



AGENDA

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION MEETING

Date: Thursday, 19 October 2017

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: Cabinet Room, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT

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| 1. Decision to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) entitled Galway Road Alleyway | 1 - 2 |

Decision taken by Head of Economy and Community Services.

Issued on Monday, 23 October 2017

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Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

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RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

<p>This form must be completed by or on behalf of the relevant Officer immediately after any decision has been made. Please send to the Proper Officer for publication in accordance with the Council's Constitution.</p>	
NAME OF OFFICER MAKING DECISION (INCLUDING JOB TITLE) AND THE DECISION BEING MADE	<p>Charlotte Hudson Head of Economy and Community Services</p> <p>Decision to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) entitled Galway Road Alleyway</p>
TITLE OF REPORT	Public Spaces Protection Order – Galway Road Alleyway Restriction
DATE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN	19th October 2017
SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION	<p>The decision to implement a Public Spaces Protection Order has been taken to provide a means of tackling the anti-social behaviour caused by those who are drinking, taking illegal drugs, fly-tipping, causing vandalism and damage, as well as alarm and distress to neighbouring properties. Gating is considered the most appropriate means of tackling these issues.</p> <p>The Local Authority is satisfied that the conditions under s.59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 providing the power to make an Order have been met and that interference with any human rights are justified. The Local Authority has also had regard to equality considerations when deciding to implement this Order.</p>
BACKGROUND	<p>This decision is taken under the Head of Economic and Community Services delegated powers as set out in the Constitution (part 3.4, para 39, page 55).</p> <p>A report was prepared by the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer which set out the reasons and evidence supporting the need for a PSPO and setting out a public consultation which was considered by the Community Safety Partnership and subsequently Members at an informal meeting. Public consultation via on line surveys and public events resulted in the recommendation to gate the alleyway in Galway Road.</p>
DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	<p>Gating the alleyway is considered the most appropriate means of preventing the crime and anti-social behaviour because other preventative measures have been tried without great success. Increased/directed patrols have been undertaken by the Neighbourhood Police Team together with regular patrols by SBC Wardens. A temporary hawkeye camera was installed on 26/03/2011 and was moved around 21/10/2011 and again recently on 15/12/2016 until 18/01/2017. On this second occasion of mobile CCTV being installed it was requested to target the repeated fly-tipping in the location. During this time, residents admitted that the problems had decreased but they said that when the camera was moved to another location the problems increased again. However, maintaining this level of resource is costly and unrealistic</p>

	as Swale currently only has 5 mobile cameras that are deployable for the entire borough.
DETAILS OF ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN	<p>The consultation was carried out from June to August 2017 over an eight week period. An online survey was made available through Swale Borough Council website. Links to the survey were also circulated to all residents bordering the identified alleyway, Local Councillors and Kent County Council Members, Chief of Police for Swale and Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) were also consulted.</p> <p>Key findings from the survey Only 3 completed surveys were submitted. Within the completed surveys no objections were received. All respondents were residents within the area and all had experienced various acts of anti- social behaviour.</p> <p>Multiple statements have been obtained from residents bordering the proposed area of restriction showing full support along with local Police Community Support Officer.</p> <p>There have been no enquiries from any civil liberty groups or other interested parties outside of the formal consultation.</p> <p>A concern was raised by the PCC around impact upon police demand. In response to this it was highlighted that the order should reduce demand currently utilised with the on-going anti-social behaviour. The burden will also be reduced due to the powers of Local Authority officers with the delegated power to enforce this order. As a result of this response the PCC has endorsed and supported the PSPO proposal.</p> <p>The low number of responses may be due to previous attempts to restrict the access being unsuccessful resulting in apathy to complete further surveys. Numerous statements have been given within the initial evidence documents from residents within the highlighted area. Two of the abutting roads have a high proportion of rental properties which may have an impact on ownership of the area.</p>
DETAILS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS	None
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES/FURTHER INFORMATION	Tina Grafton – 01795 417099 Anti-social Behaviour Officer Swale Borough Council
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