

APPENDICES

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 10 MARCH 2004

REQUEST TO: ERECT GATES ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND

LOCATION: CHURCH STREET, HALESOWEN

(As shown edged black on the plan attached)

BACKGROUND

An application has been received from the owner of 23 Church Street, Halesowen, on behalf of the residents of Nos. 15-25 and 25A/D Church Street and also Nos. 22-30 Green Lane, Halesowen to erect gates on the Council owned access road which leads to the rear of these properties and is controlled by the Directorate of Housing.

The residents in question all have garages or off-road parking to the rear of their properties and all share the service road which exists between Nos. 25 and 25A/D Church Street.

Over the years there have been a number of incidents of crime which include a damaged property, theft, suspected drug taking, dumping of stolen vehicles on this land behind the houses, which is causing the residents extreme concern and makes it dangerous for them when parking their vehicles and using the service area.

The residents therefore propose with the Council's consent, to erect a double wrought iron gate 10-20 metres along the service road for which all residents would have both a key and access.

The applicant states that this proposal has the backing of all residents concerned.

They have also requested that the Council consider donating some form of grant aid or contribution to the cost of erection and maintenance of the gates; however, if a contribution is not possible, they are prepared to fund and maintain the gates themselves, if necessary, by residents' contributions.

They believe that a safer and reduced crime environment would ensue as a result of this proposal and all parties concerned would benefit.

COMMENTS

The relevant Council Directorates have been consulted regarding this applicant and no objections have been received to the erection of the gates providing that everyone with a right to cross the land is given a key.

The Directorate of Law and Property state that the access way is the subject of a right of access for the owner of an area of land to the rear of 27 & 29 Church Street

(shown hatched on the plan attached) and those authorised by the owner of the land, to pass and repass at all times with or without vehicles across the access way. A Land Registry search has found that this land is owned by one of the residents who support the erection of the gates.

The Directorate of Housing wish to support such a community safety initiative and therefore have no objections to the erection of the gates, however, they have no funds available to commit to the erection of the gates or their maintenance. They therefore suggest that the Area Committee may wish to consider the allocation of some of its budget to the project.

The Directorate of the Urban Environment have suggested that the gates are erected at least 6 metres in from the back of the pavement for road safety purposes.

Regarding possible funding sources, there are no funds available for this financial year however it is suggested that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership which is an group of agencies including the Local Authority, Police Fire service etc set up to combat the effects of Crime in the Borough be approached if the application is approved, to ascertain if a contribution can be found from the next financial years budget.

PROPOSAL

That the Area Committee advise the Lead Member for Housing to grant consent to the erection of the gates on the access road at a location to be determined, subject to terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property and that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership be approached to see if any funding is available.

That the Area Committee consider making a contribution to the cost of erection and maintenance of the gates.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter(s) from the applicant.
2. E-mails and memos from the Council Directorates.

Contact Officer: Gill Hudson, Property Manager, Ext. 5311