

REPORT TO: Environment & Urban Renewal
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 25th June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Petition requesting the removal of bollards and provision of parking at Manor Place, Widnes.

WARDS: Ditton

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on a petition that has been received requesting the removal of bollards recently introduced to prevent vehicles being driven over a landscaped area in Manor Place, Widnes. The petition also requests the provision of parking facilities and vehicular access to the petitioners' properties.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the petition request for the removal of bollards recently introduced to prevent vehicles being driven over a landscaped area in Manor Place, Widnes together with the provision of parking facilities and vehicular access to the petitioner's properties should be refused and the lead petitioner informed accordingly.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 An eight name petition has been received from residents in Manor Place, Widnes requesting the removal of bollards which were installed in January 2014 to prevent vehicles being driven over a landscaped area in front of their homes. The petition also requests the provision of parking facilities and vehicular access to the petitioners' properties. The petition is reproduced in Appendix 'B' and the photographs mentioned in the petition will be available at the meeting.
- 3.2 Manor Place consists of a vehicle-free central landscaped area fronted by twelve properties which have no direct vehicular access, the properties being served only by a footpath network. The plan in Appendix 'A' indicates the layout. The landscaped area, which is owned by this Council, serves as a safe recreation/play area, but in October 2013 a complaint was received from one of the residents to the effect that a neighbour had taken to driving their vehicle up the kerb and across the footpath of either Manor Road or New Bank Road and across the landscaped area to park off-road within the front garden of their home. It was alleged that 'near misses' had occurred when children were playing out on the grass, and from site inspections it was evident that the vehicle was eroding and rutting the grass especially during periods of wet weather, and also damaging the footpaths of both adjacent highways.
- 3.3 Shortly after the resident's complaint, the whole area was dug up to lay new gas mains, and then carefully reinstated and reseeded in January 2014. Due to fresh evidence of

vehicular damage to the area, following consultation with the Ward Councillors, bollards were installed in the footpaths of Manor Road and New Bank Road, to prevent drivers driving vehicles into the area.

- 3.4 The landscaping in question is intended to be used as a secure recreation/play area and there are no plans to convert the area into either a car park or an access road to the adjacent properties.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Ward councillors were consulted prior to the installation of the bollards and have been consulted since the petition was received and continue to support the need for the bollards.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No funds are allocated for conversion of the grassed areas into either a car park and/or access road. Also, this could create drainage problems due to the potential loss of a permeable surface.
- 5.2 The presence of the bollards serves to protect the landscaping from damage and prevents the cost of recurrent repair work.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct policy, social inclusion, sustainability, value for money, legal or crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Retaining and protecting the off-road landscaped area provides a secure outdoor play area for children.

- 7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

- 7.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

- 7.4 A Safer Halton

Retaining the bollards to prevent vehicular access protects the recreation/play area for local resident use.

- 7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

- 7.6 There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 There is a variable and uncertain road safety risk associated with removing the bollards to Manor Road and New Bank Road as this will permit vehicles to be driven through an off-road area where children play.
- 8.2 The bollards were installed primarily to prevent damage to the landscaping area and vehicles accessing a pedestrian area with the associated risks to pedestrians. It is thought that vehicles were accessing the area to be able to park outside their own house. Since the bollards have been installed, prior to the petition being received there had been no complaints about them or parking problems in the area. At the present time similar grassed areas such as in New Bank Place have not had problems of vehicles driving over the grassed area and therefore bollards have not been installed.

9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.

- 9.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 There are no background papers under section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

