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Your ref:
Our ref:

Date: 3 July 2007

Dear Dr. Willison

RE: LEEDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2007

I refer to your letter dated 1st June 2007 with regards relevant advice from the Leeds Local Access Forum (LLAF) towards future Gating Orders. Firstly, as the promoter of these Gating Orders, we would like to apologise for not being present at the last LLAF meeting. As the process for these orders is still relatively new, we were unsure if we needed to attend every LLAF meeting, and thus we attended an alternative meeting instead. As the promoter of these orders, we recognise that there is a legal duty to attend these meetings to formally represent any proposed Gating Orders. In future we will ensure there is no further lack of attendance on our part.

In answer to your request for further info, we provide the following responses in the hope that these will address some of the questions asked by the Forum with regards future Gating Orders and we will of course attend the next meeting to respond to any questions.

1) How are the areas selected for Gating Orders?

Leeds Community Safety has agreed to only apply for Gating Orders for Back roads (carriageways) and not alleyways / ginnels / paths, etc. Roads are identified either proactively or reactively. Most sites identified fall into the latter category, and referrals for these come from agencies / departments and relevant individuals who have to deal with the problems in this road on a day to day basis.

Once a back road has been identified, the crime and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) stats for that area are collated (for the last 2 years). We would be looking for a clear indication that crime and / or ASB is rising at this location and make enquiries to find out why. We would also need to know what has been done in the area to combat this rise and find out why alleygating is seen as necessary. A comparison should also be

carried out with neighbouring streets to find out if the referred back road is the main area for rising crime and / or ASB.

We would also identify if the site falls within a Police hotspot area for a particular crime. Each Police division identifies which beat is a hotspot for each crime (burglary / robbery / vehicle crime, etc). As alleygating is primarily about reducing domestic burglary, we would be looking to see if it falls within a hotspot area for burglary firstly.

Another deciding factor, although less so is if the site falls within a Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) which has a crime domain that is within the worst 10% of the total LSOA's across the country (32,000 LSOA's in total).

We would also look to compare if crime at the identified site is rising in comparison with crime in the electoral ward.

A final factor in deciding if a site is eligible for gating orders is to ensure it is a back road which serves predominantly through-terraced properties. The highway should also be adopted for it to warrant a gating order and there should be alternative routes near to the proposed site.

2) What is the process for reviewing the Gating Orders?

We have agreed to review each alleygating scheme on an annual basis. This will be to evaluate the impact of the gates and to find out if the site needs the gates any longer for the purposes of crime reduction. To decide this we would:

- Check the crime stats for the year that gates have been in place to see if they have brought about a reduction in crime and / or ASB.
- We would look at the crime stats for other, neighbouring streets to assess if the gates have caused a displacement of crime and ASB to neighbouring locations.
- Consult with all residents, tenants and property owners for their comments regarding the alleygates. We would also ask for their opinions on removing the gates, should crime have gone down at the gated site over the year.
- Liaise with Police to see if the site remained in a hotspot area, and also to see what other work had been undertaken in the area to bring down crime, or not as the case may be.

3)What is meant by an 'affected area'?

Apologies for the confusion this term has caused. It is simply meant to mean the highway that has been proposed for alleygating.

4)More robust reporting of the crime statistics. How will we present this?

Subject to approval of the forum members, we would look to provide the following information as a means of presenting the crime stats for the proposed alleygating site:

- Show the total crime figures for the site, over the last 2 years, to include stats for adjacent streets to the highway in question. Where possible, we would try to show all crimes that have been attributed to the problem highway in question.
- Show a comparison of stats for neighbouring highways over the same period of time.
- We would provide the crime figures for the Police division and the Police beat that the problem site falls into.

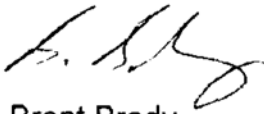
- We would provide crime figures for the electoral ward for the last 2 years to highlight trends in crime and / or ASB.

If necessary, we would look to provide information and possibly maps identifying police hotspot areas. We would also look to provide evidence that the problem site was or had been within a Police dispersal order area, and the conditions of the order.

Much is dependent on the depth of information required by the forum members and how they would want the information to be presented. I'm sure this can be addressed at the next meeting, and for now hope that the information provided is of use to you and the forum members for consideration before the next meeting on the 17th July 2007.

If you require any further information before the next meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number above.

Yours sincerely



Brent Brady
Alleygating Coordinator
Leeds Community Safety