

Communication between BARRA, The Police, LBBD and Tandem Property Asset Management, barking Riverside managing agent (August 2022 to February 2023) regarding dangerous dog attacks on Barking Riverside estate

Gary.Jones2@met.police.uk <gary.jones2@met.police.uk>

To: jjones@tandem-property.com, ghoughton@tandem-property.com, mcarpen@barkingriverside.london, matthewcarpen@barkingriversideltd.org, ca meron.geddes@lbbd.gov.uk and 4 more...

Cc: jordan.poole2@met.police.uk, mark.chapman@met.police.uk, safwan.bakth@met.police.uk, matt.a.everett@met.police.uk

Mon, 6 Feb at 20:18

Dear Ms Batista and Partners

The following are the incidents involving dogs with brief summaries that have happened over the last six months in the area of Thames View and Barking Riverside wards:

02/02/2023 – Ref 5102228/23 - Dog jumped over a fence out onto the street and bit a member of the public – Bastable Avenue – dog seized and owner spoken to, investigation ongoing.

01/02/2023 – Ref 5102513/23 – Stray dog attacked a man walking on Galleons Drive.

10/12/2022 – Ref 5123888/22 – 2 German Shepherds being walked on the lead, one of them bit a male walking past them. Outside Rippleside Industrial Estate.

01/12/2022 – Ref 5122641/22 – 2 dogs entered rear garden of house and killed a cat. Curzon Crescent. Breed similar to Husky.

24/11/2022 – Ref 5122464/11 – 2 German Shepherds being walked on the lead, one bit a male. Renwick Road.

01/08/2022 – Ref 5116973/22 – Yorkshire Terrier got into next door's garden and bit two residents. Roycraft Avenue.

17/07/2022 – Ref 5113430/22 – A Staffordshire Bull Terrier was being walked on a lead and slipped its leash and attacked another dog being walked. The Staff bit the dog walker trying to defend their dog.

I don't want to discourage a PSPO but I'm not sure any of these incidents would have been prevented by a PSPO with a condition to only walk dogs on leads.

Also I'm no expert on PSPO's so correct me if I'm wrong, but should the PSPO be gained and breached we will be able to take legal action against anyone breaching. This will leave questions about what whether there would be any power to seize the dog if there are no issues other than the breach of the PSPO and what would then happen to the dog if it were seized.

Police only have processes for dealing with dogs that have been seized due to being dangerously out of control in a public place or being a banned breed.

If anyone needs any assistance from police at any time with anything in relation to this then please let me know.

Ms Batista – if you could let your local contacts know that if they see a stray dog that is acting aggressively or that anyone is worried may attack someone I am happy for you to dial 999 for police to come and get it before someone gets hurt.

Regards

Gary Jones 1856EA
Barking Riverside SNT

John Jones <jjones@tandem-property.com>

To: Venilia, Gemma Houghton, helpdesk@envirotechfm.com

Cc: Barking Riverside, Matthew Carpen, Matthew Carpen, Councillor Geddes Cameron, sally.jones@lbbd.gov.uk and 4 more...

Mon, 6 Feb at 12:57

Venilia, thank you for setting out the background to these serious issues. This is understandably of considerable concern to residents and therefore we will review the details provided as a priority so that we can establish the best action we can take as Estate Managers to help address the concerns. We will review the matter with BRL this week and consult with the block owners/agents as well as LBBD to ensure a collaborative approach.

Regards

John Jones

Councillor Geddes Cameron <cameron.geddes@lbbd.gov.uk>

To: Venilia, John Jones, ghoughton@tandem-property.com, helpdesk@envirotechfm.com

Cc: Barking Riverside, Matthew Carpen, Matthew Carpen, Sally Denise Jones, sntkg-thames@met.police.uk and 1 more...

Mon, 6 Feb at 12:32

Dear Venilia,

I have asked the council officers to comment in whether a PSPO might be feasible under the circumstances and have also alerted my two ward colleagues to the issue.

Best wishes,

Cameron

Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>

To: John Jones, ghoughton@tandem-property.com, helpdesk@envirotechfm.com

Cc: Barking Riverside, Matthew Carpen, Matthew Carpen, Councillor Geddes Cameron, sally.jones@lbbd.gov.uk and 2 more...

Mon, 6 Feb at 11:34

Dear John,
I hope all is well.

I'm forwarding this email chain between the council and the residents association regarding a dog attack last summer on Phase 2 of the estate. One of many, unfortunately.

Sadly another dog attack has occurred on Galleons Drive on the night of Thursday 2 February on Galleons Drive/Sedge Gardens.

The victim, a dog owner himself, spent most of the rest of his night in hospital tending to wounds inflicted by this out of control dog (see images attached of injuries to himself and his own dog, along with a post on social media by a friend/neighbour asking for more information).

Several residents, including myself, have seen this dog (see image of similar dog attached) around the area quite often without a lead, which is highly dangerous in a residential area where many families with young children reside.

You will agree that this is of the utmost urgency and needs to be dealt with as soon as possible.

On the last dog attack of Thursday night, the dog owner in question is believed to reside on Lawes Way and to be a Southern Housing/L&Q resident.

The residents association has asked the victim to reach out to Tandem directly for further information.

