

Enfield Council



Alley Gating Information Pack

“There is strong evidence that alley gating reduces burglary and disorder and increases the perception of safety and satisfaction with area of residence.

In terms of crime reduction, it is among the most effective crime prevention techniques that has been rigorously evaluated to date”

(K Bowers and S Johnson and A Hirschfield (2003)

“Closing off opportunities: The impact of alley gating,
University of Liverpool)

Please note that this scheme is no longer in operation. This pack has been provided in order to be used a guide and template for residents to organise their own gating scheme

NB Please note that advice and information provided in this information pack is only a guide and if you are considering a gating scheme you may wish to seek legal advice.

List of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
3	What is Alley Gating?	
3	Why do we need Alley gates?	
4	Who Pays for the Gates?	
4	What happens if my alley is full of rubbish?	
4	Who owns the alley?	
4	Public rights of way and gating	
4	Concerns regarding rights of way	
5	Adopted alleyways	
5	Permissions to be obtained	
5	Possible problems and things to consider	
5	Rented properties	
5	Garages	
6	Objections	
6	Utilities and services	
6	Planning Permission requirements	
6	What the gates look like	
7	Whose responsibility is the gates?	
8	Keys	
8	After Care	
9	Key information and contacts	
	Useful Forms attached	
10	Alley gating check list	
11	Notice re the proposed alley gating of an alley.	
12 - 15	Application Form	
16 - 17	Frequently asked questions	
18	Consent form	

What is Alley gating?

If residents want them, we may install free standing lockable gates at entrances and exits to alleys which provide general access to the rear of residential properties. The gates restrict access to anyone other than the residents who are all provided with key. Our waste removal crews and Fire Brigade also would have access. We will pay for the manufacture, installation and future maintenance of the gates. Gating schemes are supported by our partners including Enfield Police, the Community Safety Team and the Fire Brigade.

A scheme generally requires an interested local resident to act as a coordinator who will speak to neighbours and try to gain their support for the gates to be installed. They typically deliver the Consultation and Consent Forms to all properties, collect them and liaise with our Project Officer to progress the scheme.

IMPORTANT – We prioritise gating schemes by giving preference to those wards which are most vulnerable. We do this for example by examining burglary; fly tipping and other types of anti social behaviour information. A completed application does not mean that gates will be installed but it will be considered subject to need and ultimately availability of funds.

Why do we need Alley gates?

- Police statistics have indicated that most burglaries are opportunistic and a significant number are associated with access at the rear of properties through the rear alley which gives easy unobtrusive access to a large number of premises. Criminals can usually use these alleys without being noticed, even in daylight. A house with easy and unobserved access points will be more tempting to a burglar than a house which has gated access making it harder to get in and out, especially with stolen property. Alley gates provide a psychological deterrent as well as a physical barrier and statistics suggest that burglary reduces in areas where we have installed gates
- Alleys can also provide escape networks for those offenders who know the area well and burglars have been known to hide stolen property in the alleyway in the daytime and then come back to collect in the cover of darkness
- Fly tipping is a major issue in alleyways across the borough. Accumulations of rubbish can attract rodents and produce conditions that are likely to attract crime and anti-social behaviour. Evidence suggests that a lot of rubbish found in alleys had been opportunistically dumped by fly-tippers because access to the alley is unrestricted and it is sheltered from the road and public gaze
- Installing gates will help prevent burglary and fly tipping and improve the social and environmental well being of the area. It will also allow residents to reclaim the space for their own use and upkeep

Gates can also help reduce:

- Dog Fouling
- Anti-social behaviour
- Drug related issues such as drug-taking, dealing and prostitution
- Graffiti, criminal damage and arson
- Vehicle related issues

Getting started.

Permissions and Consultation

Who owns the alley?

In most circumstances no single resident or individual owns the alley. Commonly individual residents have a joint right of access through the alley to their property. It is not always clear who owns the land and we will initially carry out a Land Registry search to try to determine who owns it.

Public rights of way and gating

Public rights of way are public highways (including footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic and restricted byways) and are recorded on a 'definitive map' and statement, a legal record of public rights of way. These are held by us. On receipt of your application we will check to see if your alley is a public right of way.

