

Scrutiny Topic Registration

Name of person proposing topic:	Date:
Councillor Mrs T Franklin	16 October 2006
Contact:	
Suggested title of topic:	
'Boy Racers'	
What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?	
The problem they cause ie ring road and car parks etc	
What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review?	
Discussion and update on where we are.	

Priority and urgency

Is the topic urgent?	yes
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If so, please consider which of the following might apply:

Is there a strict time constraint?	no
Is there currently high media coverage?	yes
Is there high public pressure to respond?	yes
Does it involve a high risk to the council?	no
Any other reasons:	
N/a	

Issues

Please consider whether the following might apply:

Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	yes
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	no
Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?	yeso
Is it directly related to an item on the council workplan?	yes
Has there been media interest in the topic?	yes
Can scrutiny help in the development of council policy?	yes
Any other issues or details:	
Also included in the Cheltenham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Crime Reduction Strategy 2005 to 2008 as one of 6 Priorities ie Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour.	

Officer Implications (for office use)

Please give your comments on this proposed topic, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resource constraints etc

First and foremost the anti-social use of motor vehicles on a road or public place is covered by various Road Traffic Acts and other pieces of legislation and is an enforcement issue for police to address but Cheltenham Borough Council as members of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership have been working closely with police for a number of years on suitable interventions to reduce incidents of this nature occurring.

For sometime now Cheltenham has endured so called 'Boy Racers/Cruisers' using their vehicles in very anti-social ways around the inner ring road and in various car parks located in the borough, usually late at night carrying on until the early hours of the morning. This causes major problems for other road users and considerable inconvenience and frustration to residents of Cheltenham who cannot sleep because of the noise generated by such activity especially those living around the inner ring road. Unfortunately this activity is not just confined to Cheltenham but is widespread across the county and country with each area trying to deal with it as best they can. Boy Racers/Cruisers have set up their own Websites and when so called 'meetings' occur in Cheltenham this fact is published attracting vast numbers of 'Boy Racers/Cruisers' from far and wide.

Work has taken place between CBC, Police and representatives from the boy racers/cruisers to deal with these issues and to try and find a suitable location 'off road' for them to carry out their activities legally and without causing distress to residents etc but this has proved impossible to date.

Initially in Cheltenham such activity mainly took place on a Sunday evening but it is now every night of the week. The council continue to work in partnership with police to deal with this issue and have reduced such incidents in the Royal Well and Kingsditch areas. Retractable barriers have been installed at the entrance to the bus station and at the car park at the rear of the Municipal Offices which have prevented this activity at these locations. By working with the Crown Estates who own the land in question gates have been installed at the trading estates along the Tewkesbury Road which have again proved very efficient in preventing this anti-social behaviour occurring at these locations.

In addition, a system has been installed that enables the police to alter the phasing of the traffic lights to stop continual driving around the inner ring road ie a quick change from green to red between every set of lights. This is reinforced by pro-active policing by the 'Road Policing Unit' (RPU) and use of the town centre CCTV System. A number of joint high profile enforcement operations involving police, CBC, Trading Standards and transport agencies have taken place and been very efficient in reducing this type of anti-social behaviour.

The current 'Hot Spot' is St James Street Car Park. Local residents as well as local elected members, CBC Officers and police have been working together to resolve the issue and police have and continue to be very pro-active in 'policing' such incidents. Appropriate barriers have now been installed at the exits/entrances to this car park that will restrict access to this location and therefore help reduce this activity.

Because such anti-social use of motor vehicles is wide spread across the county, the current draft of the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) which will come into

affect from 1 April 2007 contains Safer & Stronger Communities 204 part of which includes action to reduce anti-social behaviour using motor vehicles. CBCs Community Safety Manager as Chair, Gloucestershire Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership, is the Accountable Manager for the County re SSC 204 and County Lead Officer in respect of the above task so will be ideally placed to lead on formulating the required action plan ensuring that the needs of Cheltenham in dealing with this issue are very much included.

Conclusion

Quite rightly this activity is of serious concern to elected members, especially to those affected on a regular basis; it attracts frequent press interest and robust police enforcement in dealing with such anti-social behaviour can and will continue. I hope the above shows that a lot of intervention work to help reduce such activity is already being undertaken and that the Council will continue to support police enforcement in this area of work. In my view to create a further Overview & Scrutiny Work Group would not be productive and would direct officers away from the task. Six monthly briefing note updates can be provided to the committee to ensure that members are kept fully informed.

Trevor J Gladding
 Community Safety Manager
 4 January 2007.

<p>Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register</p>	<p>Topic fits within the 6 Corporate Priorities contained within current Business Plan ie joint 1st:</p> <p>‘We will reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime in our communities ‘</p> <p>Key Corporate Actions:</p> <p>‘We will tackle anti-social behaviour throughout the town and work to ensure that our estates are safe.’</p> <p>Also included in the Cheltenham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Crime Reduction Strategy 2005 to 2008 as one of 6 Priorities ie Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour.</p>
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