

**COMMENTS ON THE REPORT FROM THE CLEANER, GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

A presentation on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Disorder Act 2014 was delivered by the Borough Council's Senior Partnerships Officer.

It was stated that the new Act would mean the replacement of the current toolkit for dealing with anti-social behaviour and would also place new duties on local authorities and the Police to deal with conduct that had caused or was likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 Newcastle-under-Lyme proposes to adopt the 'Community Trigger' threshold of three complaints from one complainant (or somebody on their behalf) to a statutory agency within a six month period regarding three separate ASB incidents.

The Borough Council, County Council, Staffordshire Police, Health or RSLs may all be approached by a victim of a persistent ASB to instigate the trigger.

Every Monday morning, the Borough's Partnership Hub meets to provide assistance/solutions to vulnerable residents, with recommendations being relayed back to the victim.

The appeal process for victims of persistent ASB, who were not satisfied with the 'trigger' review will be determined by the partner organisation approached to instigate the trigger. For example, if received by the Borough Council then the appeal would progress to the Head of Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships.

A Member felt assured that the final stage would progress from outside of the Partnership Hub to the Head of Service.

The Member was further reassured that it was senior officers who were present at the weekly hub meetings.

It was asked if there were a review progressing on a licensed premise and the licence was revoked and taken to appeal could the community take control of the order.

The Senior Partnerships Officer advised if the community report the complaint, for example noise from the licensed premise, they could carry out a closure order.

A Member asked how the Police and Crime Commissioner was approaching the public regarding the document they were producing.

The County ASB and Finish Group meets every six weeks and the document had been issued to all authorities and would be distributed to the wider public.

It was asked that, if an incident recurred after a prolonged period of time, would the process start again. Presently this was being looked into with partners, with a

decision being submitted to the Police Chief Inspector and signed off by the Chief Executive.

A Member advised that it would only be sensible to ask why there was not a problem and the reason why there was not a problem was due to the prohibition being in place and should remain.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

That Committee receive the report and Members take note of the changes being proposed in Newcastle by the Borough Council and its partners.