

Appendix 4



Chairman RODNEY LEGG Charity no 214753 General Secretary KATE ASHBROOK

Shajeel Ahmed
Legal Assistant
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
PO Box 11, Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD

Your ref: SA/LG/GO/44120

18 December 2007

Dear Shajeel Ahmed

**Gating Orders at Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees; Parkfield, Stockton-on-Tees;
Newtown, Stockton-on-Tees**

Thank you for your letter of 29 November regarding the above proposed gating orders.

We object to the gating orders because you have produced no evidence that the premises adjoining or adjacent to these routes are affected by crime and anti-social behaviour to a significant extent, nor that the presence of the highways is causing these premises to be so affected. If you closed the highways could you prove beyond all doubt that the alleged crime and anti-social behaviour would cease? We are also concerned that the alternative route would be less convenient to the public.

Yours sincerely

Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary

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21 DEC 2007
STOCKTON-ON-TEES BC

25A Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2BA
tel: 01491 573535 fax: 01491 573051 e-mail: hq@oss.org.uk website: www.oss.org.uk

The Open Spaces Society (formerly The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society) campaigns to create and conserve common land, village greens, open spaces and rights of public access, in town and country, in England and Wales. Founded in 1865, we are Britain's oldest national conservation body.

Appendix 4

My Ref: SA/LG/GO/44120
Your Ref:
Please ask for: John Angus
Tel: 01642 526499
Email: john.angus@stockton.gov.uk

1st February 2008

Dear Kate Ashbrook

In reply to your letter objecting to the Gating Order at Thornaby, Parkfield and Newtown in Stockton-on-Tees, I would like to provide further information to support this Gating Order.

The Highways Act 1980 section 129A subsection 3 reads:

(3) Before making a gating order in relation to a relevant highway the council must be satisfied that-

- (a) Premises adjoining or adjacent to the highway are affected by crime or anti-social behaviour;
- (b) The existence of the highway is facilitating the persistent commission of criminal offences or anti-social behaviour; and
- (c) It is in all the circumstances expedient to make the order for the purposes of reducing crime or anti-social behaviour.

To assist in the delivery of the alleygate programme a steering group made up of representatives of Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade and the Council's Care For Your Area and Community Safety teams analyse the crime and anti social behaviour statistics across the Borough. These incidents are then correlated with the positions of the alleyways to assess if the installation of alleygates would benefit the area. To minimise the risk of any crime displacement, the steering group analyse the statistics for a wider area around each alleyway.

For the alleyways in the areas of Stockton-on-Tees that are part of this Gating Order the statistics show that the levels of crime and anti social behaviour have been at a high level consistently for the past 2 years.

The consultation exercise carried out with those residents that live within the areas identified for the alleygate programme showed that the majority of these residents supported the proposals. Of the returned questionnaires 100% in Newtown, 94% in Parkfield and 98% in Thornaby were in favour of the proposals.

It would be unrealistic for any body or organisation to promote that a community safety measure would produce a 100% reduction in crime and anti social behaviour, however in a recent evaluation of existing alleygates installed around the Borough, a significant reduction (55%) in incidents of crime and anti social behaviour was found in the 12 months following the installation of gates compared to the 12 months prior to the installation of the gates. In one area of Thornaby

Kate Ashbrook
The Open Society
25A Bell Street
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Appendix 4

the installation of alleygates resulted in an 88% reduction in the number of incidents in the 12 months following installation.

The alleyways that are being looked at through this Gating Order primarily serve as access to the rear of the adjacent properties and are bounded by the high walls of these properties; in many cases are not lit. The alternative routes for the general members of the public would be through the streets that are well lit and have natural surveillance being at the frontage of the properties and adjacent the carriageway. In several cases CCTV cameras, providing additional security benefits, cover these routes.

In the Council's opinion there is compelling evidence that crime and disorder can be reduced with the installation of alleygates and we urge you to acknowledge the same.

I hope that you are satisfied that in formulating this proposal Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has given careful consideration to each scheme and its wider social impact and I trust that you will be encouraged to remove your objection.

If you so wish your objection to be withstanding the matter will be referred to the Council's Appeals and Complaints Committee. As an objector you would be invited to attend the Appeal and would be given the opportunity to address the Committee Members if you so wish.

Please confirm your position in writing to either myself at the above address or Shajeel Ahmed at Law & Democracy, Municipal Buildings, Church Road. Stockton. TS18 1LD.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Angus', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

John Angus
Senior Projects Officer

CC. Shajeel Ahmed, Law & Democracy

Appendix 4



Chairman RODNEY LEGG Charity no 214753 General Secretary KATE ASHBROOK

Mr J Angus
Senior Projects Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
PO Box 229
Kingsway House
West Precinct
Billingham
TS23 2YL

21 February 2008

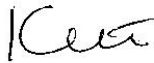
Dear Mr Angus

Proposed Gating Order at Thornaby, Parkfield and Newton in Stockton-on-Tees

Thank you for your letter of 1 February.

In view of what we say we are prepared not to object to this gating order, but we certainly do not support it.

Yours faithfully



Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary

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