Good evening.

RE - ASB at Earlswood Lakes

Please accept our apologies that we are unable to attend in person on Friday 23rd August 2024, owing to the fact we are currently on annual leave and are unable to change these preexisting commitments to attend on this occasion.

Over the summer months there has been a heavy footfall in the area which has seen reports of bike theft, drug use, anti-social driving, issues over parking and obstructions on the causeway. Most concerning is the reports of verbal abuse from visitors towards local residents, making them feel uncomfortable and in some instances, fearful.

Just like residents, we are frustrated that previous efforts over the last several years have, for various reasons, not prevented another summer of plight around Earlswood Lakes. Despite this, our commitment to continue to seek realistic and meaningful solutions remains steadfast. So long as the issues remain, so will our determination to combat them. We will not decline any constructive discussion around potential ideas to tackle the issues and we are always available to partner agencies to do so. Just last week, on Friday 16th of August, we hosted Sam Slemensek and Jenny Logan of Stratford District Council to review the current situation and consider the next steps. During which, I have asked that the trees at the bottom of Malthouse Lane be cut back, as they are now blocking the CCTV camera's view of the causeway.

We are aware that some residents are completing a diary of ASB incidents which are being shared with the Parish Council. Whilst I do not want to discourage the recording of incidents, I need to ask all concerned to report incidents to Warwickshire Police through 101 or 999 in an emergency. While we cannot guarantee a response to every incident which gets called in, I can guarantee that if an incident is not reported to police, then there will be no chance of a police officer being deployed to it at the time. Over the last year Warwickshire Police have made significant changes to the control room and waiting times have improved. Our team reviews the incident system daily to stay apprised of what is happening on our area. Furthermore, the incident system allows us to collate calls and better identify how many separate incidents are taking place.

When talking to members of the public while patrolling Earlswood, I am frequently told it is good to see police, but we could do with you more often. It would be remis of me not to mention that many officers, including myself, have on occasion been redeployed from normal duties due to the national disorder which has been widely publicized. In addition, our team covers the needs of Studley, Coughton, Sambourne, Mapplebourough Green, Henley In Adren, Wootton Wawen, Claverdon, Bearley, Morton Baggot and

Ullenhall, besides Tanworth In Arden. I remind you of this, not to downplay or dismiss your worries and concerns, but in hope of creating realistic expectations, as we have an equal duty to serve those throughout our region. For example, in Studley last month, a double stabbing took place which led to a male being arrested and charged with attempted murder. As a result, the safer neighbourhood team committed time to performing reassurance patrols in those localities who were understandably unsettled and concerned about secondary incidents.

Despite demands elsewhere, however, I can state with total confidence that the majority of our patrol time over the last few months has been spent in and around Earlswood Lakes, to the detriment of other areas we cover. Unless committed with live incidents, our team attends the Lakes every day that we are on duty. This includes removing any vehicles obstructing the causeway and carrying out on site checks of vehicles to ensure they are legal for use on the road. In addition to ourselves, the rural crime team attend the lakes as part of OP Levithan (talking poaching crime). Their visible presence also serves to deter unwanted visitors and their vehicles from the area. I have patrolled with them, as well as officers from the Environmental Agency. Our intention is to continue to do so and seek the assistance from other departments to further bolster officer presence, in order to deter antisocial behaviour and reassure bot residents and visitors that they can feel safe.

You can contact our team via 101, using the Warwickshire Police Website, using Warwickshire Connected, or directly into our team email inbox at Alcester.police@warwickshire.police.uk.

On behalf of the Warwickshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Sincerely,

PC 1348 SEAN LOVATT
Neighbourhood Beat Manger for Alcester North.