

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Cringleford Parish Council

Introduction

Cringleford Parish Council (CPC) aims to protect residents, users of its facilities, and staff by 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 possible within our powers.

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 hirers using CPC owned facilities.

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)
- Vandalism

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 parish.

Reporting Antisocial Behaviour

Residents are able to telephone or email 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 during office hours.

When we receive a report we will:

- Make an initial assessment of the severity, impact and nature of each report if the issue relates to a CPC facility, and take action as appropriate or
- Recommend the complainant contacts the relevant council / police service, or other agency themselves, due to General Data Protection Regulations, if the matter relates to land outside of the Parish Council's ownership.

Agreed April 2024

Review date; April 2028

Reports may be logged in the council's records to identify trends and hotspots, so that longer term actions can be taken.

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

The Parish Council will tackle ASB on its land in various ways. In-house examples include:

- Vandalism – items repaired / made-safe urgently
- Graffiti – cleaned up as soon as possible
- Littering – assess whether an additional bin in that location is required

When appropriate, the Council will work with the police and other partners to protect our residents and communities, using all available and appropriate powers to address and resolve issues. Solutions could include the installation of CCTV or the temporary closure of certain public areas if required. If damage or vandalism has occurred and the Parish Council can prove responsibility, for example during a party at a Council owned building, then an invoice will be raised for the cost of repairing the damage. If this is not paid, or the damage appears to be deliberate, the Police will be contacted.

Confidentiality and General Data Protection Regulations

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 unless we receive consent to do so, although depending on the situation it may be possible for the offender 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.

The police authority, 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 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, our Safeguarding Policy 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 its 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. This may include reporting incidents to the police or permanently banning the offender from Council land and buildings.