

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Improving Place Select Commission
2.	Date:	Wednesday 18th June 2014
3.	Title:	Arrangements for managing Off Road Motor Vehicle nuisance
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The report sets out the arrangements for the management of Off Road Motor Vehicle nuisance, and provides information on the recent work that has been undertaken to deal with the issue.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the report is noted.

7. Proposals and Details

Background

The Off Road Motor Vehicle Prevention (ORMVP) function transferred from NAS to Streetpride from 1st April 2012. The budget which transferred was £48,733, net of two savings proposals; £6,687 agreed in 2011/12 for 2012/13 and a further £77,061 from the 2012/13 budget stimulator savings. Of this approximately £38,000 was the cost of employing a full-time ORMVP officer, with the balance being spent on supporting South Yorkshire Police (overtime) and target-hardening.

In 2011/12 the expenditure on works was £36,000, this could not be sustained within the reduced budget so in 2012, a decision was taken to disestablish the single ORMVP post in order to release the budget for works.

In 2013/14 approximately £40,000 was available for works after salary protection costs were covered from the budget.

New service and management arrangements

Where any off road motor vehicle nuisance occurs the first step is to identify the landowner as it is their responsibility to deal with the issue, ideally supported by the Police who have the necessary enforcement powers. The service is able to offer advice and, where possible, practical assistance in preventing incidents but the cost of any required hard works will be the responsibility of landowner; the ORMVP budget is used to fund works on council-owned land and is managed by Streetpride.

Specific responsibility for ORMVP budget lies with Leisure & Community Services, and the responsible line manager is Richard Jackson (Area Manager East); he is supported by a number of staff at M2/M1 level who have direct experience of dealing with ORMVP within their own area of responsibility. Various services within the Council have responsibility for land ownership and as such Richard and his colleagues work in partnership with these services to deal with issues on Council-owned land.

Contacts (telephone calls, letters or emails) to the Council which relate to off road motor vehicle issues are captured through the Streetpride's 'golden number' and then passed to Leisure and Community Services' business support. The request for service is then allocated to the appropriate officer to investigate, supported by specialist staff (e.g. landscape design team) where necessary.

A monthly forum of EDS Managers is held comprising staff from Woodlands, Country Parks, Urban Parks, POS, Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Highway Network Management. The forum discusses problem sites (including those identified by Ward Members) and costed solutions and where possible commissions works to mitigate the problems.

It is important to reiterate that it is the Landowner where the off road motoring is taking place that is responsible for providing and maintaining boundaries to

prevent inappropriate vehicular access, i.e. 'target-hardening'. While much of the land where the activity is taking place is owned privately, the Council continues to work with South Yorkshire Police to deal with individuals and groups who engage in this anti-social behaviour. Responsibility for enforcement against any individuals who engage in off road motoring causing nuisance and criminal damage lies with South Yorkshire Police.

Recent activity

In 2013/14 the following work was undertaken:

- **Piccadilly Drive, Swinton** (Woodlands) – urgent gate replacement
- **Elliot Drive, Kimberworth** – (Woodlands) – supply and fix new replacement kissing gate
- **Pepper Close, Kimberworth** (Woodlands) – (a) supply and install heavy duty barrier gate galvanized and painted 3 metre wide; (b) supply and install bow top railings supplied by RMBC, fixings supplied by Avanti. **Note:** Pepper Close is a particular hot spot for entrance and dumping in Scholes Coppice. We do not have specific data but on visiting the site it is clear that if we do not reinforce the boundary the problem is going to escalate. It is one of the last easy off road vehicle entrances to the site. It was previously fenced in timber but this has been vandalised.
- **Wath Wood** (Woodlands) - supply and install bow top railings supplied RMBC; Avanti supplied 24 new posts to make up shortfall and fixings to all posts. **Note:** we have had complaints from local residents and Councillors regarding this site. It is a dumping ground and a motor bike entrance point. We are also working with the local area assembly to have a community litter pick in Wath Wood.
- **Fitzwilliam Canal Parkgate Site** (Woodlands) – (a) supply and install heavy duty barrier gate fully galvanized and painted after installation; (b) supply and install heavy duty post and twin rail fence based, fully galvanized and painted. **Note:** Parkgate is particularly problematic, it is an off road car parking area which is used for dumping and illegal or anti-social behaviour. We have put boulders in the entrance before but these have just been moved out of the way.
- **Keppel's Field, Scholes** (Woodlands) - install 2.4 wide barrier gate with posts galvanized and painted after installation; supply and install post and rail fence to infill gap between gate and wooden post, also to form squeeze between gate and wall. **Note:** this site is very likely to attract the attention of travellers in particular. It has easy access of the motorway and a large open field with a water supply. It is also a site we get funding for from Natural England (Grassing Payments) so we also need to do the work to protect our income.
- **Little Common Lane (Winterhills) Kimberworth** (Parks & Open Spaces) – 219 m of boundary fence to match the existing steel fencing.
- **Improvements to cycling entrance to Rother Valley County Park** (PROW) - works to enhance cycling and access for all at Rother Valley County Park will create a much better access than presently available and we are concerned that motorbikes may seek to use the newly

created route to access the park. The existing National Cycle Network route is substandard and dangerous to some users and needs addressing. We are also proposing to carry out a series of ditching and bund works.

The total expenditure on works in 2013/14 was approximately £30,000; the under-spend was delivered to help meet the in-year budget pressures following the moratorium on non-essential spend.

South Yorkshire Police no longer record the number of incidents of ORMV nuisance separately, these are now included in statistics on anti-social behaviour.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risks attached to the disestablishment of the post of ORMVP Officer i.e. the capacity of other managers to effectively handle reports of ORMV nuisance; have not materialised so far.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Tackling the problem of anti-social off road nuisance contributes to the Council's corporate priority ***CP 4 - All areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained.***

11. Background Papers and Consultation

N/A

Contact Name: David Burton, Director of Streetpride tel: ext 22906
e-mail: david.burton@rotherham.gov.uk