
ITEM 4.1 FOUR SQUARES ESTATE (see pages 1-2)

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Seconded by Councillor Charlie Smith

Please note, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.9 (ix) (subject of deputation not on agenda), the debate on the motion should be limited to 15 minutes. The mover of any such motion or amendment shall speak for a maximum of three minutes and the seconder and other speakers shall be allowed a maximum of two minutes.

Four Squares Estate

Council assembly notes the serious problems suffered by residents on the Four Squares estate, including

- Antisocial behaviour and crime, ranging from vandalism and graffiti to arson and drug dealing
- Poor basic maintenance of housing and communal areas, leading to an environment in which crime can flourish
- Inadequate refuse collection and pest control
- Nuisance noise and the risk of accidents from motorcycle riders on the estate
- Nuisance noise from temporary tenants of absent leaseholders.

Council assembly notes that executive councillors and officers have carried out numerous 'walkabouts' on the estate over the past 6 months. These followed the recommendations of the community council meeting on the September 7 2005, and included the walkabout on the October 18 2005, attended by Councillor Nick Stanton, and subsequent walkabouts on November 21 2005, the December 20 2005, and the January 26 2005.

Council assembly notes that after the first 'walkabout' by councillors and officers, an action plan was drawn up which listed urgently needed improvements. These included replacing light bulbs, cutting back trees, and emptying rubbish chutes. Council assembly notes with concern that residents report that four months later, few if any of these proposals have been carried out. Council assembly also notes that the Together Action Zone also produced an action plan on the October 26 2005, calling for urgent improvements including mobile CCTV and an 'action plan and timescales for estate repairs and maintenance'.

Council assembly notes with concern that despite repeated reports of serious crime such as arson, the Four Squares estate has no CCTV system in place.

Council assembly believes that the current situation on the Four Squares estate is unacceptable, and that urgent action must be taken to improve residents' quality of life.

Therefore, Council Assembly calls on the executive to

- Urgently implement all of the recommendations arising from the walkabouts, including installing additional lighting, fixing rubbish chutes,

and making sure that police and community wardens are working together. Residents should be given a list of the planned improvements, with a deadline for when each will be completed.

- Urgently implement the proposals from the Together Action Zone action plan.
- Aggressively use the full range of anti social behaviour powers available, and give local residents information about the names of recipients of ASBOs, and the conditions of the order where appropriate, for example, in helping to enforce orders where offenders have been banned from certain estates.
- Install a CCTV system on the estate as soon as possible.
- Review and improve routine cleaning and maintenance across the entire estate
- Introduce regular warden patrols, in liaison with local police if possible, across the whole of the estate, and not just in 'fringe' areas.
- Instruct officers to report on a range of future measures to deter motorcycle riders from using the estate, such as chicanes, trees, barriers and textured pavements.
- Work with the police to aggressively enforce the current range of powers that can be used against illegal and antisocial motorcycle riders, including applying for Acceptable behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) against youths persistently riding motorcycles in an antisocial manner.
- To enforce the terms of tenancy and leasehold agreements, to tackle antisocial behaviour and nuisance noise from tenants of the council, and of leaseholders.