

Vice-Chair's Update – ASB Scrutiny Work Group

The ASB Scrutiny Work Group met on 14 March to hold an evidence gathering workshop with Police and Council officers on what was being done in Sandwell to tackle ASB caused by off-road motorbikes.

The Council's CCTV and ASB Operations Manager attended the meeting and representatives from policing teams across Sandwell also attended.

The officers in attendance explained the efforts being taken to address ASB caused by off-road motorbikes. This fell into several broad categories:

- Building intelligence – on trends (such as areas and times where such ASB takes place) and individual cases (models and colours of bikes, identities of riders and addresses).
- Enforcement – including seizing and crushing vehicles, prosecutions and civil measures (e.g. for breach of tenancy agreements).
- Education – such as leaflets, school talks and a forthcoming off-road motorbike accident VR video that would be the first of its kind nationally.

It was clear that there was lots of good partnership working between the Police, the Council and others in Sandwell, however this wasn't always well communicated to councillors or the public.

Following the discussion, the Work Group identified the following recommendations for consideration by the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection be requested to support the continuation of partnership working between the Council and West Midlands Police to tackle off-road motorbike anti-social behaviour.

- (2) That the Director – Housing and Communities work with West Midlands Police to carry out a promotion campaign before the summer to raise awareness of the issues surrounding off-road motorbikes including safety and legal aspects.

- (3) That the Director – Housing and Communities, Executive Director – Resources and West Midlands Police ensure that councillors are kept informed of campaigns relating to community safety, crime and anti-social behaviour so that they can help communicate the campaigns locally.