Appendix S

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATING ORDER PROPOSAL – ALLEYWAY DEANSWAY, HALE ROAD WIDNES

HIGHWAYS ACT S.129

1. SCHEDULE

Alleyway between 19 & 21 Deansway, Widnes and alongside 130 Hale Road with a maximum width of 3.5 metres, a maximum adopted length of approx 75 metres and a maximum length proposed for gating of approx 55m from its junction with Hale Road to the boundary walls of 19 & 21 Deansway.

2. PROPOSED EXEMPTIONS

There would be a number of individuals and groups that have legitimate purpose to pass through the proposed gates and hence would require a key for them. This would include Council officers conducting their business and the emergency services, (including the Police, Fire and Ambulance services). There would also be statutory undertakers including Water, Electricity, Gas and the Telecommunications companies who would require access. A person who lives or works in the immediate vicinity of the footpaths would also be entitled to a key upon request.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

The route proposed for the erection of alley-gates has highway status and therefore would be subject to the usual legal procedures for restricting the use of a highway. In order to gate a highway it must be proved that there is a significant enough issue with crime or anti-social behavior as to outweigh the benefits of maintaining the openness of the highway. In this case, reports of anti-social behaviour for the past twelve months indicate that rowdy youths have used the alley for drinking, urinating and general nuisance. There are also reports of fire, persistent damage to residents' properties and opportunist intruders all relating directly to the alleyway. Halton's Community Safety Team and the Safer Halton Partnership both support the proposal to gate at this location in order to better improve the security and safety of the residents in the Hale Road and Deansway vicinity.

This alley is approx. 75m long and with a maximum width of 3.5m. This route provides access to local facilities and public transport for certain residents and those affected would be eligible to receive a key. The alternative route is Canterbury Road, Coronation Drive and Hale Road. Staggered chicane barriers already exist along the alleyway impeding passage of the larger mobility scooters. Those residents directly affected will be able to request a key for the gates, if they are erected.

While considering both the advantages and disadvantages of the scheme I would conclude that it is both expedient and in the interest of the Council that we proceed with the Gating Order in an attempt to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Signed M. J. Noone

Date 7th April 2009

