

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

Introduction

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council (SNPC) aims to protect residents minimising the risk from potential anti-social behaviour. We do not tolerate antisocial behaviour (ASB) and are committed to intervening with whatever combination of enforcement sanctions, preventative 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 may take enforcement action immediately in serious or urgent cases depending on each incident's 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, or it is behaviour that unreasonably interferes with other people's rights to use and enjoy their home and community. In terms of this policy, ASB also relates to behaviour which could cause harassment, alarm or distress to staff or Councillors.

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 communities

Reporting Antisocial Behaviour

Residents are able to telephone the council and leave a message for the Clerk to report incidents of antisocial behaviour. We do not provide a 24 hour response service but will respond as soon as possible.

When we receive a report, we will:

- 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 logging for information. Residents may be asked to report the incident to other agencies themselves, due to data protection regulations.

All reports made are logged in the council's records. The information can then be analysed and shared with our partners to identify trends and hotspots, so that longer term actions can be taken.

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

Most complaints received by the council can be resolved by prevention and early intervention to stop antisocial behaviour escalating without the need for legal action. As well as antisocial behaviour impacting directly on an individual [e.g. noise and 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 our residents using all available and appropriate powers to address and resolve issues.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

All information provided to us will be treated in confidence in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. We will not pass on the identity of the victim/witness to the perpetrator unless we receive consent to do so, although depending on the situation it may be possible for them 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, we 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 local authorities, police, 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 1998 establishes the power to disclose information, when such disclosure is necessary or expedient for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder. If we receive information that suggests there are issues around protecting children and vulnerable adults, safeguarding policies and procedures will be followed.

At all times staff and Councillors who consider any reports of ASB will adhere to data protection policies and procedures

Protection of Staff

The council does not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse or threats to our staff or contractors. We will support any staff member who is subjected to ASB while carrying out their duties, and take the appropriate action available to us.

Policy Adopted 2 November 2020