

Area Committee Well-being Fund – Expression of Interest

Project Name: Chaucer Avenue Alley gating Scheme

Lead Organisation: Community Safety

Project Summary (please include a brief description of the main activities and why this project is needed):

Complaints have been received from local residents in relation to a ginnel on Chaucer Avenue in Pudsey.

The local residents have contacted Brent Brady the Alley gating Coordinator for Community Safety to see if this short footpath could be gated to stop the incidents of anti-social behaviour which include using it as a toilet, congregating and being noisy and theft from gardens.

The referral relates to a path at the side of 61 Chaucer Avenue where incidences of criminal damage and Anti Social Behaviour have been occurring. Mr Stogden one of the local residents has contacted Community Safety on a number of occasions about incidents and has also reported these to the Police. The police have been paying some attention to this location, however the residents can't identify who is causing the ASB and understandably are reluctant to challenge this.

Brent Brady and myself visited the site a few weeks ago and noted that there are signs of criminal damage, evidence of ASB, alcohol cans and a dead rat. Mr Stogden on behalf of the neighbours asked if the council could gate off the access route as it no longer leads anywhere. Originally there was a gate at the end of the short ginnel that lead onto the playing fields of Crawshaw school. The gate is padlocked and hasn't been used for over 10 years. This was confirmed by Crawshaw school who state that the lock does not belong to them and that they don't have access.

Guidance from the LCC Rights of Way was sought and we have been informed that there used to be a footpath through the school but this was extinguished in 1969 under the Town and Country Planning Act 1962 and I believe this was to enable the school to be built. However, the southern end was extinguished on a slightly different line at which had already been built over by houses but this link appeared to have been provided as a replacement, therefore this short section may carry public rights as it appears to have been built for public use and not extinguished. We had someone try to claim it as part of a claim to the north west but there was only one claim form, evidence of locked gates across the path and there was not the required twenty years use.

As the rest of the route was extinguished it is unlikely that a claim would be made for it or that it would be successful as it only goes to the school. The ownership of the footpath is Leeds City Council.

Outcomes (please summarise the main outcome/output/benefit the project will achieve):

Stop the incidents of Anti-social Behaviour in relation to the ginnel
Stop criminal damage, theft and noise nuisance.

Project Cost (please indicate how much the project will cost, how much Well-being funding is sought and the breakdown between capital and revenue):

The cost of supplying and installing gates and rails is £960.00 + VAT

The cost for planning permission is approx £200

The cost of supplying keys for the gates to relevant neighbours and services is £20

Total revenue funding requested: £1,180 .00

Identify which geographic areas will benefit and which Area Committee you are applying to:

Area Committee- Outer West

Ward – Pudsey