



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

Ref: CPO 6539

Name: Swaffham Recreation Ground  
Address: Haspalls Road  
Swaffham

Date 21/07/2017

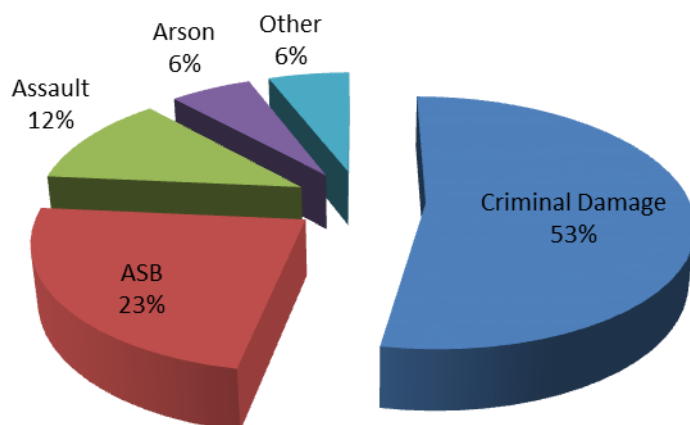
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## Swaffham Recreation Ground – Haspalls Road Crime Prevention Survey



Swaffham Recreation Grounds is situated on Haspalls Road, Swaffham. Cley Road, Haspalls Road and residential housing are on the boundary of the site  
The general appearance of the recreation ground is generally good excepting the public toilets which are not in use and have graffiti on them.

## Recreation Ground 12 Months Crime Stats



In the past 12 months the Recreation ground has had 17 reported incidents to police.

Crime stats from May 2016 – April 2017 (available on Police UK) detail 1053 recorded crimes in Swaffham, of which 444 were criminal damage & ASB. I would like to survey all affected sites / ASB hotspots with a view of implementing designing out crime at all these locations.

### Key Elements of the problem:

- Disused toilet block is a hideaway for persons and hiding items such as alcohol. Not enough litter bins. Area is large expanse which means they can see Police on approach- numerous entry/exits points- especially onto Southlands which causes further issue to residents as this is unnecessary. Too many blind spots on skate-park.
- Emerging problem is drug and alcohol use. The area is quickly becoming a no go area/unsafe place to go for the other children so the area will become solely occupied by persons not using the area for its intended use.
- Continual complaints of ASB, criminal damage and drug use. Has been evenings up until now, but this may change with the start of the school holidays
- The local residents around the Recreation Ground are faced with music, noise, swearing, drug taking, drinking, urinating
- Residents using the park are faced with being sworn at, intimidated, not able to take their children to the park
- The younger children will not use the park because the older youths sit on the equipment and are intimidating
- Town Council are faced with criminal damage

### What are Police doing to tackle the problem?

- OP Impact days are being utilised to increase Police Presence
- Increased patrolling where possible
- ASB letters sent to any youths found causing an issue
- Any social Housing parents made aware via their housing officer

### **Is this working?**

- This approach is not successful on its own due to there not being enough information from the public when submitting complaints – Police needs description of offenders, vehicle index etc
- There are demands on policing numbers which will limit responses / response times
- When police attend and the offenders are disbursed, they then move onto another area in Swaffham simply displacing the problem

### **What support do police require?**

- In order to tackle the problem as a whole the Police needs support to deal with the individuals as well as the location(s).
- The affected locations require changes to their physical layout to 'design out crime' making those areas easier to police – recommendations are provided in this document from Norfolk Police Architectural Liaison Officer.
- Housing can assist by making parents or if indeed the offending parties are customers by holding them accountable.

### **ALO Recommendations**

To design out crime at this location we need to look to:

- Put in suitable guardianship
- Demotivate the offenders
- Remove targets (where possible)

This can be achieved by:

- Target hardening
- Access control
- Surveillance (natural and formal)
- Changing the environmental design
- Rule Setting
- Increase the chances of offenders being caught
- Deflecting offenders

Currently the Police have input countless hours into working with the identified group and their families to try and de-motivate the offenders and patrolling hotspots such as this which is not tackling the issue because they cannot provide constant surveillance and can only be deployed to patrol when demand allows.

Swaffham Town Council have asked for advice on CCTV, which would be a good option (details have already been forwarded on email) but needs to work in conjunction with other prime prevention techniques which I have gone on to discuss in this document.

- The use of formal surveillance by way of a monitored CCTV system, (which I would recommend is assessed by a Secured by Design Member Company such as 'IN FOCUS' to ensure that the right system fit for purpose is installed) when used in conjunction with:
- 'White lighting, which, I would advise should meet British Standard BS5489-1:2013. The efficient use of Light directed to where it is required. Police "Secured by Design" standards ask that Lighting Uniformity Values for developments achieve a value of 40% or 0.4Uo. I would consider using the services of a Member of the Institute of Lighting Engineers to provide a uniform spread of 'White Light'.

- And appropriate signage ('smile your on camera', 'no loitering', etc.) could provide a capable guardian during the times when the site isn't manned by the grounds men, i.e. from dusk till dawn. However the cost of purchasing and maintaining the system would have to be approved by the Swaffham Town Council for them to deem if it is an appropriate, realistic and cost effective solution to this issue.

In conjunction with the above I would also recommend making the site less suitable to conduct anti-social behaviour and criminal damage using target hardening, rule setting, access control and environmental design principles such as:

- Plugging the gaps in the existing Southlands boundary line with addition thorny plants to blend with the existing established planting. The boundary abutting Southlands has several access points to the recreation ground.
- Up pruning the trees abutting Southlands to allow for better natural surveillance from residents.
- Removal of the tree currently next to the current corner Southlands entrance to allow for better surveillance.



(Uppruning)



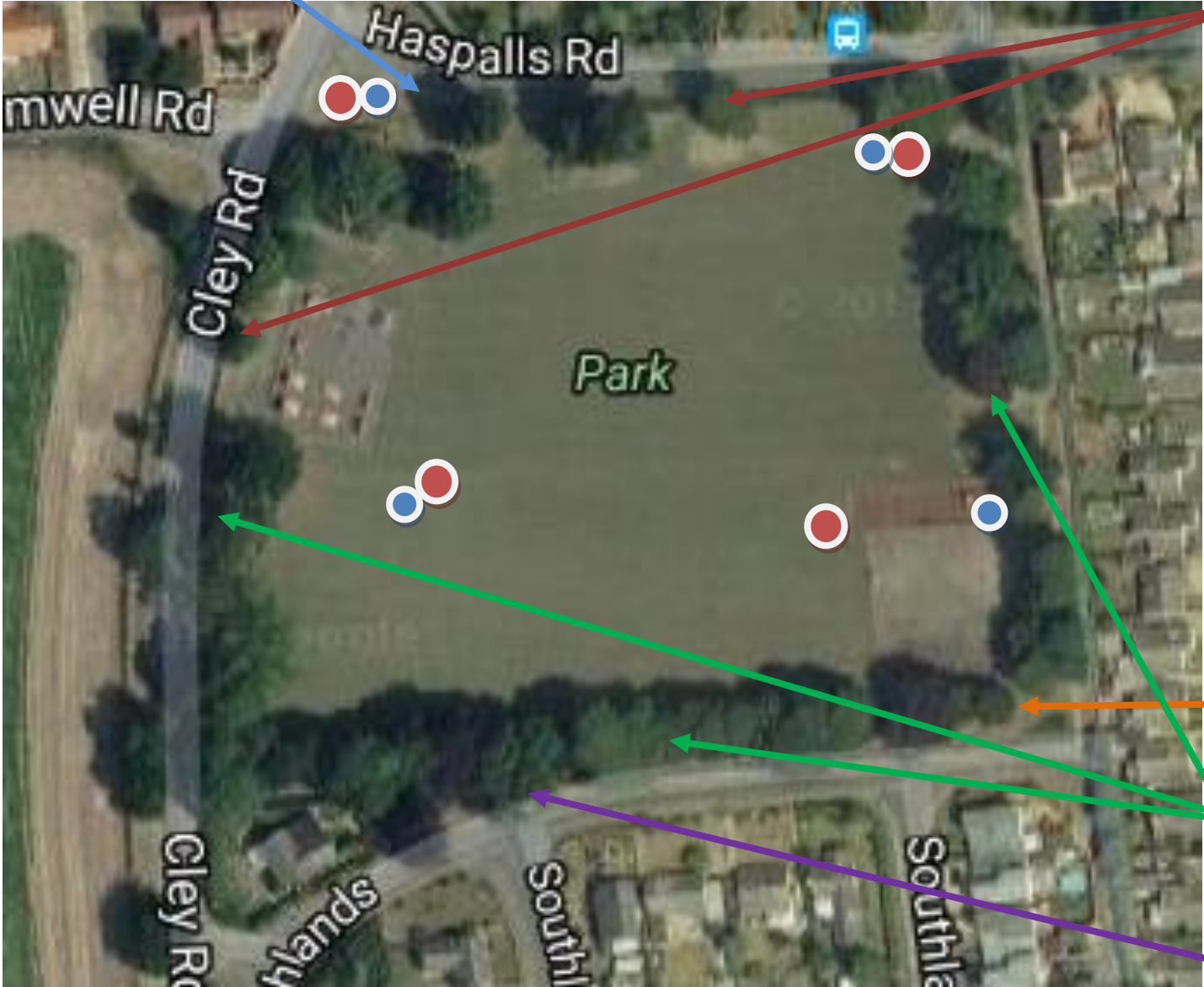
(removal of tree)