The residents association is therefore asking that Tandem contact Southern Housing/L&Q to immediately take action on the resident involved.

As you may or may not know, I myself was a victim of a dog attack five years ago, while on a walk with my six-year old daughter and my own dog by my side. This is a terrorising experience for a mother of a young child, especially during a time of heightened awareness of several dog attacks nationwide where unfortunately some have been fatal.

The residents association has for several years now been asking the council for Barking Riverside estate to be placed under a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in which it would force all dog owners to walk their dogs on a lead at all times, otherwise be punishable by law - whether by a fine or court prosecution, which could in a worst case scenario lead to removing or even destroying dangerous dogs.

For background, four serious incidents occurred before my attack in 2017 by the same same staff/pit bull dog around the Galleons Drive area but unfortunately the dog owner was never found because he always fled the scene.

Please see more relevant screenshots of social media discussions documenting such dog attacks as well as stray dogs. As you can agree, there have been far too many sightings of unattended dogs around the area for the past few years. While some dogs may not be as aggressive, it is certainly a constant danger for those more vulnerable, especially children.

There was also a smaller dog that resided on Harlequin Close, opposite Ernest Websdale House that has attacked several people, including an elderly woman and nearly went for a small child a couple of years ago.

On Phase 2 of the estate there has been another dog that has attacked several people on Fielders Crescent and on Footpath 47, which runs along the BRL office, near the river (see more images of social media discussions about these attacks).

As you can see from the attached emails, the residents association filed a complaint with the council via Councillor Cameron Geddes after I had a discussion with him about the increased number of dog attacks in the area demanding that a PSPO is put in place forcing people to always walk dogs with a lead.

The residents association urges Tandem once again to contact Southern Housing/L&Q to immediately take action on the resident involved and to contact the council and the Community Safety Team to help with the implementation of a PSPO on the estate.

I look forward to your response and support on this.

Best regards,
Venilia Amorim
Secretary
Barking Reach Residents Association

From: Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>
To: sally.jones@lbbd.gov.uk <sally.jones@lbbd.gov.uk>
Cc: Gary.Jones2@met.police.uk <gary.jones2@met.police.uk>; SNTKG-Thames@met.police.uk <sntkg-thames@met.police.uk>; Councillor Geddes Cameron <cameron.geddes@lbbd.gov.uk>; Barking Reach Residents Association <barkingriversideresidents@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2023 at 21:13:23 GMT
Subject: Dangerous Dogs on Barking Riverside - Complaint (ref: 26199482)

Dear Sally and Gary,
I hope all is well.

I'm just following up on this to see what the update is with the Public Spaces Protection Order.

Unfortunately since Gary's letter last summer to Councillor Geddes following a complaint filed by the Barking Reach Residents Association which oversees the Barking Riverside estate, several more attacks have happened on the estate, including one just last night on Galleons Drive (the victim has filed a report with the police so details should be on file).

I must urge the community safety team to act as swiftly as possible, especially at a time of such heightened national media reports of cases where dogs have attacked adults, children and indeed other dogs, in some cases, unfortunately fatally.

Having been a victim of a dog attack myself four years ago, while on a walk with my six-year old daughter and my own dog by my side I know the terror every single victim has felt upon such horrific attacks.

Do please get in touch with me or another committee member of the residents association as soon as possible.

Best regards,
Venilia Amorim
Secretary
Barking Reach residents Association

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sally Jones <sally.jones@lbbd.gov.uk>
To: "veniliabatista@yahoo.com" <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 12 August 2022 at 07:31:28 BST
Subject: Complaint (ref: 26199482)



Good Morning
Please see attached the response to your complaint

Yours faithfully

Sally Jones
Members and Complaints Officer

Councillor Cameron Geddes
By email

Barking Town Hall
Town Hall Square
1 Clockhouse Avenue
Barking
E011 1LJ
Phone: 020 0215 3000
Email: membersfeedback@btd.gov.uk
Website: www.btd.gov.uk

Reference: 20190482

Date: 11 August 2022

Dear Councillor Geddes,

Re: 20190482 – Dangerous Dogs.

Thank you for your correspondence received 03 August 2022. I understand that your enquiry has been made regarding dangerous dogs.

I am now able to provide you with the following response to your questions raised.

1. **Can the Council or Tandem on behalf of BRL take measures against dangerous dogs?**

The Council does not take action against dangerous dogs, this function sits with the Police and the Dog Legislation Officer (DLO). All dangerous dogs must be reported to the Police who will instruct the DLO to investigate.

2. **Can it be insisted upon that all dogs be leashed? If a dog were unleashed to whom should it be reported?**

I believe in order to enforce such it would need to be included within a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). You can use a PSPO to stipulate what people should or should not do, such as always keep dogs on a lead, only walk maximum number of dogs at a time, always carry dog waste bags.

Regarding putting a PSPO in place, this is a discussion that will need to take place with the Community Safety team. A referral has been made to our Community Safety team to review the case and update you on the matter.

3. **Whose responsibility would it be to collect a loose dog on Riverside (so to whom should residents report such a dog)?**

The Council are responsible for stray dogs, any straying dogs should be reported to the dog warden service.

I hope that this response clarifies the situation for you but if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Gary Jones - Head of Regulatory and Enforcement Services – Law and Governance