

Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 10 September 2025
Subject:	Ginnel between Malton Avenue/Sawley Avenue, Whitefield. Public Spaces Protection Order (Alley-gates)	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion	

Summary

This report outlines the application for a Public Spaces Protection Order (Alley-gates), (which will be referred to as a PSPO throughout this report). The PSPO, if authorised, will be a new application and will apply to the ginnel in question only.

Bury Council and Greater Manchester Police have received complaints from members of the public with regards to disturbances from people congregating in this Ginnel. These complaints have been in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, excessive noise, litter, drug use, intimidation, and more seriously, knife crime.

Due to these complaints, investigations have been carried out and work with partners has been done, to come to the best resolution to enable members of the public to enjoy the area in which they reside, without any fear.

This report has been produced in consultation with Greater Manchester Police, Housing Services and residents, who all endorse the recommendations.

Note, there is a separate part B with supporting evidence appendices which is not available for public viewing due to GDPR.

Recommendation(s)

- To approve the Alley Gating Public Spaces Protection Order annexed to this report.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

- I. The reason for the recommendation regarding the closure of this ginnel is due to several incidents of serious violent crime that have occurred in the ginnel. The most serious incident being the loss of a life due to an individual being stabbed with a knife. There are multiple reports of Anti-Social behaviour, drug use, and a general fear of using the area from the local residents.
- II. The detrimental activities that have led to the application for a PSPO are:
 - a. Drugs dealing in the ginnel
 - b. Drugs being taken by individuals
 - c. Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
 - d. Intimidation and violence towards the public
 - e. Criminal damage and arson
 - f. Serious violence, leading to homicide

III. Greater Manchester Police have provided an extensive report. This information relates to the costings occurred and outlines the data and intelligence. In addition to this, Fiona Clarke, Crime Prevention Officer, GMP has conducted a site vulnerability survey. Please see.

- **Appendix (1 – 1.4)**
- **Appendix (2 – 2.2)**

Alternative options considered and rejected.

When dealing with any anti-social behaviour it is important to consider all the tools and powers that are available to the Council to ensure appropriate action is taken. The alternative options that were considered but rejected were:

Civil Injunction

A Civil Injunction is an order that could be considered to deal with a certain individual that is causing harassment, alarm, or distress. This is a highly effective tool in most instances and if applied to this situation it could be useful to remove a prolific offender. However, this would only apply to the individual in question, meaning that other people causing the issues raised within this report would be able to continue and the same work would have to be repeated for each individual.

Community Protection Notice (CPN)

A Community Protection Notice was designed and implemented in 2014 to help assist with such issues that cause harassment, alarm, and distress within the community. This option was a viable option at the beginning of this, however, as with the Civil Injunction this is an action that can only be used towards an individual and not to tackle a collective problem.

Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC)

An ABC is a low-level intervention that will still be used alongside the PSPO if these recommendations are approved. This is a non-enforceable contract between Bury Council and an individual which is voluntarily agreed. It is a way of an individual working with the Council to avoid any further actions being taken. Due to the nature of the issues, it was felt that this tool was low level, and they are needed more serious intervention re. a PSPO.

BACKGROUND

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 Bury Council are seeking to apply for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

From December 2024 GMP and Bury Council have been working together to establish the severity of the crime and ASB in the area in question and have tried to gather evidence from previous reports dating over the last 12 months. Evidence was received from various members of the public outlining the issues that they have experienced regarding the effect the ginnel has had on the quality of their life. This information was analysed by the ASB Team to determine the most appropriate course of action.

In response to the evidence received it was agreed that an application be made for a PSPO to install alley gates on either side of the ginnel. After consulting with partners on this matter, a set of questions were drafted that would make up the contents of a public consultation, these are included in **Appendix 3 – 3.13.**

Public consultation commenced on the 5th March and lasted for 8 weeks. The Public Consultation covered all the residents of Sawley Avenue and Malton Avenue, with surrounding streets also asked to engage in the survey. In addition to this a link to the consultation was advertised on Bury Council's social media pages.

Once completed the results of the consultation were published and were analysed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. A summary of the responses is included in **Appendix 3 – 3.13.**

There were 50 visitors to the online questionnaire, all completing the form.

