

Former Fairham Community College / School update

Community Protection is responsible for providing the security services and functions within Nottingham City Council including that of vacant or derelict sites/buildings owned by NCC; Fairham Community College (Fairham School) being one of these. The site has been fully secured in line with the insurance requirements regarding a derelict site, the whole perimeter fence line is secure, all buildings at ground floor level are locked, sheeted or boarded. The site is covered by CCTV motion sensor cameras which alert Community Protection when there are individuals on site and just recently there has been a CCTV pan tilt zoom 4g camera installed to aid in evidence gathering for criminal activity on site. There is also daytime and evening visits carried out by CP. Even with this in place there is still damage and forced entry happening regularly at a cost to NCC to repair and replace.

Fairham has been increasingly targeted over the last six months by young persons to gain access to the site to in the main cause damage to the buildings on site. This has included breaking and entering, smashing windows, damaging and forcing open security doors, sheets and boarding off entry points and damaging the internal buildings. The worst incident has resulted in a large fire and there has been at least two other know minor fires before this. The criminals have also targeted the CCTV cameras on site; either damaging them or stealing them – this has also added to the overall cost of the site.

There have been arrests made by the police in relation to the larger fire and there have been words of advice, warning letters and parental warnings delivered by Community Protection to individuals found trespassing on the school site.

There is a high social media footprint in relation to Fairham; there are Facebook groups/pages, instagram entries and youtube video uploads relating to the site – which increases young people's interest in gaining entry to the old school buildings. The internal buildings have been destroyed and loose items including flammables discarded in the corridors causing hazards to all that enter.

In summary as long as the school buildings are still standing on site there will be young people trying to access them, endangering themselves and others in the process. The site will continue to be a pressure on CP, Police and Fire resources and a budget pressure for NCC property. The only suitable option is to flatten the buildings on site, removing any eyeline obstructions ie overgrown brushes and insure the perimeter fence line is fully complete and secure. This would make sure that the site is safe for the Clifton community and would leave the site ready for any future development.

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