

Forth Valley Community Planning Partnerships

OASIS – Online AntiSocial Information Sharing

Introduction

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) is a high profile issue in today's society. Tackling ASB is not the responsibility of a single organisation. In fact, Council services, the police and fire services are all making use of new and existing powers to deal with it. As a result, information relating to ASB is being collected and stored within different local systems and this makes it difficult to get a clear picture of what is happening - and to coordinate a response.

Recognising that effective management of ASB can only happen through a partnership approach; Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, and Stirling Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are working together with Forth Valley GIS to improve this situation. The use of GIS presents a major opportunity since almost all ASB activities have a location-based component (e.g. property address, fly tipping, graffiti or vandalism incident locations). Not only does this lend itself to the improved visualisation of ASB incidents and more advanced spatial analysis, it also promotes possibilities for sharing information between partners.

Under a project funded by the Scottish Improvement Service, Forth Valley GIS are developing a web-based system to allow staff who deal with aspects of antisocial behaviour to share potentially useful information with their colleagues across the partnership.

Requirements

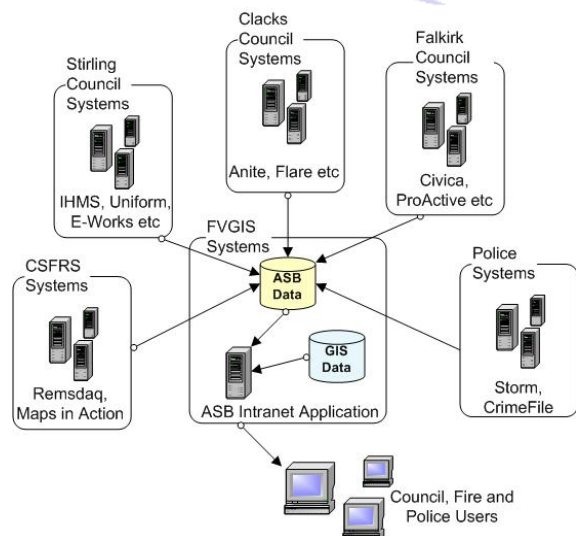
The key requirements were identified during an early period of user consultation.



The overall aim is to provide a system that will improve the way that ASB can be monitored, analysed and reported on by staff across all three CPPs.

To achieve this, the system must provide:

- Secure access to reliable (up-to-date and accurate) ASB-related data



- A mix of web and desktop access – to provide access for different levels of ‘users’ – including managers, practitioners and analysts
- GIS integration – to support data sharing, spatial analysis and area-based reporting

Approach

The project is building on an earlier study carried out by Stirling CPP and Forth Valley GIS. This scoping exercise highlighted the full range and complexity of ASB related business processes and associated data. Now extended to three Local Authority areas, the project presents multi-agency working on a grand scale.

In recognition of this, and that the system needs to accommodate an emerging legislative situation, this work is being taken forward as a pilot application. The pilot aims to demonstrate the benefits that a GIS-based approach can lend to information sharing.

Development has focused around three key stages of system design, development and rollout. There has been significant user consultation from the start.

Solution

In order to avoid any prohibitive licensing costs OASIS (the **O**nline **A**nti**S**ocial **I**nformation **S**ystem) is being developed using a combination of the Open Source PHP programming environment and Map Guide Enterprise.

Where possible the application has avoided additional development time by building on existing technical infrastructure (e.g. the use of the tri-Council Spatial Data Warehouse – GeoStore – as the ‘hub’ of the application).

Three main areas of functionality provide a focus to the pilot system:

- An interactive mapping interface which allows users to view and report on incidents of antisocial behaviour from a wide variety of sources (e.g. Central Scotland Police incident records and Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Services ‘malicious fires’ data etc)

- A register of all legal interventions used in relation to ASB (e.g. ASBOs, Fixed Penalty Notices etc)
- Online access to more detailed information request forms (developed as part of the Forth Valley ASB Information Sharing Protocol).

Data is sourced from a wide variety of sources and systems. Significant effort has been invested in working with partners towards improving the quality of available data. Issues included:

- Inconsistent classification of ASB information and lack of incident tracking
- Poor geographic referencing and inadequately defined reporting geographies

Where possible, standardised data formats such as BS7666 (as used for the Councils Corporate Address Gazetteers) have been promoted to improve data consistency and to facilitate exchange with the central ‘hub’.

The OASIS system will transform how the police and partners in Forth Valley deal with antisocial behaviour. Having access to such a comprehensive picture of ASB in the Forth Valley area will allow partners to work together and deploy our resources more efficiently

– Superintendent Gary Lawrie, Stirling Area Commander,

Central Scotland Police

Benefits

OASIS will be rolled out to a group of pilot users in the autumn. The anticipated benefits of the proposed approach include:

