

Title of Report:	Councillor Call for Action – Hildens Drive, Tilehurst, car park	Item 6
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission	
Date of Meeting:	31 March 2015	

Purpose of Report:

1. To advise the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission of the receipt of a Councillor Call for Action in respect of the Hildens Drive, Tilehurst, car park.
2. To obtain a decision on whether the item should be added to the Commission's work programme.

Recommended Action: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission considers the addition of the Councillor Call for Action to the Commission's work programme.

Key background documentation Councillor Call for Action Protocol

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Executive report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission has received a request to consider a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA), in accordance with the Council Protocol for the handling of such. The CCfA relates to the Hildens Drive, Tilehurst, car park.
- 1.2 This report provides a general background on CCfA, the outcomes required by the proposing Ward Members and the factors to be taken into consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC).

2. Councillor Calls for Action

- 2.1 The Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) is a mechanism that provides elected members of the Council with the opportunity to ask for discussions at scrutiny committees on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.
- 2.2 CCfA is not guaranteed to provide a solution to a problem but can provide:
 - A public forum for discussion of the issues
 - An opportunity to discuss the issues in a balanced way
 - An opportunity to discuss the problem with the explicit and sole aim of providing an appropriate recommendation
 - A high profile process owned by the ward councillor.
- 2.3 All of these factors can make resolution easier to achieve.

3. Hildens Drive car park

- 3.1 The Ward Members, Councillors Emma Webster and Tony Linden (Birch Copse), report in their submission (Appendix A) that the site has for many years been completely neglected and suffered from anti social behaviour including fly tipping. Councillors Webster and Linden also cite the activity that has been undertaken by numerous individuals over the course of many years to address the problem. The written evidence cited in the letter from Councillors Webster and Linden is available to the members of the OSMC on request from the Scrutiny and Partnerships Manager.

4. Considerations for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

- 4.1 Councillors Webster and Linden have been invited to set out the details in support of their request to the Commission's meeting.
- 4.2 In accordance with the CCfA protocol, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission should give consideration to the following questions when deciding whether to accept this subject as suitable for investigation by the Commission:

- (a) Does the CCfA relate to a single locality?

- (b) Have all other methods of resolution been exhausted?
- (c) Is the required outcome sufficiently defined?
- (d) Do any of the CCfA specific exclusions apply?
- (e) Will the OSMC's involvement be able to contribute to the issue's resolution?

4.3 Should the OSMC agree that the matter should be accepted for review, consideration should then be given to the most appropriate method. Options may include:

- (a) the establishment of a time limited task group; or
- (b) the examination of the subject as a full Commission.

5. Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission considers the addition of the Councillor Call for Action to the Commission's work programme.

Appendices

Appendix A – Letter from Councillor Webster, 24 February 2015