

COUNCIL – 5 SEPTEMBER 2023

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN TO COUNCILLOR M WYATT

“The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has been reported by the BBC as saying councils are frequently failing to use their powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. In the same report, the Local Government Association were quoted as saying, “...it is vital all agencies – including the Government – ensure all measures in the ASB Plan launched earlier this year are adequately resourced.” Paragraph 40 of the Government’s ASB Plan, says, “while the police, local authorities and other agencies have a range of powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, they do not use them consistently, or, at times, enough.

Does the Council recognise these issues?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR M WYATT TO COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN

“All local authorities within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have committed to following a shared procedure relating to tackling antisocial behaviour to ensure that there is both consistency and best practice applied across the area.

The procedure requires councils and the police to apply an incremental approach to tackling ASB. The approach details the breadth of powers available which range from informal approaches such as providing advice and the issuing of warning letters through to using formal legal powers such as community protection notices, injunctions, closures, and public space protection orders.

When tackling ASB officers start with an informal approach and move along the range of powers incrementally until a resolution can be reached.

When officers consider the use of legal powers the Council’s legal team are engaged and the views of the Joint Action Group (JAG) are sought before acting. The membership of the JAG includes a range of agencies namely the police, schools, social care, youth justice and others as required.

The Council has a track record of making use of the full range of informal resolutions and formal legal powers to resolve ASB issues. The issue of advice and warning letters are a regular occurrence and were most recently used with recent injunctions to resolve a serious issue in June this year into ASB and violence between neighbours in Coalville.

In conclusion, I can confirm that this Council does not recognise the issues in the quote from Paragraph 40 of the Government’s ASB Plan and sees that its practice of managing ASB accords with the best practice highlighted above.

Full details on the Council’s ASB policy can be found at [Anti-social Behaviour Policy \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-policy)”