

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 13 th September 2022
Report Title	Bench Removals
Agenda Reference	12
Author	Dave Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officer's Recommendations

- 1) To keep the benches at Queen Elizabeth Drive open space in place but monitor with regular litter picks and additional Police patrols.
- 2) To remove the bench between Hyssop Close and Ashdown Way – keep in storage with a view to re-siting it when a suitable location is found.

Background/ Purpose

The Head of Parks & Open Spaces has received two requests from separate residents regarding removing benches due to ongoing antisocial behaviour. North Swindon Police has been contacted to obtain further evidence to request any additional information such as numbers of logs reported and how many times Police presence has been needed. North Swindon Police confirmed there have been no logs, but patrols have picked up antisocial behaviour on occasions. Patrols from North Swindon Police have since been increased.

Benches at Queen Elizabeth Drive Open Space

Two residents of the same household have made a request that two park benches at this location be removed due to anti-social behaviour. The Council has received no other reports of anti-social behaviour in this area.

The area is not a through route and is mainly used by dog walkers and persons passing the time of day. The residents walk the area in the mornings and state that there is very often excessive litter in the areas around the benches. There are no litter bins in the immediate area of the benches. The bark on two trees in the area has been damaged. It is not obvious that humans caused this damage. There is a pond on the site with a viewing platform the residents believe that this area is used as a toilet by youths in the evenings, there is no evidence of this.

Bench between Hyssop Close and Ashdown Way

A resident has requested that the bench at this area be removed. The area is a through route used by walkers, joggers, cyclists. The bench is located on the chicane of the slope from Hyssop Close down to Ashdown Way.

The resident states that youths use this area after dark, there is one lamp column on the slope. There can be excessive litter in the location. On occasions youth's bikes can be laid on the footpath causing an obstruction to users of the footpath. The resident believes that drug related activities take place here.

This area has been known to Police previously as when identifying the area as a suitable location for a wildflower creation site with a bench overlooking the area, consultation from residents concurred that they did not want a new installation of a bench due to the issues experienced here already.