If your alley is a public right of way we will not install alley gates under this scheme.

We are responsible for keeping the rights of way clear of obstructions and that any land owners meet their responsibilities in this respect.

Concerns regarding rights of way

If the alley provides a regular 'short cut' to public highways then the local community in the immediate surrounding streets should be consulted with a chance to register their concerns regarding through rights.

One way of ensuring that everyone who uses the alley is informed about the gating proposal is to erect signs at the entrance and exit points of the alley.

Conservation Areas

It is unlikely that we would consider gating in these areas. Gates in such areas will require planning permission.

Adopted Alleyways

Adopted alleys are highways that are maintained at public expense. The public has a right to use these routes and the Highways Authority is responsible for keeping them clean and usable. Adopted alleys will not be gated under this scheme.

Permissions to be obtained

- If a landowner is known (and can be traced) then they must give their permission to have the alley gated. We will not proceed without it
- You must also consult all affected persons and obtain their views about the proposed alley gating scheme. This is anyone that has access to the alley from their property, a garage in the alley or simply that their house backs onto it. This is done using the Consultation and Consent Form included in this pack. You must give residents a reasonable opportunity to give their views on the scheme and state if they agree or disagree with the scheme
- It is always better to discuss the scheme with neighbours but you can post the form through their letterbox and ask them to return it to your address
- If you still do not receive a reply then you can seek assistance from your local Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team. Please see contact details at the end of this pack (Key Information)
- If you still do not receive a response please send in your application giving details of your attempts to get the necessary consent(s) and the Project Officer will discuss the matter with you

Possible Problems and Things to Consider

No alley gating scheme is without its difficulties!

Rented properties

Permission must always be obtained from the home owner. In tenanted properties you will need to contact the homeowner for permission because tenants have no authority or rights over the alley. You can ask the tenant for the landlord's details or ask them to pass on the consent form. We will not accept tenants signing their consent for the gates and this could hold up the scheme. There is a section on the Consent Form for the tenant to provide their landlord's contact details. You can always seek advice from our Project Officer on this.

Garages

If there are garages and access for cars through the alley, then the owners of the garages will need to give their consent and sign the form before gates can be installed. Garages are not always owned by the local residents and if you are not aware who the owners are then we will try to trace them for you and ask for their consent.

Objections

Some residents/owners may object to the proposed gating scheme and this is not uncommon. Often these concerns can be resolved by communicating with the person. Residents/owners may simply want more information, or reassurance that they will still have access to the alley. Our Project Officer can help you with this and your Local Police Safer Neighbourhoods Police team can also assist you and try to speak directly to the residents/owners that have objected and explain the positive effect that the gates have on a community.

There are some objections that cannot be resolved, for example a request for electronic gates or lighting. We will not fit electronic gates or supply lighting.

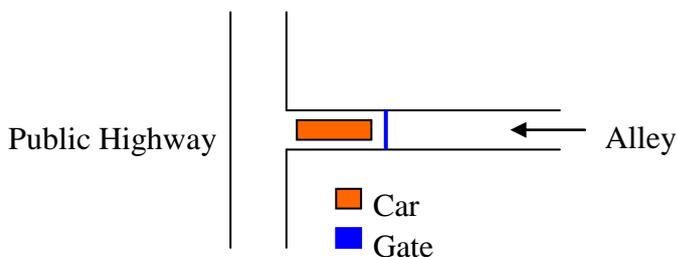
If there are no 'rights of way' issues, or objections from the landowner (if there is one) and the majority of the residents are in support of the scheme, then the scheme is likely to go ahead. The only reason where this may not happen is where the reason for the objection significantly outweighs the positive impact on community safety that the gating scheme would bring. Therefore any objections should be reasonable and have justification. From experience, most residents see the benefits that the gates will bring to them. We and our police partners will try to resolve any objection.

Utilities and Services

You should be aware that if any services providers of Water, Gas, Electricity, Cable companies etc. need access they will be given a key.

