

**NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
21 NOVEMBER 2016**

**VANDALISM IN NONSUCH PARK**

Report of the: Head of Operational Services  
Contact: Samantha Whitehead  
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No  
If yes, reason urgent decision required:  
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1: Photographs of recent vandalism  
Other available papers (not attached):

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**To make the Joint Management Committee aware of the recent episodes of vandalism in the park and put forward recommendations for possible actions.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the committee note the advice from the Crime Reduction/Crime Prevention Design Advisor.
- 2) That the committee support the proposal to secure the rear boundary of the garden using a mixture of planting and recycled fencing where possible.
- 3) That the committee support an application for funding of this project as necessary.

*Notes*

**1 Background**

- 1.1 Throughout 2016 Nonsuch Park has experienced a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 The Nonsuch Voles have reported incidents to the Police using the 101 number, however due to the location of the Park they sometimes been directed to the Metropolitan Police as opposed to Surrey Police.
- 1.3 Epsom & Ewell's Ranger Service and Park Staff have also been aware of this issue, but even though the teams patrol the Park in the evenings the damage is more likely occurring after hours.
- 1.4 Councillor Mary Burstow has taken this issue very seriously and instigated a meeting with Surrey Police to seek ways to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Park.

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1.5 A meeting was held on 5 September 2016 at Nonsuch Park, between PC Elena Boaf, Neil Clarke - Crime Reduction/Crime Prevention Design Advisor, Jon Whitehead from the Nonsuch Voles and Councillor Mary Burstow.

1.6 The meeting was very productive and resulted in Neil Clarke providing the group with a useful summary of observations:

*“To summarise my observations relating to criminal activity and anti-social behaviour in Nonsuch Park.*

*It was very useful to be able to see the “problem” areas and to discuss with you what has been done to try to deter problems already.*

*It has to be said that the actual park is very difficult to make totally secure and to deter trespassers. Obviously, some areas offer more natural surveillance opportunities than others.*

*I would very much support any effort to deter unauthorised access through broken fences, ideally through the use of fast-growing defensive plants such as hawthorn, pyracantha and berberis. I do, however, acknowledge the overhanging tree branches can impede growth where the light levels are not good.*

*I can also see some benefit in installing some CCTV at the key locations where people tend to gather, including the inside of the “building” where people are known to gather. This would probably have to be battery operated and the batteries would need to be re-charged and replaced quite regularly. Additionally, some warning signs, indicating that CCTV is in operation can provide a good level of deterrent with some people, due to the enhanced risk of being seen and identified.*

*Signs can be placed at a number of locations, both near where the cameras are actually located and at the main access points to the location. Ideally, consideration should be given to positioning cameras where they cannot easily be seen and targeted for further criminal damage.*

*I mentioned that the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Office will accept bids for funding of projects which are designed to reduce the risk and likelihood of crime”*

## **2 Proposals**

2.1 Although discreet, battery powered CCTV would seem like an inexpensive option, it will would fall under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA 2000), as in order for the units not to be vandalised they would need to be hidden and this would amount to covert surveillance which would require authorisation from the Magistrates Court.

2.2 Fencing the area around the Formal Gardens is the preferred option and this has already been highlighted as a feature of the Heritage Lottery Bid to protect and conserve the Heritage of the Formal Garden.

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- 2.3 There may also be an opportunity to acquire approximately 70 metres of guard rail which will become redundant due to the redevelopment of Epsom Town Centre.
- 2.4 This fencing could be used to form an effective barrier around the rear of the garden where unwanted access is currently an issue.
- 2.5 Where possible, within the constraints of the low lighting, defensive plants will be purchased and planted.
- 2.6 If appropriate, the Streetcare Manager will explore the funding available from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office for installation and planting of the recycled guard rail.

**3 Conclusion and Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Streetcare Manager would like to thank Surrey Police, the Nonsuch Voles and Councillor Mary Burstow for their action and advice on this matter.
- 3.2 It is recommended that in line with the recommendations of Crime Reduction/Crime Prevention Design Advisor, steps are taken to secure the rear boundary of the formal gardens with a combination of planting and recycled fencing if possible.
- 3.3 This will be funded from the revenue budget and an application made for funding as necessary.