Signage of the proposed PSPO has now been created and is ready for use should the recommendations for the order be approved. For reference it is included at **Appendix 18.**

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

This report primarily supports the LET'S principle of Locality and pursues the outcome for improved quality of life. Closing this ginnel will address issues of anti-social behaviour, harassment, and intimidation, and allow residents to use their local public spaces freely without fear.

EQUALITY ANALYSIS

A full Equality Analysis was carried out and the full report is available. This is covered in the Equality Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

There would be no carbon impact as a result of this decision.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

This is covered in the Equality Impact Assessment.

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The purpose of the ginnel is difficult to assess as this was implemented when the houses were built. The age varies between 1936-1979. No data is available on regular use with mitigation as outlined with alternative routes in place.	From our own analysis of the area the only benefit of this ginnel is a small shortcut from Sawley Avenue to Malton Avenue. The time saved by using this ginnel is insignificant, saving no more than 3-5minutes walking.

Legal Implications: To be completed by the Monitoring Officer

Section 59 of The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act) empowers the Council to make a PSPO, provided that certain criteria are met.

A PSPO can be made by the Council if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activity or behaviour concerned, carried out, or likely to be carried out, in a public space:

- has had, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature.
- is, or is likely to be, unreasonable; and
- justifies the restrictions imposed.

The proposed restriction should be proportionate to the detrimental effect that the behaviour is causing or can cause, and are necessary to prevent it from continuing, occurring or recurring.

Before introducing, extending, varying or discharging a PSPO, there are requirements under the Act regarding consultation, publicity and notification. The publicity and notification aspects of this PSPO are included in this report, together with the outcome of the consultation process which has been undertaken.

Section 64 of the Act permits the restriction of certain rights of way as a part of a PSPO.

Before a Local authority decides to make a PSPO it must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the Convention.

A PSPO can be made for a maximum duration of up to three years, after which it may be extended if certain criteria under section 60 of the Act are met. Extensions can be repeated, with each lasting for a maximum of three years.

Under section 67 of the Act it is an offence to breach a PSPO without a reasonable excuse.

If the order is to be made it must be published on the Council's website and erected on or adjacent to the place the Order relates to, and is sufficient to draw attention, setting out the effect of the Order and whether it has been made, varies or extended.

Financial Implications: tcer

The financial impact this issue has had on local authorities and partners is outlined in this report, **Appendix 1- 1.4.**

The implication of a successful application regarding this order will mean that funding will need to be sourced to pay for an external company to supply and fit the gates either side of the ginnel. Quotes have been retrieved in relation to this, and the cheapest quote is outlined in **Appendix 17-17.1.** The costs will be met from existing budget provision.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
PSPO	Public Spaces Protection Order
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CPN	Community Protection Notice
GMP	Greater Manchester Police
ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract

Appendices List

Appendix 1 - 1.4

Costings of investigation, produced by Fiona Clarke, Crime Prevention Officer, GMP

Appendix 2 - 2.2

Site Vulnerability Survey, produced by Fiona Clarke, Crime Prevention Officer, GMP

Appendix 4 - 4.4

Statement from PC Kieron Stodart

Appendix 5 - 5.2

Map and Photographs of the Ginnel connection Sawley Avenue and Malton Avenue

Appendix 6 - 6.3

Article from Bury Times showing vandalism to Council CCTV

Appendix 7

Statement from PC Damieon Hartley-Pickles

Appendix 8

Statement from CM Person 1

Appendix 9

Statement from EA Person 2

Appendix 10 – 10.1

Statement from JG Person 3

Appendix 11 – 11.1

Statement from SI Person 4

Appendix 12

Statement from PW Person 5

Appendix 13

Statement from GD Person 6

Appendix 14

Statement from JH Person 7

Appendix 15

Statement from AH Person 8

Appendix 16 – 16.1

Statement from DB Person 9

Appendix 17 – 17.1

Quotation from Georgian Gates for the installation of the gates

Appendix 20

Email to Manchester Ramblers Association

PART A Appendices

Appendix 18

PSPO Signage

Appendix 19

Draft PSPO

Appendix 3 - 3.12

Public Consultation Questions and summary. List of full answers and letter sent to residents.

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