

Alleygating – Oldham East

**Report for the Oldham East District Partnership from
Community Safety Services**

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Alleygating in Oldham East

1 Introduction

- 1.1 To date, the Crime Reduction Team in Community Safety Services have completed 367 alley gating projects, installing 1,050 gates in problem areas around Oldham. These gates are now providing protection, peace of mind and reassurance to 10,019 homes in Oldham; the total cost has been £1,207,115.
- 1.2 There has been evaluation of several different alleygating schemes across Oldham. The first Clarksfield project which included 35 gates covering 253 properties showed a reduction in domestic burglary of over 90%. The second Clarksfield scheme, which involved the installation of 70 gates up to April 2008, has shown a reduction in domestic burglary of 26%.
- 1.3 A Failsworth gating scheme covering 280 homes showed a reduction in domestic burglary of 61% whilst there was similar success with a smaller scheme in Werneth which showed a reduction of over 80% after installation of alleygates.
- 1.4 Completed projects by neighbourhood with total spend is as follows :-

Area	No of Projects	No of Gates	Expenditure
OLDHAM WEST	83	235	293,068
OLDHAM EAST	63	193	219,708
FAILSWORTH/ HOLLINWOOD	99	297	319,950
ROYTON, SHAW & CROMPTON	33	68	75,967
CHADDERTON	81	239	273,821
SADDLEWORTH & LEES	8	18	24,600
TOTAL	367	1,050	£1,207,114

2 The way forward

- 2.1 The gating of problem alleyways to reduce instances of crime and disorder has over several years shown great benefit to residents of this borough. Oldham will continue to use this tactic, based on analysis, evidence, resident's views and resident's participation.

- 2.2 **The council recently agreed that £125,000 per annum will be available to deliver a borough wide scheme to reduce domestic burglary.** The location of projects within the borough wide scheme will be analytical driven based on burglary crime as the main influencer.
- 2.3 Other locally identified and requested schemes can also be considered. These schemes should be considered by the District Partnerships and funding for these sourced through the District Partnerships. Community Safety Services will continue to lead on all local schemes including those drawn from these other funding sources. **An additional £100,000 has been allocated to District Partnerships to be used for Safe, Clean and Green projects which could include alleygating.**
- 2.3 Resident groups and appropriate resident agreements should be drawn up whenever possible for each scheme. These agreements must include the need for the locking of gates at all times when not in use. It should be made clear that failure to meet this agreement may possibly lead to the removal of the gates.

3 A borough wide burglary scheme

- 3.1 The recent review of the Oldham Alley gating policy included a basic delivery plan for the continuation of alley gating in Oldham. A number of alleyways have been identified as a result of analysis and anecdotal information, which in turn has led to a list of prioritisation.
- 3.2 The analysis was compiled on a ward-by-ward basis and identified those alleyways that had been highlighted as being most problematic. The analysis was drawn together both on a proactive basis by examining existing data but also by the measurement of information from members of the public and residents living and working in those neighbourhoods. Problems identified included real quality of life issues including drug abuse, fire setting, anti social behaviour, fly tipping and dog fouling. Not all alleyways are eligible for closure by alley gating because there may be legal restrictions and there may be occasions when residents do not want them.
- 3.3 Community Safety Services have also used the analysis available via Greater Manchester Against Crime (GMAC) and other data sources, to identify patterns or hotspots of relevant reported criminal activity such as burglary via rear alleyways. This has led to the identification of single vulnerable alleyways that could benefit from gating.
- 3.4 **Alleyways suffering from domestic burglary will be progressed in priority order from funding held within the CSS.**
- 3.5 The following alleyways have been identified from all available data as having the highest levels of domestic burglary. These areas may hold a number of connecting alleyways and in some cases gating may already have been completed, it may well be in other cases that gating has not been possible due to environmental or other practical reasons nevertheless the CSS will report fully where activity has been carried out and where activity to address the problems can be progressed.

These alleyways are comprised of the following :-

Location	Neighbourhood
Hanson St/Arundel St	Oldham East
Raper St/Taurus St	Oldham East

Prince Edward Ave/Hillside Ave/Cedric Rd	Oldham East
Grasmere Rd/Foster St	Oldham East
Brewerton Rd/Huxley St	Oldham East
Gordon Ave/Cranbrook St/Kew Rd/Salisbury Rd	Oldham East
Wren St/New Earth St/Quail St	Oldham East
Hillside Ave/Clarksfield Rd/Grasmere Rd	Oldham East
Cow Lane	Oldham East
Stoneleigh St/Afghan St	Oldham East
Ripponden Rd/Pierce St/Broadbent Rd	Oldham East
Abbotsford Rd (even)/Mayfield Ave	Oldham East
Brewerton Rd/Tyndall St/Fulham St/Huxley St	Oldham East
Swinton St/Roundthorn St	Oldham East
Game St/Salford St	Oldham East
Melling Rd	Oldham East
Littlebank St	Oldham East
Waterloo St/Brompton Rd/Retford St	Oldham East

4 Other schemes for consideration

- 4.1 There are a large number of other projects presently waiting progress. These projects are comprised of residents who have contacted the CSS or who have been referred by the police and other agencies to us. It should be remembered that some of these would require gating orders and some may not be practical to progress for many other reasons including environmental issues, insufficient resident support etc.
- 4.2 Since the enactment of the legislation, the Crime Reduction Team has successfully applied for over 50 Gating Orders, enabling gating installation in many alleyways. As a result, Oldham is seen as a national leader. The submission and the application process is a huge task as evidence and statistics for every individual alleyway has to show the details of criminal activity and the anti social behaviour that is taking place as a direct result of that alleyway.
- 4.3 In 2009/10, for Safe, Clean & Green issues, a total of £290,000 will be available to the District Partnerships, to be divided equally across the Wards. **A total of £14,500 per Ward for Safe, Clean & Green issues which can be used for Alleygating if the District Partnership so desires.**
- 4.4 The following list has been prioritised by levels of quality of life issues, reports of anti social behaviour and other types of sub criminal activity and would require gating orders :-

Location	Neighbourhood
Brewerton Road (1)	Oldham East
Brewerton Road (2)	Oldham east
Tara Street Raper Street	Oldham East
Spring Street	Oldham East

- 4.4 The following list has also been prioritised by levels of quality of life issues reports of anti social behaviour and other types of sub criminal activity. The following alleyways would not require gating orders :-

Location	Neighbourhood
Helmshore Ave	Oldham East
Rippopnden Road (1)	Oldham East
Ripponden Road (2)	Oldham East
Gibraltar Street	Oldham East
Vigo Street	Oldham East
Littlebank Street	Oldham East

5 In Summary

- 5.1** Community Safety Services is now in the process of assessing the viability of the burglary schemes as mentioned in section 3 above. These schemes will be progressed by Community Safety Services, and if viable, will be funded through the central allocation available to the CSS.
- 5.2** The schemes highlighted in section 4 are currently not being progressed and await the decision of the District Partnership, and the agreement of the District partnership to fund them. The District Partnership might also identify other alleys to gate in addition. Once approved by the District Partnership and funding allocated, Oldham's Community Safety Services will progress these schemes and will report regularly on progress.