HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Antisocial Behaviour Team
BCP Council

26 October 2026

Dear Antisocial Behaviour Team,

I am writing on behalf of residents living around Swanmore Gardens, and particularly the Swanmore Gardens Community Group, to raise serious concerns about ongoing antisocial behaviour affecting the gardens and pavilion, and to request coordinated action from BCP Council and its partners.

Residents have reported a range of persistent problems, including vandalism and damage to the pavilion, gardens and surrounding areas, including incidents involving fire; drug use and associated activities; and alcohol consumption accompanied by antisocial behaviour.

These incidents are causing understandable concern about the safety and wellbeing of residents, visitors and those who use the gardens. They also threaten the preservation of the pavilion and gardens, which are valued community assets that local residents are working hard to protect and improve.

I would therefore be grateful if the Council could consider the following requests from the Swanmore Gardens Community Group:

1. **CCTV installation:** Undertake a formal feasibility assessment of council-managed CCTV at suitable locations within the gardens, particularly around the pavilion, entrances and areas affected by antisocial behaviour or damage.
2. **Community safety assessment:** Conduct a review of the issues affecting the gardens, taking account of reported incidents and identifying appropriate preventative measures to improve safety and deter further antisocial behaviour.
3. **Police and PCSO involvement:** Engage with the local Dorset Police Neighbourhood Policing Team and Police Community Support Officer to consider how policing resources, including increased patrols where appropriate, could help address these concerns.
4. **Protection of the gardens and pavilion:** Work closely with the Council's Green Spaces Team to identify practical measures to prevent further vandalism and damage, safeguarding these important community assets for future generations.
5. **Funding opportunities:** Explore potential grants, external funding opportunities and existing council resources that could support CCTV installation and other necessary community safety improvements.

6. **Homelessness outreach:** Refer the individual reportedly sleeping rough within the gardens to the appropriate homelessness outreach services, ensuring they are offered suitable advice, assistance and support.
7. **Securing the gardens overnight:** Investigate reinstating the previous arrangements for closing the gardens' gates between dusk and dawn, which residents understand were in place before the Covid-19 pandemic. I understand that responsibility for securing the gates may previously have been shared between local residents and the Council, and would welcome clarification of whether a similar arrangement could be reintroduced.

Beyond these individual measures, I believe a coordinated approach involving the Council, police and local community will be essential to delivering lasting improvements.

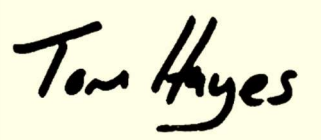
I would therefore like to request a joint meeting at Swanmore Gardens, bringing together representatives from the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Team, Green Spaces Team and other relevant services, alongside local policing representatives, the Swanmore Gardens Community Group and my office. This would provide an opportunity to examine the problems firsthand, discuss practical solutions and agree a clear plan of action.

The Swanmore Gardens Community Group has demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting and improving this much-loved local space. It is important that their efforts are supported by the relevant public authorities, and that residents can feel confident that their concerns are being taken seriously.

I would be grateful for a written response addressing the proposals above, together with confirmation of whether the Council would be willing to help coordinate the requested site meeting.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I look forward to working constructively with the Council and local residents to ensure Swanmore Gardens remains a safe, welcoming and well-maintained space for everyone.

Kind regards,



Tom Hayes MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East