Gates will be of the anti-tamper type, but it should be noted that such points are often the focus of those determined to gain entry.
- 5.4 In order to have the works completed in good time, it is proposed that delegation be granted to the Divisional Manager for CCS to award contracts, subject to Council approving the budget.

#### **6 Alternatives Considered**

- 6.1 Do nothing:- Members will be aware of the recent strong representations from many residents about the impact of unauthorised incursions. The effectiveness of deterrents at New Park and East Broyle has been noted and there is an expectation that other sites will be offered similar levels of protection.
- 6.2 As noted Oaklands Park, Florence Park, Sherborne Road and Whyke Oval are currently considered to be our most vulnerable green spaces. However, once these are protected, it can reasonably be assumed other sites will become targets. Cabinet may take the view that it wishes to use this opportunity to provide deterrents on more parks and green spaces. The following sites are in suggested priority order and could be added to the project. If this is the case, it is unlikely all sites will be completed by April 2024 so work would continue well into next year. Indicative costs for deterrents are provided for each site:  
Kingsway green space Selsey £22k  
Marine Drive car park green space East Wittering £14k

East Beach green space Selsey £21k  
Bishops Walk Chichester £7k  
Jubilee Gardens Chichester £25k  
Total £89,000

- 6.3 A number of incursions have also occurred at Northgate car park. The Director of Growth and Place is currently leading a project to redesign the car park. Unauthorised incursions will be considered separately as part of this project.

## 7 Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 To provide earth bunds and secure access gates at the following sites the estimated costs are as follows:  
Oaklands Park £35k  
Florence Park £28k  
Whyke Oval £29k  
Sherborne Road £29k  
Project management and contingency £20k  
**Total £141,000**  
As noted in section 6 of this report an additional £89,000 would be required to enhance security on other sites. Should these be approved the programme of work would need to be extended accordingly.

- 7.2 Legal challenge to the proposed works is possible, as in any matter where the Council is addressing issues which impact upon the lives of different groups. By actively considering the rights of all affected parties through the consultation process the risk of challenge will be transparently managed.

## 8 Consultation

- 8.1 To support the development of the schemes input has already been received from the local community. Further stakeholder consultation will take place to refine proposals prior to works commencing.

## 9 Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 It is hoped the measures proposed will significantly reduce the likelihood of unauthorised incursions and the negative impact these can have on our green spaces and the communities they serve.
- 9.2 Local authorities have a duty to promote good race relations, equality of opportunity and community cohesion in all of their policies and practices. This duty covers all racial groups, including Gypsies and Irish Travellers who are recognised ethnic groups. Planning, site provision and enforcement activity are highly relevant to this duty, because they impact on race relations generally and on the way in which services are delivered to this group. In developing policy and making decisions, local authorities need to ensure that their actions are consistent with this general duty. Six years ago the council took the proactive step of collaborating with other authorities to provide dedicated modern facilities at Westhampnett for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

## 10 Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No

<b>Crime and Disorder</b> – potential positive impact by restricting illegal or unauthorised access to CDC land and as such prevent potential crime and dis-order that may follow such incursions.	x	
<b>Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation</b>		x
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b> – All decisions will need to be taken considering the duties of all sections of the community – residents in particular neighbours, legitimate users of the park as well as travellers and their rights.	x	
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		x
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>		x
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> – by deterring incursions this will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local residents. The Gypsy and Traveller site at Westhampnett provides dedicated modern facilities to support the health and wellbeing of the traveller community.	x	

## 11 Appendices

None.