

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

14th July 2020

AGENDA ITEM 8.5 – SECURITY AT THE IROS PARKING SPACES

1. Report

- 1.1 The black gates at the IROS have, as members know, been closed for a period of weeks. Originally this was as a result of advice from a member of the Police, who was attending at the time of the severe visitor problems. His thought was that reducing the number of spaces available to visitors would tend to reduce the attraction of the lake to visitors from outside the parish. That view is arguable of course, and differing persons have different opinions, some expressed more publicly than others.
- 1.2 However the particular reason for keeping the gates closed was because that area of parking spaces is also used, from time to time, by young persons for the use, and possibly dealing, of drugs, as well as the consumption of alcohol.
- 1.3 One reason this has taken place is that the spaces are overhung with trees and relatively secluded, especially in the evenings.
- 1.4 As a result, the tree consultant the Council has used in the last couple of years has been asked to quote for the removal of vegetation here so that it becomes more open to public view and informal observation. His fee proposal is provided at item 10.2, on the Private agenda.
- 1.5 If that work is carried out, it may be practicable to install some form of CCTV surveillance of this area to discourage further its use for nefarious purposes. Members' authority is requested to explore this possibility further.
- 1.6 In the context of the above, members are asked whether they would wish the gates to be reopened and at what point.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That members agree the principle of removing some of the vegetation overhanging and screening the area in question, and that authority be given to investigate further the provision of CCTV coverage for this area.
- 2.2 That members consider the action to be taken in respect of the black gates.