

Date: 8th January 2019



Health and Wellbeing

West Oldham District Team,
Level 2, Civic Centre,
West Street, Oldham
OL1 1UT

Tel: 0161 770 5162
zaiem.khan@oldham.gov.uk

Dear Mohammed Miah

Re: Petition – Rear of Garforth Street

I am writing to you in response to the petition, which you and your neighbours submitted to the Council, requesting streetlights in the alleyway at the rear of Garforth Street (Coldhurst) and for the Council and Police to respond to youth related anti-social behaviour in this area.

As you are aware this issue has been raised a number of times over previous years and we have spoken about the rationale as to why this alleyway has never had streetlighting. However, the ward Councillors, the Director of Environmental Services, the Streetlighting Project Manager, and I have met to consider the petition.

Streetlighting in Oldham (and Rochdale) is managed and maintained through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract which commenced in 2011. The contract, between the Council and EON, does not include the lighting of alleyways which are classed as secondary routes. Furthermore, the Councils streetlighting policy does not prioritise the lighting of alleyways and secondary routes. Therefore the Council will not, as a matter of course, consider installing streetlights in the alleyway at the rear of Garforth Street.

Over the past 8 years the Councils controllable budget has been significantly reduced and there has to be a clear rationale to demonstrate the allocation of additional funding for new initiatives. In this case the provision of funding for streetlighting would go against Council policy and as such does not qualify for such an allocation.

As mentioned in previous correspondence this issue has been raised by ward Councillors on behalf of local residents over the past few years and has been given serious consideration.

I appreciate that this may not be the response you hoped for or anticipated.

The Council will continue to work with local residents, the Police, and other agencies to address the issues of youth nuisance and youth engagement in the area across Westwood and North Chadderton. We have been working with the Detached Youth team and the Eden project to undertake more youth engagement in the area around Berriesfield Park, so they are able to build relationships with young people in the area. Through this work we hope to engage more young people in positive activity and away from ASB. We will continue to work closely with the high schools as well to ensure that there is a joined up approach.

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We have previously tried to work with local people to set up a Homewatch scheme in the area and I am aware that there is an informal 'watch group' who have expressed a wish to work closer with the police and Council.

I am happy to discuss this response with you in person, please do get in touch with me if you would like to meet.

As we have looked at this matter a number of times, if you are unsatisfied with this response, or have any further queries in relation to streetlighting at the rear of Garforth Street, please refer the matter through the Councils complaints procedure.

The Council treat all complaints very seriously and they are recorded and reported on. You can either put your complaint in writing to:

Complaints Team
PO Box 33
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Or call 0161 770 8122 to talk to the Complaints team.

You may prefer to complete an online complaints form at:

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200143/complaints_and_feedback/630/complaints_or_feedback_about_the_council

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zaiem Khan", with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a small flourish to the right.

Zaiem Khan
District Co-ordinator – West Oldham District
Direct line: 0161 770 5162
Email: zaiem.khan@oldham.gov.uk

Cc Cllr A Jabbar, Cllr A Malik, Cllr M Azad