

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

1.

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating £6,000 to create a Central Area Alley Gate Fund. The Fund would finance the installation of gates to alleyways where anti-social behaviour is a neighbourhood issue and the criteria in the forthcoming Policy are met.

2. Background

- 2.1 Residents have complained to Ward Councillors about anti-social behaviour and fly tipping at various alleyways across town. The installation of gates at these locations could limit access to only residents of adjoining properties and thereby deter the issues causing a detrimental impact.
- 2.2 In particular, there have been concerns from residents regarding the alleyway that runs from Wellesley Road behind the properties of 2-20 Tennyson Road.
- 2.3 The anti-social behaviour reported to Councillors regarding this area include drug abuse, street drinking, rough sleeping and bonfires. There have also been some incidents of fly tipping reported directly to the Council.
- 2.4 A policy for the Council's actions in relation to gating of public spaces, such as alleyways, is currently being developed, to ensure a consistent approach. This will be considered by Executive shortly.
- 2.5 Each alley-gate request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in line with Council's forthcoming Alley Gate Policy, which will be considered by Executive. The Public Protection Team will investigate the circumstances of each request, including the cost, land ownership, access rights and evidence of need. The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety in consultation with the Ward Councillors would decide whether the threshold for gating is met.
- 2.6 If the request is approved, the Central Area Alley Gate Fund may be used to meet the cost of installing that alley gate scheme. The Chair of the Central Area Committee and the Community Engagement Officer will be notified of each application. The Central Area Committee will be able to use the Fund for scheme requests that meet the forthcoming Alley Gate Policy.
- 2.7 Before any alley-gate is installed, written permission and shared responsibility for ongoing maintenance & access arrangements would be needed from the landowner of the alley and the owners of those properties with access rights through the alley way.

2.8 In order that requests for alley gates, at Tennyson Road & elsewhere, may be considered the Central Area Committee is asked to consider allocating funds to create the Central Area Alley Gate Fund.

2.9 The total amount requested of the Central Area Committee is £6,000.

3. Relevant Policies

3.1 Building a Better Ipswich 2017:

- Priority 2: A sustainable environment
- Priority 6: Safe Communities

3.2 Central Area Committee Action Plan – aims to alleviate deprivation in the following domain:

- Living environment

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

4.1 **Option 1** – To approve establishing a fund of £6,000 for alley gate requests for the Central area, described in Sections 2 & 10.

4.2 **Option 2** – Not to fund.

5. Consultations

5.1 Ward Councillors have established through consultation that alley gates may improve anti-social behaviour.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6) 1 – almost impossible 6 – very high	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk
Anti-Social Behaviour taking place in alleyways	Concern for local residents and decreased quality of life	Reporting to the police & Council Restricting access	3	1	Reporting is already taking place, though this could be more consistent. The installation of alley gates

					would help mitigate the risk by providing a deterrent.
Public perception of the area and of the Council's action in dealing with anti-social behaviour	Negative effect on Council reputation and town.	Council support to the police and local agencies.	3	1	Support for this application would enable the installation of a deterrent to anti-social activity.

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 7.1 There are no environmental impacts of setting up a fund. Any environmental impacts of individual schemes will be considered when these requests come forward.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 There are no equality impacts of setting up a fund. Any potential impacts will be considered on a scheme by scheme basis.

9. Financial Considerations

- 9.1 A definitive cost for specific alley gates has not been obtained at this time. The estimated cost based on similar schemes elsewhere in Ipswich is up to £2,000 per gate but this will vary depending on construction type.
- 9.2 The Committee is asked to consider allocating a fund for all Central Area alley gate requests. Quotes for individual requests will be provided once it has been agreed that the criteria of the forthcoming Alley Gate Policy have been satisfied.
- 9.3 The total amount request of the Central Area Committee is £6,000.

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Council has the power to award grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.

- 10.3 As described in Section 2, agreement from the property owners are necessary before any scheme can proceed. Under the agreements, the responsibility for maintaining access & maintaining the alley gate will be shared between those property owners and not with the Council.
- 10.4 Permission of the landowner for the site will also be necessary before any action is taken. In the case that the landowner cannot be identified or contacted & agreement cannot be obtained, the decision on action will be reviewed by the Public Protection Team and resolved in line with the forthcoming Alley Gate Policy.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 Spend against the Fund will be monitored.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 Ward Councillors have identified a need for alley gates in accordance with the forthcoming Policy, to be determined by Executive. It is proposed that the Area Committee makes appropriate funds available.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 That the Central Area Committee considers the options in Section 4 and determines whether to establish a £6,000 fund from the Central Area Committee budget towards alley gate requests for the Central area, subject to the requirements of the forthcoming Alley Gate Policy, which will be considered by Executive, having been met.**

Reason: Ward Councillors have identified a need for alley gates in accordance with the forthcoming Policy to be determined by Executive. It is proposed that the Area Committee makes appropriate funds available.