Highway Safety Requirements

To avoid any obstruction, in most cases, the gates will be set back from the entrance to the alley to allow vehicles to safely exit the public highway before reaching the gates. They will all open inwards.



Our Project Officer and our contractor will always attend site to identify the most suitable location to install the gates.

The Gates

The gates are manufactured to a high standard design:

- no more than 2 metres in height
- be made of mild steel
- be anti-climb design with a spiked top

- allow clear sight into the alley through the gates bars
- be locked using a fire brigade padlock
- have self-supporting gate posts and will not affect any property
- have stoppers to prevent gates touching any property
- be easy to operate

An example is shown below.



Keys

Locks and keys used for the gates have been recommended by the Fire Brigade. All households that have access to the alley or back onto the alley will be provided with a key.

After Care

The responsibility of keeping the alley clear will remain with the residents/landowner, another reason to keep the gates locked.

Finally...

KEY INFORMATION

Did you know...?

Your home's external doors will not be fully secured unless they're locked with the key.

- **If you have a multi-point locking system, such as typically found in uPVC doors, simply lifting or 'throwing' the handle will NOT lock the door and is little better than leaving it on the latch**
- **What is more, if you haven't key-locked the door or engaged the thumb-turn (if fitted) and you are the victim of a burglary, your insurance claim may be rejected**
- **ALWAYS lock all external doors with their keys when going out and leaving your home unoccupied, even if it's only for a few minutes**
- **ALWAYS lock your doors with the key or thumb-turn (if fitted) when going to bed and secure the keys – including car keys – out of sight, away from doors and windows***

*as part of a fire safety strategy, ensure that everyone in the household knows the location of the keys

How to contact your Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team

Website: [Enfield Safer Neighbourhoods Teams](#)

Bowes	020 8721-2679
Bush Hill Park	020 8721-2685
Chase	020 8721-2689
Cockfosters	020 8721-2688
Edmonton Green	020 8649-3552
Enfield Highway	020 8721-2903
Enfield Lock	020 8721-2690
Enfield Town	020 8721-2791
Grange	020 8721-2686
Haselbury	020 8721-2684
Highlands	020 8721 2687
Jubilee	020 8721-2683
Lower Edmonton	020 8649-3553
Palmers Green	020 8721-2835
Ponders End	020 8721-2682
Southbury	020 8721-2763
Southgate	020 8721 2792

Southgate Green	020 8721-2680
Turkey Street	020 8721-2691
Upper Edmonton	020 8649-3554
Winchmore Hill	020 8721-2681

Non-emergencies call 101
Emergencies – always call 999

Alley Gating Checklist

1. Is the alleyway a Public Right of Way?
A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY CANNOT BE GATED AS PART OF THE ALLEY GATING SCHEME
 2. Erect signs to entrance(s) of the alley advising of the project
 3. Seek consents from all residents that back onto the alley.
 4. Make sure forms have been signed by land owners and not tenants.
 5. Chase up non-respondents
 6. Complete application pack
 7. Send back completed application pack along with signed consent forms.
 8. Keep your neighbours informed of progress
- Once installed**
9. Deliver keys to all relevant households
 10. Help ensure that the gates are closed and locked when not in use.

NOTICE

A resident application for alley gates is being submitted for this alley.

Anyone who would like more information about this proposal or would like to make their views on the proposal known please contact the local resident on the details below.

Coordinator:

Name: _____

Contact details: _____

I certify that I have displayed a notice at each entrance to the alley to which this application relates giving contact details of the coordinator or a designated person and this notice was displayed for at a minimum of 28 days. Between Date: _____ to Date: _____

I have also noted all issues raised as a result, both for and against the gates and gave the persons concerned the opportunity to complete consent form. I have returned these with this application form to the Project Officer at Enfield Council.

Name: _____

Address _____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

I am the **OWNER / TENANT*** of the property below.

**Name of Owner &/or Letting Agent*.....

Address.....

Telephone Number

I **AGREE / DISAGREE** to the gating of my alleyway. I understand that I will be supplied with a key and will continue to enjoy full access along the alleyway.

Name.....Date.....

Address.....

Signature.....

Comments.....

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