

RBWM Local Access Forum Fast Response Team

The draft alley gating order related to the proposed closure of an alleyway running between 19 and 17 Culley Way and 8 and 10 Farmers Close. A map of the draft order is attached to this report.

Consultation response: informal consultation on proposed alley gating order between Culley Way and Farmers Close, Cox Green, Maidenhead.

The Local Access Forum Fast Response Team have considered the informal consultation on the proposed alley gating order and wish to make the following comments:

In general, it is felt that the impact of the closure of the alley way will have minimal impact to the majority of the public, as the proposed alley gating order directly affects those who live closest to the alleyway. Aside from the local users the alleyway is unlikely to form a general short-cut for members of the public.

However, the LAF does express concern that statistics provided in the report fail to provide any evidence of "substantial and persistent crime or anti-social behaviour" to warrant a gating order, and that the report lacked the history of the site and an unbiased report of the householders views affected by the proposal. The forum is relying on the alley gating panel to ensure that all the issues involved are clarified and that the legal tests required for an order have been shown to be met before making an alley gating order.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum. The Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this form in carrying out its functions.

Date of response: 21st March 2011.

This written response was considered by the Council's Alley Gating Panel at its meeting held on 22nd March 2011, together with all other written responses received to the informal consultation.

The panel decided to proceed with publication of the draft gating order, and the Fast Response Team's response to the draft order was as follows:

Consultation response: formal consultation on draft alley gating order between Culley Way and Farmers Close, Cox Green, Maidenhead.

The Local Access Forum Fast Response Team, acting on behalf of the Local Access Forum, have considered the formal consultation relating to the draft alley gating order for Farmers Close / Culley Way, and wish to reiterate their previous objections made during the informal consultation period on the following grounds:

- The crime statistics produced by the police fail to justify a closure of the alleyway for either crime or anti-social behaviour reasons.
- From the evidence produced, it appears that residents are complaining about problems which have taken place in the past and prior to 2009.
- It was noted that 50% of households backing onto the alley were opposed to the gating order.
- Two objectors mentioned that people could use the alley adjacent to No.2 Farmers Close some 30m south of the disputed alley. If there was a genuine anti-social behaviour problem in the area, one would have expected this to have been a targeted as well.

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