

## **GATING – Victoria Road**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform members about the Victoria Road gating consultation.

### **2. Background:**

Extract from Community Safety Report:

Victoria Road is located in Central ward. Over the years a section of Victoria Road (adjacent to 14 Victoria Road) has suffered from numerous incidents of fly tipping consisting of a mixture of household and builders waste (see photographs provided in Appendix A). Between the period 01/04/08 and 20/08/13 there have been 27 recorded incidents of fly tipping in Victoria Road costing Slough Borough Council thousands of pounds to remove and dispose of appropriately. 14 of these reports specifically mention the section of Victoria Road adjacent to 14 Victoria Road as the fly tipping location. This figure may be higher but where the exact location has not been specified the reports have been excluded from the total of 14.

The section of road that attracts fly tipping is set back out of sight and is a known hotspot for fly tipping. The section of road is not required, there is ample turning space in the adjacent car park for vehicles and therefore gating this off would not adversely affect anyone. In June 2013 Environmental Services and Community Safety funded the clearance of the land backing onto this area (adjacent to 90 Uxbridge Road), and installed a fence along Uxbridge Road to help tackle some of the wider fly tipping and litter issues in the local area.

The consequences of fly tipping include:

- Unsightly neighbourhoods leading to decreased quality of life and perceptions of that neighbourhood as a place to live, work or visit;
- Potential to contaminate land, pollute watercourses and to be a hazard to human health, livestock and wildlife;
- Public health risks associated with an increased rat population due to increased availability of food and materials that rats use for harbourage;
- Huge costs to the Local Authority. It takes a lot of resources to clear up and investigate this kind of environmental problem. The illegal deposit of waste costs the Council approximately £200,000 per year to clean up.
- Fly tips tend to attract further fly tips;
- Fly tips can attract crime in an area;
- Fly tips can attract other types of anti-social behaviour in an area; and
- Fly tipping undermines legitimate waste management companies who are undercut by illegal operators.

The Council successfully prosecuted an individual in June 2010 under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 34 (2A) for failing in his

household Duty of Care. His waste was found fly tipped at land adjacent to 14 Victoria Road; the individual pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a £300 fine, £200 costs and £15 victim charge. However, although prosecution of such offences will act as a deterrent, a successful prosecution is only possible if sufficient evidence is found within the waste to take legal action against the offender(s).

A CCTV camera was deployed on 14/06/13 (and remains in situ) overlooking the hotspot area in an attempt to prevent fly tipping / identify the offenders. The location is also receiving daily visits from Neighbourhood Enforcement and is on the neighbourhood policing patrol hotspots.

Part of the road that has been prone to fly tipping is an adopted highway and the other part is private and is therefore not the responsibility of Slough Borough Council to keep and maintain. As part of the land is a highway the Council would need to point to specific powers before preventing access. Due to the on-going problems with fly tipping at this location, the public health risk and the associated costs of rubbish removal, the Council proposes to apply for a Gating Order, under Section 129 of the Highways Act 1980, to install gates / fencing in the locations shown on the plan in Appendix B.

The Gating Panel consider that it is in all circumstances expedient to start the process for a Gating Order for the purposes of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in Victoria Road. It is clear that this section of road is affected by enviro crime. The Council has been clearing the waste at a substantial and increasing cost. Closing off a section of the road is a proposed solution aimed at preventing further fly tipping and further costs to the Council.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A:** Photographs of fly tipping in Victoria Road.

**Appendix B:** Map showing proposed location of gates/fencing



**Appendix A:**



Photograph taken on 13/10/08:



Photograph above taken on 29/05/13:



Photograph above taken on 29/05/13:



Photograph above taken on 04/06/13:



Photograph above taken on 13/06/13:



Photograph above taken on 19/08/13: