

**Brierley Hill Area Committee 4th December 2008**

**Report of Director of the Urban Environment**

**Parks Security at King George V Park Wordsley**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise the Area Committee regarding security arrangements at King George V Park Wordsley.

**Background**

2. At Area Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, concerns were raised by Members about security arrangements operating at King George V Park Wordsley in light of a number of incidents of antisocial behaviour that had been reported and personal observations of the park.
3. The Council employs a security company to open and close the gates on four parks across the Borough which includes King George V Park Wordsley. Closing times vary throughout the year to allow the public to maximise use of the park during daylight hours generally resulting in the park being closed around dusk. During the summer months the gates are closed at approximately 9pm., this incrementally falls earlier to coincide with dusk falling.
4. In response to the Members' previous request, the closing time for the gates at King George V Park was brought forward to 7:00pm from 9:00pm in early September 2008. In addition the security company was requested to provide additional site patrols between 5:00pm and 7:00pm to support the Council's Park Keeping Service on this site in the period to the end of October. As a consequence of these changes, the levels of reported antisocial behaviour on the park have reduced.
5. Furthermore the Council was made aware that the gates had not been closed on time on a number of occasions. This issue was taken up immediately with the security company who rectified the problem and as a result no further complaints have been received on this matter.
6. It is usual for levels of antisocial behaviour and vandalism on parks and open spaces to peak during the summer months, in particular during the school holidays, and there is a natural decline during the autumn and winter months, to coincide with the colder weather and shorter day length. Officers will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action as necessary.

## **Finance**

8. The finance for this contract is met through the Parks Development revenue budgets.

## **Law**

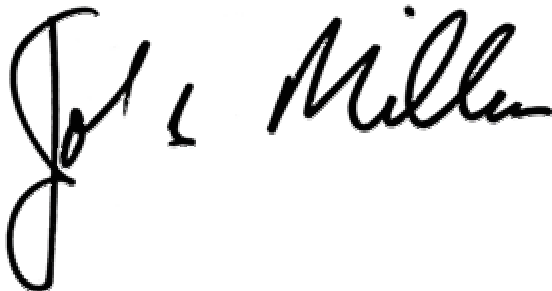
9. In this case the Council are exercising their parks function under statutory provisions including the Public Health Act 1875 and the Open Spaces Act 1906.

## **Equality Impact**

10. The proposals contained in this report are in full accordance with the Council's Equal Opportunities policies and should in no way have any impact on different racial groups, disabled people, both genders and/or other relevant groups.

## **Recommendation**

11. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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**John Millar**  
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