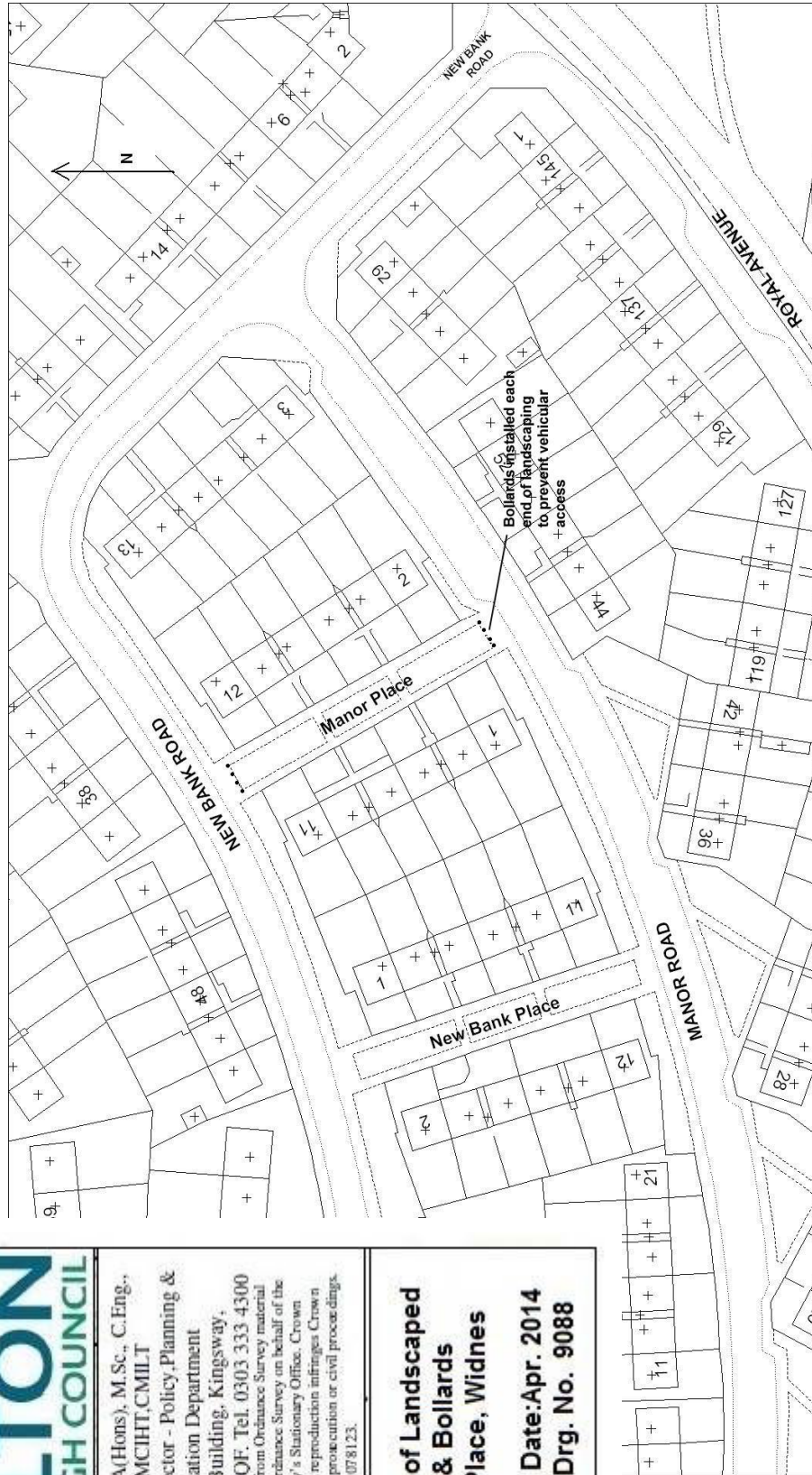


Mick Noone, BA(Hons), M.Sc., C.Eng.,
MICE, MCIHT, CMILT
Operational Director - Policy, Planning &
Transportation Department
Municipal Building, Kingsway,
Widnes, WA8 7QF. Tel. 0303 333 4300

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**Location of Landscaped
Area & Bollards
Manor Place, Widnes**

**Scale: NTS Date: Apr. 2014
Drawn: SJ Drg. No. 9088**



Appendix 'B'

We the residents and rate payers of Manor Place, WA8 8HQ would ask that the council responsible For installing bollards at the ends of our road would remove them and provide us with access to our Property and parking in this day and age with more and more people now owning cars parking becomes really hard and when you have a property that you can't access it makes thing worse the council have provided parking for other residents in this area please see photo's and also note the photo's of the parking problem in this area, residents listed below.

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Names Withheld

Sorry I have since found out, that this is the work of the housing trust not the council, we the residents feel we should have been informed of the intended work beforehand, some of us own or property and the rest are council residents, the parking is that bad round here cars park completely on the pavement at night and the only way past is to walk on the road surely this is not acceptable you say it is illegal to cross the grass is it not also illegal to park on the pavement. Just so you can keep a small stretch of grass the only use of it being for the children to play ball games on.

Lead Petitioner Name Withheld