- Force access to the site to the designated access areas only which I recommend to be the gated access from Cley Road / Haspalls Road and the entrance of Haspalls Road and Southlands corner.
- Upgrading the boundary fencing abutting Haspalls Road and Cley Road to prevent access being gained (hedging or welded mesh fencing.)
- All existing and future perimeter hedging to be trimmed to between 1 and 1.2m to allow for good surveillance but prevent entry.
- Vehicular access will be still available through the main gates located where Cley Road meets Haspalls Road.
- Installing litter bins around the site and anchoring them to the ground
- Installing clear signage around the site for rule setting such as; 'police actively patrol this area, 'no vehicles beyond this point' and 'no littering'.
- Rules of the MUGGA & skate park to be clearly displayed at these sites and the entrance / Exit points of the grounds.
- Removal / redesigning of the skate park to remove the ledge which is now being used for congregation / non legitimate use of the skate park and provides a visual barrier / shelter from natural surveillance.
- Upgrading of the fencing between the MUGGA and the toddler park to the same standard that the MUGGA already has installed.
- I do also recommended that an incident book / reports all incidents of ASB and criminal damage is kept so that the true scale of the problem can be established and after implementation of the recommendations the success of those recommendations can be effectively measured.
- Removal of the toilet block and secure that area for CCTV equipment –further advice will be given on this if required.



Removal / change of use of disused toilet block

Installation of hedging / fencing to block access being gained through the existing wire / wood post fencing



Additional anchored bins

Suggested CCTV points (entrance/exit Mugga and Skate park)

Remove Tree

Remove lower branches in these rows of trees

Dissolve the multiple access points, with continuous hedging

If investing in Security products I would urge you to use the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Crime Reduction Website [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com). Here you will find over 250 Member Companies that have fully tried and tested security products.

Thank you for inviting me to comment on this site and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. I hope this information will assist when thinking of preventing crime and remember any device that can be installed or used to slow down intruders helps increase the chance of their detection. Fire Prevention advice, Fire Safety Certificate conditions, Health and Safety Regulations and Safe Working Practices will always take precedence over Crime Prevention advice. Recommendations included in this document have been considered site specific and take into account information available to the Police or supplied by you. Your crime prevention strategy should be reassessed on a regular basis.

Stephanie Segens  
Architectural Liaison & Crime Prevention Officer  
Breckland and West Norfolk

Gallery



Fence to be upgraded between MUGGA and toddler park.



Access point to be kept Haspalls Road



Up pruning of trees required for better surveillance .



Cley Road)

Upgrade of boundary to prevent access –Haspalls Road (&