



To: Petitions Board

On: 28 March 2022

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Alleged Anti-Social Behaviour – Foxbar Crescent, Paisley

1. Summary

1.1 The Council has agreed procedures in relation to the submission of petitions including parameters for determining valid petitions and those areas where petitions would not be valid.

1.2 All valid petitions are to be submitted to the Board for consideration and a summary report is to be prepared on any petitions which are not considered to be valid in terms of the procedures. It is for the Board to determine the validity of such petitions.

1.3 A petition containing 30 signatures has been received from Mrs C Wilson in the following terms: -

“ Things are so so for now but think that’s down to the weather not been so good as that seems to escalate it. I have been to most of neighbours doors to find out there thoughts regarding some of the tenants in the maisonettes. Most of them are not happy with the antisocial behaviour that’s been ongoing for few years now and have said they have reported it many times but nothing ever was done. I asked if they would like to add their names to a petition to have council do something about the types of tenants that are being allocated these flats. Especially the bottom flats. So i have collected 30 names and addresses of neighbours that wish something to be done about this. I will forward this list to you. The boxes that cover electric meters are all knocked off and noticed that the grass has not been cut. Not sure if its because of litter on the grass”.

It should be noted that sections of the Petition have been redacted as they have identified an individual.

1.4 The Area Housing Manager has advised that Renfrewshire Common Allocation policy is based on a group plus priority approach and has a clear focus on meeting housing need. The policy has been developed to be compliant with housing and other relevant legislation, and also takes account of good practice guidance from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Housing Regulator. This includes the standards set out in the Scottish Social Housing Charter.

By allocating, the Council means the process of selecting people from its housing list, offering a house and, if accepted, signing a tenancy agreement with the tenant. The Council's housing list is divided into five groups – Homelessness, Mobility Group, General Applicants Group, Transfer Applicant Group (with housing need) and Transfer Applicant Group (no housing need). The Council will allocate housing according to targets for the proportion of lets to each group. Allocation targets are set to ensure that those in housing need receive an equitable share of allocations.

1.5 The Investigator, Communities & Housing Services has advised the anti-social aspects of the complaint are currently being investigated and that one resident has been interviewed. This investigation was passed to the Community Safety Hub for investigation.

1.6 The Investigator advised that in April 2021 due to covid restrictions, home visits were not being carried out, however a leaflet drop and calling cards were posted through properties in Foxbar Crescent to encourage residents to make contact, should they wish to, and report any potential anti-social incidents for investigation. An introductory letter was sent to one resident explaining the reason why they were under investigation and informed that their behaviour would be monitored until the conclusion of any court proceedings.

1.7 Since the commencement of the Investigation, Police Scotland had been at Foxbar Crescent on numerous occasions. The petitioner first made contact on 27 April 2021 however, this was a complaint about a garden party by the occupants at another address in Foxbar Crescent.

The Investigator indicated that complaints tended to be generally about the residents of the flats in Foxbar Crescent and not any specific flat. Throughout the investigation there have been general complaints from witnesses regarding the occupants and the aesthetics of the flats in general. A further leaflet drop and calling cards were delivered to houses in the area in August 2021, this again resulted in generalised complaints but none specifically about any named individual.

The Investigator intimated that on 10 December 2021 a warning was issued to an individual due to anti-social behaviour.

1.8 The role of the Board is to consider the petition and take the appropriate action in respect of the petition which will be one of the following: (a) that no action is taken, in which case the reasons will be specified and intimated to the petitioner; (b) that the petition be referred to the relevant director/and or policy board for further investigation, with or without any specific recommendation; or (c) refer the petition to another organisation if the petition relates to that organisation. The principal petitioner, together with one supporter has been invited to attend the meeting.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Board hears from the principal petitioner.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** - none
4. **Legal** – none
5. **Property/Assets** – none
6. **Information Technology** - none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - none

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** - none
10. **Risk** - none.
11. **Privacy Impact** - none
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – not applicable.
13. **Climate Risk** – not applicable

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper - 1 Petition

Author: Paul Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer
Tel: 0141 618 7103 Email: paul.shiach@renfrewshire.gov.uk