

EFFORD AND COMPTON WARDS

THE AREA OF LAND LYING BETWEEN THE CARLTON CLOSE AND CHANNEL PARK AVENUE HIGHWAYS

Notes of a meeting between City Councillors, Council Officer and members of the Community Police

Attending:

Councillor Richard Ball
Councillor David Stark
PC Springbett
PCSO Mclaughlin
PCSO Bayly
Clare Newcombe - Housing

By Richard Ball
Compton Ward Councillor
22nd May 2008

INTRODUCTION

In the past few years it appears that an anti-social culture has developed to the detriment of the residents of both Channel Park Avenue and Carlton Close culminating in a series of incidents, several quite serious, in the area between the lower side of Channel Park Avenue and the rear of houses in Carlton Close. It has been reported on many occasions that missiles in the form of stones, bottles and other laying rubbish are launched from either of the areas marked A & B on the map, which can be found on the back page of this report, towards the roofs, windows and gardens of the Carlton Close houses that back onto the slope that climbs to Channel Park Avenue.

It is also evident that heavier objects are pushed through or thrown over the rear boundaries that border Carlton Close and the connecting lane between Channel Park and Blandford Road.

The lower area of Channel Park Avenue is overgrown with scrub and weeds and has become a dumping ground for various items of rubbish. It is also elevated some 60 feet above Carlton Close making protection from determined random attack there difficult, if not impossible.

OBJECTIVE

Councillors and Council officers with an interest, together with police colleagues, were invited by PCSO McLaughlin to attend a walk through meeting in Channel Park on 22nd May 2008 to take note of the area, the facts as they are known and make an assessment of what might be necessary to resolve this complicated issue.

OBSERVATIONS

It is clear from this useful site visit, that attempts have been made by the residents of Carlton Close to protect their properties with metal fencing. It is also clearly evident that the height of the launch sites at A and B on the map make it practically impossible to erect anything at the properties' boundaries with enough height to prevent further damage and misery.

The area around and including the sites at A & B is overgrown, neglected and cluttered with many kinds of debris. We did not speak to any residents but it is clear from this inspection that those who live on Channel Park suffer from this vandalism as well as those from Carlton Close and Compton Vale.

CONCLUSIONS

This appalling nuisance has existed for some time, perhaps since the houses in Carlton Close were built, unfortunately manifesting itself in shocking behaviour which may be the result of anger or resentment, perhaps fuelled by a perceived social inequality from a minority who live to the west of Channel Park and take pleasure railing against innocent people living on the boundary of Efford and Compton.

Residents on both sides of this boundary are affected by vandalism and anti-social behaviour and must be allowed to enjoy their neighbourhood without having to endure damage to their homes and property.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AREAS

- ARRANGE A DISCUSSION FORUM TO INCLUDE WARD COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL OFFICIALS
- REDUCE/REMOVE THE TARGETED AREA FROM PLAIN SIGHT
- REMOVE THE MATERIAL USED AS AMMUNITION
- DEVELOP NEAR AND MEDIUM TERM PLANS FOR THE CREATION OF A BETTER ATMOSPHERE TO DEFUSE TENSION
- IDENTIFY AND NEUTRALISE THE OFFENDERS

BY

1. Decommissioning the children's play area in Channel Park Avenue to remove a focal point for vandalism;
2. Build one or two high walls at A and B to remove the houses in Carlton Close from eyesight;
3. Make use of covert surveillance techniques to establish the identity of the offenders;
4. Conduct a general tidy up, remove all the rubbish, weeds and detritus of neglect;
5. Design, build and maintain an attractive garden area, planted with decorative trees, flowers and shrubs that families could safely use which may help create and encourage moderate recreation;
6. Erect a suitable fence both sides of the lane, perhaps with barriers at each end or maybe close it off to the general public.



