

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: LANE CLOSURE PATHER
From: HEAD OF HOUSING SERVICES	
Date: 21 OCTOBER 2009	Ref: MP/EMCH/SL

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to consider two opposing petitions from residents in the Pather area of Wishaw regarding a request for lane closure.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Service has received two petitions, one requesting a lane closure, the other requesting that the lane is not closed.
- 2.2 The lane concerned connects Earn Crescent and Linnhe Crescent in Pather.
- 2.3 For some time residents have complained about a range of problems both around and within the lane, mainly associated with youth disorder.
- 2.4 This consists of drunken, aggressive and intimidating behaviour and a range minor vandalism to the lane and to the property of those residents adjacent.

3. Proposals Considerations

- 3.1 Whilst there are issues around unacceptable behaviour at the lane the lane does provide a significant connecting route to Earn Crescent. A number of residents would have to make a considerable journey either via Lomond Drive or to the end of Linnhe Crescent, in both instances a journey of an additional several hundred metres. There is a bus stop close to the lane which is the alighting point for Earn Crescent residents. It is also a main connecting route to the local primary schools.
- 3.2 From responses received as part of the investigation concerning the petitions a survey was undertaken of residents with 47 returns – 21 against closure and 16 for. In the returns there is a clear geographical breakdown in that the great majority of those against closure reside in Earn Crescent and those for, in and around Linnhe.
- 3.3 Whilst accepting there are problems around the lane it is proposed to address these through joint liaison with Housing staff, in relation to estate management and anti-social behaviour and the Police. To this end evening visits will be made to discuss problems with those who may be hanging around the lane. Those who cause problems and are identified will be subject to action either in relation to criminal sanctions or through the range of anti-social measures available. This will include action in regard to tenancies as appropriate.
- 3.4 In view of the level of objection and the age of the footpath it is unlikely that Planning would support the closure of the lane.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy / Equalities Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications for the actions proposed.

4.2 In considering the closure of the lane a number of elderly residents and schoolchildren in Earn Crescent would be adversely affected with a considerable increase in walking distances.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approve the actions as outlined at 3.3
- (ii) Note the contents of this report.



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Head of Housing Services

For further information about this report please contact Stephen Llewellyn

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