

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: PUBLIC FOOTPATH IN LINNET ROAD, BELLSHILL	
From: HEAD OF HOUSING SERVICES		
Date: 21 OCTOBER 2009	Ref: AC/AD	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update committee on a signed petition received from residents living in and around Linnet Road/Crinan Place, Bellshill requesting the closure of a public footpath.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 19 August 2009 the Chief Executives office received a petition signed by 38 local residents living in Linnet Road and Crinan Place, Bellshill.
- 2.2 The petition requests the closure of a public footpath adjacent to an end terraced property at 16 Linnet Road, Bellshill. This footpath runs parallel to a block of flats at 18 – 34 Linnet Road and provides pedestrian access to a car parking area which can also be accessed from Thorndean Avenue, an area of local authority housing.
- 2.3 The petitioners claim that this footpath has been a steady source of irritation for local residents who have been subjected to continual anti social behaviour and vandalism. There is clear evidence on site of damaged fencing and the location has been identified as a hot spot for youths loitering.
- 2.4 On receipt of this petition a letter was hand delivered to 100 local residents living within this area advising them of the petition and giving them the opportunity to raise any objections or concerns they may have in relation to the proposed closure. Only one response was received by the local office from a resident objecting to the proposal. This response was surprisingly low given the impact this closure may have on residents however it would suggest an overwhelming support for closing this footpath. It is also worth noting that there are alternative routes of access which could be used via Roman Road and Orbiston Drive, Bellshill and this may account for the lack of objections.
- 2.5 All 3 ward members and the police were also consulted regarding the potential closure of the path. All have given their full support to the proposals to close this footpath.
- 2.6 The proposed closure was also discussed with Environmental Services Grounds Maintenance and Estates who maintain the grassed areas surrounding the blocks in Linnet Road. They have reported that as long as there remains a set of gates wide enough to allow access for machinery then the closure of the footpath would not impede on their routine maintenance arrangements.

3. Proposals / Considerations

In terms of the lane which sits within local authority housing it is proposed that in accordance with resident's wishes and subject to seeking the appropriate planning consent that this lane be closed to the public to reduce the vandalism and anti social behaviour issues for local residents.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

The closure will be funded from the Housing Revenue Account.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the content of this report and approve in principle the closure of footpath at Linnet Road, Bellshill subject to a planning application and referral to a future Planning and Environmental Committee for consent.



Monica Patterson
Head of Housing Services
21 SEPTEMBER 2009

For further information on this report please contact Alison Clarke on telephone 01698 332340

APPENDIX 1

