

Proposal to implement (Gating) Public Space Protection Order – Welland Close and Crocus Grove

A review has been conducted of the temporary gating in 2014 of the alleyway between 42 and 43 Welland Close and between 9 and 11 Crocus Grove, by consulting directly with relevant partners, taking into consideration calls to the Police, Local Authority and Cross Keys Homes. Key partners who have been consulted are:

- Peterborough City Council's Highways Service
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Architectural Liaison Officer
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Neighbourhood Policing Teams for Eastern, Northern and Southern sectors
- Cross Keys Homes

Background information:

The Gating of the alleyway between Welland Close and Crocus Grove was the final phase of the redirection of the cycle path at Dodds Lane. The aim of gating the alleyway between Welland Close and Crocus Grove was to reduce antisocial behaviour in Welland Close and Welland Recreation Ground and its impact on the residents of Welland Close, improving the quality of life of the vulnerable residents living in the area.

For years the residents experienced high levels of vandalism and antisocial behaviour taking place in the alleyway – due to poor lighting and lack of natural surveillance it became a magnet for such activities. The redirection of Dodds cycle path that took place last in 2012 and the improvements to Welland Recreation Ground led to the creation of much safer route between Crocus Grove and Welland Road. A reasonable alternative route was identified for residents of Welland Close to access facilities on Welland Road via another alleyway between Welland Close and the Recreation Ground to access facilities on Welland Road if necessary.

For reasons out of our control there was a delay in obtaining a Gating Order which was causing distress for residents who were continuing to experience persistent anti-social behaviour. Gates were implemented in the alleyway in 2014, prior to this there was continuing ASB which included motorcycles in the alleyway, vandalism and damage to residents' fences after a deliberate fire was set in February 2014. In the interest of public safety gates were installed in March 2014 on a temporary basis to protect residents and the public between 42 and 43 Welland Close and between 9 and 11 Crocus Grove.

In 2015 the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for the area commented:

“Before the closure of the gate, there were issues with fires being set, youths and motorbikes using the alleyway. There were a number of residents who called the Police highlighting these issues. Since the gates were installed the resident calls stopped and no further issues have been reported. If the gates were reopened, then it is feared that these issues will erupt, especially in relation to motorbike usage. There is a vulnerable adult living in the area and the ASB had a significant impact on her life and those of her carers.”



Map showing location of gates and alternative routes and map showing a closer view of the gated alleyway between Welland Close and Crocus Grove

Consultation with partners in 2020:

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Architectural Liaison Officer has advised that In the period from July 2017 to 19th May 2020 there have been 120 incidents in Welland Close and 76 calls for Crocus Grove. None of which mentioned the alleyway gating as an issue. A very low number of these reports related to anti-social behaviour, with an elderly population in Crocus Grove there are a lot of concern calls relating to missing people and care in the home. Welland Close relate mainly to domestic calls and issues with parking.

Peterborough City Council's Highways Service had no comments or concerns regarding the proposal to implement a gating PSPO

Local Neighbourhood Policing Team consider that the gates are serving their purpose and issues in the relevant area are low.

Cross Keys Homes made no comments or concerns regarding the proposal to implement a gating PSPO

Assessment and recommendations:

Since the installation of gates at this location, there have been no reports to the council from residents in Welland Close and Crocus Grove concerning anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the gated alleyway. The data supplied by the Police Architectural Liaison Officer would indicate that the gates have proved effective in preventing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to the neighbouring properties and surrounding area. The views of the Neighbourhood Policing Team for this area has been sought and they consider that the gates are proving effective at preventing ASB

and should remain. It is therefore considered that gates should therefore remain at the location and the necessary consultation should be carried out to implement a gating PSPO.