



Cherryvale Gate Opening – Resident and Elected member discussions

Two meetings were held to discuss and agree the final remedial measures to mitigate against antisocial behaviour arising from the reopening of the gate at Cherryvale Playing Fields.

The meetings were held on 21st October and 17th November 2022.

The following points were discussed and agreed and will be circulated to attendees.

- The decision has been made to reopen the gate at Cherryvale Playing Fields. Council want to work with residents to agree mitigations that will be put in place to help address their concerns.
- The gate will not be opened until the crossing (DFI) and the agreed mitigations are put in place. This includes establishing the tenure of the unadopted section of land.
- The gate will be open from dawn to dusk in line with our parks opening hours.
- Lighting is not considered a necessary mitigation as the gate will be closed at dusk.
- Fencing has been agreed and will be discussed at a site meeting with residents.
- Issues with the gate which was installed in June this year will be investigated, and a second gate will be installed.
- Trees will be pruned back at the sub station.
- There will be increased park warden patrols following the opening of the gate and this will be kept under review.
- CCTV – Council is currently considering a CCTV policy which will inform any future decision in relation to this.
- Should Belfast City Council decide on 24hours opening for their parks, it will be a member decision if playing fields are included in this.
- Residents have been given elected member and council contact numbers (028 9032 0202) and advised to ring 101 to report incidents of concern.
- Park Warden teams cannot issue fines for dogs off leads.
- Noted that other councils have introduced legal exclusions where dogs are unallowed in playgrounds and playing fields. (Derry/Strabane and Lisburn/Castlereagh)
- If there is damage to property, it will be investigated on an individual basis. BCC cannot agree to pay for damages.
- Council officers have agreed to site visits with residents where necessary and continued engagement re timelines.
- Agreed site visit to residents property to agree on materials alongside the boundary on Knockbreda road side of gate.
- BCC Health and Safety personnel will carry out a risk assessment prior to opening.
- Belfast Agenda – Council is working to make our parks and open spaces safe, welcoming and accessible places that can be enjoyed by all.
- BCC officers will engage with DFI in reference to the crossing.
- Agreement that the gate opening will be kept under review.