

Meeting	Community Development
Date	4 th February 2025
Report Title	Knife Amnesty Bin
Agenda Reference	15
Author	Councillor P Park & E Baker-Walker

Recommendations

- Agree in principle to proceed with the purchase and installation.
- Agree to allow the officers to reach out to the Wiltshire PCC and ask if they would help fund the costs of installing a Knife bin
- Agree to email the local MP and ask if he would help contact British Land for permission for it to in the Orbital Shopping centre.

Background: Knife crime poses a serious threat to public safety and community well-being. The levels in Swindon have been on the rise for the past couple of years, with only Covid seeming to have an impact on the figures, we are currently at 292 serious incidents in a year.

Providing a safe and anonymous way for individuals to surrender knives and other bladed items can help reduce the risk of violent incidents and foster a safer environment for all. Knife amnesty bins have been successfully implemented in various communities across Swindon.

With the Wiltshire Police force installing 4 bins in Swindon (Liden, Broadgreen, Pinehurst, Walcot), leading to the collection of thousands of potentially dangerous items and reducing their circulation.

This coupled with Wiltshire Police force Sceptre has seen hundreds of knives removed from Swindon's streets

Proposal: This motion proposes the establishment of a knife amnesty bin within Haydon Wick Parish to provide a secure and accessible location for the anonymous disposal of knives and other bladed items. The initiative would be undertaken in collaboration with relevant authorities, such as the local police force, Swindon Borough Council, and community safety organisations.

Objectives:

1. To enhance public safety by reducing the availability of dangerous weapons in the community.
2. To encourage responsible behaviour and provide an anonymous option for individuals to surrender knives without fear of legal repercussions.
3. To promote awareness of knife crime prevention and community safety initiatives.

Action Plan:

1. **Site Selection:** Identify a suitable location for the knife amnesty bin, ensuring it is accessible, discreet, and in a high-visibility area to maximise usage.
2. **Partnerships:** Identify and reach out to relevant Local groups and authorities, to work with and offset the cost.
3. **Bin Procurement and Installation:** Source a secure and tamper-proof knife amnesty bin designed to prevent unauthorised access or misuse. Install the bin at the chosen site with appropriate signage.
4. **Awareness Campaign:** Launch a public awareness campaign to inform residents about the purpose and location of the knife amnesty bin, including social media outreach, posters, and community events.
5. **Ongoing Monitoring:** Establish a regular schedule for monitoring and emptying the bin in partnership with law enforcement to ensure safety and compliance.

Budget and Funding: The estimated cost of this initiative includes:

- Procurement of the knife amnesty bin (Starting costs of £500)
- Installation costs (This depends on the location selected)
- Public awareness campaign materials Funding options could include:
 - Grants from Swindon Borough Council
 - Community safety organisations
 - Wiltshire & Swindon Police Force.
 - Sponsorship from local businesses or charities

Conclusion: The establishment of a knife amnesty bin in Haydon Wick Parish is a proactive measure to enhance community safety and contribute to the reduction of knife crime. By adopting this motion, the parish council demonstrates its commitment to protecting residents and fostering a safer environment.

Background reading

<https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/24317569.dozens-knives-left-swindon-library-surrender-bin/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-67407568>

<https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/Youth-zone/knife-crime/>

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/news/wiltshire/news/2024/may-2024/on-the-frontline---what-its-like-to-deal-with-knife-crime-as-an-officer/>