

**REPORT TO:** Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 16 June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Environment

**SUBJECT:** Petition for the Installation of Alleygates  
Adjacent to 22 Harris Street and to the rear of  
29 St Ambrose Road

**WARD(S)** Halton View

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise members of the receipt of a petition containing 24 signatures, and the proposed course of action.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The receipt of the petition be noted and the residents advised of the action proposed in paragraph 3.6.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 A petition (attached as Appendix 1) has been forwarded to the Council stating the following: We the undersigned residents of Harris Street, are requesting that alleygates be erected at the bottom west side of Harris Street closing the access to St Ambrose Road.

The reasons for this request is as follows.

1. Gangs of youths are using Harris Street as a short cut from St Ambrose Road to Halton View Road.
2. Vandalism to property
3. Bottles, cans, beer glasses, chip papers, carrier bags all left on the road in the street.
4. Car windscreens smashed (Police involved).
5. Vehicles broke in to (Police involved).
6. Wing mirrors smashed off cars (Police involved).
7. Foul language.
8. Spitting on cars, front doors, and foot paths.
9. The path is seldom used, and never at night since a girl was attacked there.

3.2 The petition contains 24 signatures, all of which are residents of Harris Street (this pathway only runs down the side of one property located on Harris Street number 22).

3.3 A Community Safety Alleygate report has been drafted relating to

this area (attached Appendix 2) which, details the level of crime and anti-social behavior incidents as reported to Cheshire Police.

- 3.4 The Police crime statistics assessed for the purpose of a gating order only considers Police Crime Statistics relating directly to the area to be enclosed and only relates to incidents that can be directly attributed to the pathway itself over a 12-month period. Subsequently, the incidents as mentioned by the petition relating to car crime in particular are not pertinent to a gating order and would not be admissible as evidence to support a gating order.
- 3.5 Legislation was brought in a number of years ago under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) which would allow a full closure. However, this is a lengthy process, where an area first must be designated by the Secretary of State, which can take many months, followed by a local Order for the path concerned, and potentially an automatic Public Inquiry, should objections be received. (Members may recall a number of paths at Kendal Road estate being closed using this process).
- 3.6 Working within Neighbourhoods and communities is seen as the first option before gating orders should be considered. Therefore, preventative work and more visible policing should be encouraged.
- 3.7 It is suggested that the Police should be requested to visit this location more frequently to discourage the gathering of young people and residents should be encouraged to report incidents of crime and disorder to Cheshire Police.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no policy implications.

#### 5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no other implications.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

It is alleged that anti-social behaviour by youths is causing a disturbance to the residents of Harris Street, Widnes. Should a Gating Order be implemented this would prevent such youths from gaining access to the path.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are no direct implications for Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are no direct health implications, however, the recommendation will help build a case for a Gating Order, which could help relieve residents' stress caused by anti-social behaviour. Removal of pedestrian routes such as this, may discourage people from walking. However, in this case, for most users, the possible gating of the path would result in only a short additional walk.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Recommendation (i) will help build a case for a Gating Order which if pursued could help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with the proposed action.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 In cases such as this there is potential that gating a route may cause particular inconvenience for users of wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

## 9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Gating Orders Report 21 June 2007 Police Crime Statistics	Halton Community Safety Partnership 6-8 Church Street Runcorn WA7 1LT	Mike Andrews / Sarah Ashcroft