

To the Chief Highways Officer

Date:

Subject: Review of Gating Order – Oakham Way

Electoral Wards Affected:

Seacroft and Killingbeck

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

Leeds Community Safety (LCS) is promoting the installation of gates across *Leeds* to temporarily close highways suffering from persistent levels of crime and / or anti-social behaviour (ASB). As per the current legislation, LCS has carried out an annual review of the Alleygating scheme and any associated Gating Orders to footpaths in the Seacroft and Killingbeck ward (see Appendix 1 – photos).

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Chief Highways Officer of the outcome of the annual review and to support the recommendations made in the review.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Section 129A to 129G of the Highways Act allows for the making of a gating order to temporary closure a highway in response to high levels of anti-social behavior. The legal provision came into effect on 1st April 2006. The adopted status of the highway is unchanged by the order.

2.2 *Gating Order 25 was granted for footpath in the Seacroft and Killingbeck ward on 14th November 2008. As per requirements set out in the relevant legislation within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, it is the responsibility of the promoting department to carry out an annual review of the gating order to assess its use in reducing persistent crime and / or ASB.*

- 2.3 As per any gating order to a relevant highway, the status of the highway shall remain unchanged. As a result of the review carried out, recommendations can be made by the promoter to either:
- Continue with gating of the Highway for a further period of time (to be specified);
 - Continue with the gating but keep gates locked open for a period of no less than 3 months to allow for monitoring of the site and to establish if there is further need for the gates; or
 - Revoke the gating order and remove the temporary restriction.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The review process - methodology

- 3.1.1 The review process will need to take in several factors in order to satisfactorily assess their use and value. The first stage of the review process is to obtain both recorded and reported crime and ASB adjacent and adjoining the site under review for the 12 months before and 12 months after the gating order came into operation.
- 3.1.2 The views of the local Neighbourhood Police Team Inspector must be obtained in order to assess their opinions regarding the gating order.
- 3.1.3 The views of local ward members should also be gained.
- 3.1.4 A postal consultation, lasting no longer than 28 days, should be carried out with a random selection of residents affected by the gating order(s) unless numbers affected are low enough in order to enable consultation with all affected residents.
- 3.1.5 Where possible, a site visit should be carried out in order to gain a greater understanding of the effect of the alleygates in the area under review. This should take in factors including the appearance of the gated site, any damage to gates, whether gates have been left open, etc.

3.2 The review process – outcomes

- 3.2.1 **Crime Statistics** - The primary reason for the gating up of a highway is to reduce the opportunity to commit acquisitive crime which includes:
- Domestic burglary
 - Burglary other (can include sheds, outbuildings, etc)
 - Robbery
 - Vehicle crime

Alleygating is not exclusively used for these issues and can often be associated with the reduction of other crimes and Anti-Social Behaviour. It is also used to reduce environmental issues such as flytipping and littering.

- 3.2.2 The crime stats for the review area have been obtained for the 12 months BEFORE the gating order November 2007, and 12 months AFTER the gating order has been in place October 2009 (see appendix 2- crime stats).
- 3.2.3 Recorded crime across Leeds for the period 12 months after the gating order was down on the figure recorded 12 months before the order (from 83586 recorded crimes to 79315)

- 3.2.4 Recorded crime for 2008-2009, across the Seacroft and Killingbeck ward was also down on the year before by 3% (from 4165 crimes to 4045 crimes). In comparison, recorded crime for the gated streets actually dropped by 29%.
- 3.2.5 In terms of individual Acquisitive crimes for which alleygating is particularly used for, burglary dwelling in the review area dropped 13% (from 8 to 7), damage to dwelling dropped by 50% (from 2 to 1), theft from motor vehicle fell (from 1 to 0) and damage to motor vehicle saw a decrease of 67% (from 3 to 1).
- 3.3 **Consultation** – Consultation was carried out with all 87 properties directly affected by the gating order. There were a total of 13 replies received, of which all were in favour of keeping the gating order in place for a further timescale and none opposed to the gating order (see Appendix 3 –resident comments sheet).
- 3.3.1 Of those in favour, many commented that youths are not gathering anymore and causing nuisance. It's a lot quieter now and a safer place to live in.
- 3.3.2 Negative comments included that the gates needed to be kept locked, youth are climbing the gates.
- 3.3.2.1 **Ward Members** – Ward Members were asked to feedback on their thoughts regarding the alleygates. All ward members are in favour of the gating order remaining in place for a further period of time.
- 3.4 **Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)** – The NPT Inspector has been asked to comment on the gating order. The NPT are in favour of the Gating order remaining in place.
- 4.0 **The Review Process – Conclusions** (see Appendix 4 – table of considerations)
- 4.1 The majority of respondents to the review were in favour of the gating orders remaining in place for a further period of time, but no less than a further year from the end of the current gating order period (14.11.09). Both the ward members and the NPT also support the gating orders for a further period of time.
- 4.2 Crime has reduced on the street with small reductions in burglary but the biggest reductions being in vehicle crimes. Leeds Community Safety supports the alleygates for another year.
- 5.0 Recommendations**
- 5.1 The Chief Highways Officer is requested to:
- i. Note the content of this report; and
 - ii. To approve the continuation of Gating Order No.25 as recommended by Leeds Community Safety for a minimum of 12 months and then to carry out a further annual review in 2010.