



12/03/2021

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Dear Ewen,

Thankyou for your recent correspondence to my office with regards to the ongoing concerns at Earlswood Lakes.

We have received several emails and letters from various residents and partners regarding Earlswood Lakes and the surrounding areas. Invariably they have raised concerns about public alcohol consumption, illicit drug activity, anti-social behaviour, illegal and obstructive parking, speeding and dangerous driving, and the catalytic effect of lockdown and Covid19 restrictions upon all of these. With such a large amount of correspondence coming to us on this subject and following requests for support from Nadhim Zahawi MP I took the decision to hold a case review conference last summer with key partners to discuss a way forward.

My role as Police and Crime Commissioner is not one that involves operational policing, nor do I have the authority to direct partner agencies in their responses. However, I have endeavoured throughout this process to fulfil my role as a representative of the residents of Warwickshire by engaging with Warwickshire Police and key partner organisations.

The meeting took place virtually in June 2020 and involved Mr Zahawi's office, the OPCC, Stratford District Council, the Highways team at Warwickshire County Council, the Canal and Riverside Trust, the area's Parish Council, the area's Safer Neighbourhood Team from Warwickshire Police, and colleagues from over the border in West Midlands Police. It was a very positive meeting with effective discussions, and subsequent problem-solving activities were agreed.

Since then I have received updates from a number of partners including Stratford District Council, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police about their ongoing efforts to manage the ASB and road safety concerns at Earlswood. I was very pleased to be invited by Stratford District Council to consult on their plans for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in order to provide the police with enhanced powers to enforce against illegal and antisocial behaviour in the area.

It will come as no surprise that I offered my support for the PSPO. I am very keen for as much as possible to be done by all partners to reduce or remove the problems described which seem to cause such distress for the local residents. It has been pleasing to see some excellent partnership work to achieve this and a PSPO will be a significant step forwards in this journey.

This week I enquired with Stratford District Council about the progress of this project and I am told the PSPO is now going through its 3rd stage approval process. The final stage is

approval at a full Council committee meeting on 19th April and I am confident this will pass successfully. In the meantime, the Police are working on the enforcement documentation and procedures, and Stratford DC are arranging for signage to be produced and placed.

Other actions were discussed included the provision of CCTV in critical locations around the Lakes, such as in Malthouse Lane. Stratford DC assure me that permanent CCTV should be installed in midsummer but that in the meantime they are seeking to install a temporary camera within the next few weeks.

Tanworth Parish Council have funded a second CCTV camera on Valley Road and the legal processes for instalment are underway.

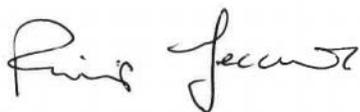
Warwickshire County Council made good on their commitment to place double yellow lines on Malthouse Lane to help address the illegal parking concerns there. Whilst opportunity for enforcement is limited outside of business hours this measure has gone some way to address concerns in the daytime.

Warwickshire Police continue to respond to reports as and when they come in and according to resources available and demand upon them at the time. No police force can ever focus on one area of their geography but I am confident that Warwickshire Police are giving appropriate levels of attention and resource to the Lakes. I am also told that there are planned action days over the coming months as visitor numbers start to peak, and I know that the force is well-engaged with partners on how best to enforce against antisocial and illegal behaviours.

Finally, I believe that the Canal and Riverside Trust is about to embark on a period of maintenance work at the Lakes which will involve the closure of the Causeway for several months; we anticipate that this will have a positive disruptive effect on some of the more dangerous driving practices witnessed there.

It is clear to me that partners are all working concertedly to address the complex set of issues at Earlswood Lakes. Plainly there is not an overnight solution and many of the actions agreed last summer are taking time to implement but I am confident in the multi-agency commitment to making Earlswood Lakes a safer and more pleasant environment for residents. I hope this update offers you some reassurance and that you feel listened to, and represented. However, if you have any concerns or wish for further information, I would encourage you to approach the relevant organisations directly as they are best placed to respond.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Secombe', written in a cursive style.

Philip Secombe TD
Police and Crime Commissioner