

Please accept my apologies for no Police representative at the latest Community Council Meeting, there was no one available to attend I'm afraid. We always try our best to make it to the meetings but there will be occasions where we cannot free up, either due to the shift pattern, rest days, annual leave, sickness, duty requirements and emergency shift amendments. Please know we do try our best to make it along.

Can I ask who sent that report onto you? That sounds like it may have come from another department within the Police.

Unfortunately, there is no community Police officer on backshift on 16th September to attend the next meeting. Please accept my apologies but we will get the monthly report to you before then.

Thank you for the photos you sent in. As I mentioned to Jack Caldwell, it would be great if the residents could contact the Police and send photos to the Police at the time of the incident. If there are resources available from our response teams, or if I am in the station and I am made aware of possible drug related activity I will go to the park asap. That's why we need to know when it is happening to catch them in the act.

Regarding the drug dealing in Pilrig Park, I have been working on this for some time, please see below:

- Meeting with Friends of Pilrig Park to discuss the issues
- And Kate Kirkwood from Greenspace to come together to open the dark wooded spots of the park.
- Applying for Police funding through the Deputy Chief Constable programme which was accepted. I was awarded with £4500 to make a Fairy Trail in the wooded area next to the opening from Pilrig Street. This will make it a more family friendly and open space which will help towards building out criminality.
- Contacting Scott Thomson at the council to clear up the overgrown areas.
- In talks with Jack Caldwell regarding a proposal from the council for lighting in the Millennium woods which is scheduled to be done in November/December of this year. I have asked Jack if he has any updates on this.
- My colleagues and I have personally picked up used needles in the area.
- Contacting our Partners & Preventions department to carry out an environmental audit, which means we can pass the result onto the council to make some additions to the park, i.e. turn up the street lighting, cut back the weeds and open the wooded area, CCTV, maybe even a small coffee van in the problematic area.
- Contacting the council to request temp CCTV camera placed at the opening of the park from Pilrig Street.
- Carrying out uniformed patrols.
- Carrying out plain clothes patrols. I was at Pilrig Park on Friday and Saturday this weekend in plain clothes.
- I am going to organise the Police Command vehicle to the park and select a few dates. Its basically a mobile Police Station which will help deter any criminality. And, for any residents who want to come to talk to us about any local issues.

Pilrig Park is my beat and I do my best to get to the park as often as I can alongside my other duties and other problem areas in my beat. My colleagues are all aware of the ongoing issues at Pilrig Park, who also try to get to the park when they can, although they have their own beats to look out for and the parks in the other area of Leith have their own problems too, albeit Pilrig Park is one of the largest in Leith.

I hope this helps to explain to your concerned residents the Police's plans going ahead with Pilrig Park.

If you have any further questions, please let me know,

Regards

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