

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board.

DATE: 21st September 2010.

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment and Economy

SUBJECT: Anti-social Behaviour, Montgomery Road.

WARDS: Riverside.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider anti-social behaviour to the rear of Montgomery Road, Widnes.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The Policy & Performance Board considers the action plan for addressing anti-social behaviour to the rear of Montgomery Road, Widnes.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Between Montgomery Road/Cunningham Road and Chilton Avenue/Netherfield Road, there is a linear greenway. Over the last 12 months there has been a lot of anti-social behaviour with 27 incidents being recorded by the police. St Georges Court (operated by Riverside RSL) and 23 Montgomery Road have been particularly affected. There is a non adopted alley to the greenway by these properties and local councillors have identified this as a key access point for the people who are causing the anti-social behaviour. This alley also provides access to council allotments and is well used by the public as a route to the town centre, schools and places of work.

3.2 There have been a number of meetings regarding the issues in this area and the Tasking and Coordination Group has considered this location on a number of occasions. An action plan has now been put in place that is summarised below.

- Investigate the deployment of CCTV to try and identify who is throwing stones at the rear of St Georges Court
- Police Tasking Vehicle to be used in the area.
- The turning area of the access road to the allotments will be resurfaced (This is breaking up and loose stones are used for throwing)
- The Vroom vehicle was in the area on Friday the 16th and Saturday 17th July 2010 – assess what impact this had.
- Contact Addaction in relation to the mobile Muga and see if we are able to get this resource into the area.
- Contact Ashley House in relation to supporting local drug users and encourage access to services.
- PCSO's increased foot patrol.
- To continue to provide support to victims of ASB within the area.

- Contact the Community Centre – targeting information about the effect that stone throwing has on others
 - Contact Cheshire Fire and Rescue and see if they are operating in the area and establish whether or not they are able to assist in terms of engaging with the local youths.
 - Community Development is currently in the process of supporting the local residents in developing plans for a community house, Muga and a play builder scheme to be situated in Tedder Square.
- 3.3 These actions are now in the process of implementation and the impact will be monitored and assessed. There is local support to close the alley adjacent to 23 Montgomery Road. Whilst the alley is not adopted it is established as a right of way and a gating order would be required. Consultation would be undertaken, particularly with the allotment holders as part of the gating order process. It has to be noted that this will restrict access to the greenway (though there are a number of other accesses in the vicinity) and the police and community safety are not convinced this will materially reduce the anti-social behaviour in the area.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The restriction of access to the greenway could be viewed as counter to the greenway policy.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of the gate could be met from the Riverside, Appleton and Kingsway Locality Area Forum budget subject to local councillor's approval.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.

- 6.1 Children and Young People in Halton.
Anti-social behaviour has as much an impact on young people as it does the rest of the community. In this instance it could put off young people from using this greenway, whilst alley gating may require young people to detour around the closure and thereby walking along busy roads.
- 6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton
No implications identified at this time.
- 6.3 A Healthy Halton.
No implications identified at this time.
- 6.4 A Safer Halton
A key objective of the Community Strategy is - To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels. The action plan as exists clearly seeks to achieve this in this area. However, the gating of the alley may further strengthen the plan.
- 6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal
No implications identified at this time.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The main risk associated with this situation is that the anti-social behaviour in the area continues. However, the action plan has been developed specifically to reduce the anti-social behaviour and as such the residual risk is likely to be reduced. Risks associated with erecting a gate on the alley include the impact it will have on the use of the greenway and possibly restricting access to the area by the police. Also, it may be extremely difficult to control the access where there are multiple key holders present i.e. allotment holders and residents.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Much of the anti-social behaviour seems to be targeted at St Georges court which has a lower age limit of 55. The residents of this facility as well as the surrounding area are keen to see the anti-social behaviour reduced so that they can enjoy the same quality of life as residents in 'quieter' areas of the borough.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

- 9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.