



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Feedback from Museum volunteers and restaurant staff about installing a lockable bollard(s) in Sparrows Nest

Meeting: Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee

Date: 18 February 2020

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON CONFIDENTIAL

Background/Introduction

Having agreed that it would like to explore the idea of lockable bollards at Sparrows Nest and Kensington Gardens, to prevent unauthorised vehicular access, the Assets, Inclusion and Development (AID) Committee requested that feedback be sought from stakeholders (specifically Museum volunteers and restaurant/tea room staff regularly accessing Sparrows Nest) to see how they would be affected.

Details

The AID Committee first considered the idea of lockable bollards at its meeting on 19 August 2019 (item 111.5d). This was initially for two entrances at Kensington Gardens, following incidents of fly-tipping, but was extended to Sparrows Nest (the entrance adjacent to the Maritime Museum), following reports of unauthorised vehicular access.

East Suffolk Norse recommended a model priced at £191.96 (+VAT) each, including installation, and at its meeting on 30 September 2019 (item 139.2), the AID Committee made a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee or Full Council to purchase three bollards (two for Kensington Gardens and one for Sparrows Nest).

However, at a subsequent AID Committee meeting (4 November 2019 – item 180.1), it was queried whether the gates at Sparrows Nest could be just be closed, instead of a bollard being installed. It was agreed that views would be sought from stakeholders.

The Committee Clerk has sought the views of the Museum volunteers and café/restaurant staff and has received the following responses:

Maritime Museum

‘I am one of the volunteer staff at the Maritime Museum at Sparrows Nest. I have noticed an increase in the number of vehicles entering and parking within the gates. It appears to be via the northern gate, with little or no entrance via the gate by the museum. I would suggest that closing / locking one of the double gates at the northern entrance may be the first step to deter inappropriate parking. This could be done at little, or no cost and may well resolve the issue’.

Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum

'We have historically had permission from WDC to park vehicles adjacent to our museum and were issued with cards to display in the windscreen, I think there were 3, possibly 4 issued and were/are used by our older and less mobile volunteers. When we have work carried out either as a one off or routine maintenance contracts the work vehicles are also driven to our premises to facilitate the use of tools etc. The gate we use for access to the park is the gate adjacent to the Maritime Museum.

We would certainly appreciate being able to bring cars to the museum which would be 3 on 3 mornings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). From what we have seen, the entrance we use and our cars have not posed a problem - at least not that we are aware of whereas the main entrance does seem to get some "casual" use by Joe Public.

From what we can see, those of us who use the gate by the Maritime Museum are the only ones who do so whereas the main gate seems to be a free for all hence the bollards erected near the cafe and by the Movie Theatre to stop general access to the park.

From our point of view we do not see the need for bollards etc on our side of the park but if the Council decide to put some in we will live with it.'

War Memorial Museum

'Many of our volunteers are elderly or blue badge holders so any barrier will be a problem. Also we haven't been issued new car passes since the formation of the town council'.

Martello/Giardino

The Committee Clerk has spoken with the management staff. They have said there are members of the public who can cause a nuisance by parking where they shouldn't (particularly when visiting Martello) and this can sometimes lead to the café's bins not being collected, as the operatives cannot get access to the bin store. The staff do politely ask customers not to park inside Sparrows Nest, but as these are customers they do not want to turn people away. The Martello staff have suggested putting notes on windscreens or erecting clearer signage to say that parking is prohibited. This is perhaps something that our Community Wardens could monitor. The staff would prefer not to have a bollard erected, as they receive multiple deliveries, sometimes several a day, and it would become a burden on staff to have to keep locking and unlocking a bollard. They also believe that with the amount of legitimate traffic which uses the park each day (museum volunteers and Norse staff, etc), it would get to a stage where the bollard would not be locked again after each use anyway, thus rendering it ineffectual.

Recommendations/Decision

Based on the feedback received, the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee is requested to consider whether the installation of a lockable bollard, or alternative security arrangement, such as shutting the gates, should be progressed or not, and make a recommendation to the AID Committee as such.