

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: PETITION REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF A NEW SHRUB BED PLANTED TO PREVENT BALL GAMES IN THE OPEN SPACE AT INCHWOOD DRIVE, CUMBERNAULD
From: HEAD OF LAND SERVICES		
Date: 22 AUGUST 2007	Ref: KW/PD	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the position relating to the petition submitted by residents of Inchwood Drive, Cumbernauld for the removal of a new shrub bed planted to prevent ball games in the open space at Inchwood Drive, Cumbernauld.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council's Grounds Maintenance and Estates Section received a request from a resident of Inchwood Drive, Cumbernauld for a change in the landscape to prevent ball games being played on the landscaped area adjacent to 15-39 Inchwood Road.

2.2 In accordance with the existing ball games procedure all the residents adjacent to the landscaped area were lettered, requesting that they state their views on the proposals that shrubs would be planted within the grass area to prevent ball games being played on the questionnaire provided.

2.3 The questionnaires were duly returned with 7 being in favour of the changes 3 against and 4 not replying. On the basis of this outcome it was agreed that the landscape change would occur as part of the winter work programme for 2006/07 and the residents and local ward member were lettered to inform them of the outcome of the survey. No objections were raised at the time.

2.4 In April 2007 Grounds Maintenance and Estates staff planted the shrubs within the former grass area. However, several residents expressed their concern that the shrubs were being planted and during the weekend after the conclusion of the works all the shrubs were removed and dumped in nearby structure planting.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Residents informed Grounds Maintenance and Estates that they would get a petition signed to prevent the replanting of the bed. After discussion with the local ward member it was agreed not to replant the bed at that time. Local residents have subsequently grassed over the area themselves.

- 3.2 A petition was received by North Lanarkshire Council requesting that the area be returned to grass for children to play on as those signing the petition felt that they wished to see their children play in the vicinity of their own homes.
- 3.3 The petition contained the names of all those residents who previously had not returned their survey questionnaires and one resident who had changed their opinion on the subject plus those residents who were originally against the proposal. Therefore the current position is 8 against with 6 for the landscape change.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Committee agrees that the area in Inchwood Road, Cumbernauld will henceforth be maintained as a grass area. In addition, approval is given to Grounds Maintenance and Estates staff to modify the existing procedure to inform residents being surveyed that un-returned questionnaires will be considered as votes for the proposal to either erect 'No Ball Games' signs or to make landscape changes to prevent ball games being played.



Kenneth Wilson
Head of Land Services

Members seeking further information on this report, please contact Kenneth Wilson, Head of Land Services (0141 304 1846).