



Dear Sir,

I write in reply to your letter dated 12th October 2017 with regards to the Application for the Addition of a Public Footpath.

As you may be aware the alleyway has previously been closed on the council's suggestion which removed access around the late 90's / early 2000's for a significant period of time. I do not have a record of the exact dates or period of time, but I expect Coventry City Council to have a record as it was at their instigation as part of their wider scheme to gate alleyways across the City. During this time residents of the bordering properties were supplied with keys to the gates. In prior times I also believe that a sign was displayed stating that this is private access only and not a right of way.

With regards to my view on this claim; I believe it reflects the view of all those whose properties border the alleyway which runs next to 151 Fir Tree Avenue and that is that I strongly wish that the gates would be locked and the entrance between 171 and 175 Broad Lane be additionally gated.

The whole area of what I understand the proposed route between Broad Lane and Fir Tree Avenue to be attracts litter, crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour. This is particularly true of the alleyway area which was previously gated as it is a convenient stopping off point for quick drug transactions / taking, underage drinking and other undesirable activities.

Mercifully the problems tend to reduce during the colder months, but they are particularly prevalent during the summer.

Since we moved into to property in 2012 I have reported anti-social activity and crime to the police who have on several occasions sent officers and PCSOs to perform walkthroughs and to talk to me about the problem. Several times I have been told off the record that it would be better for all concerned if the gates were locked. Unfortunately, because of the relatively low priority and the corresponding response times there has been no discernible effect on the level of crime and antisocial behaviour. Despite being issued with crime reference numbers and keeping a log, etc. I have now given up and no longer bother reporting most incidents to the police as it achieves nothing.

I have in the past collected the evidence of drug taking and drug sales and been told that there is nothing that can be done and to just throw them away.

In no particular order; the anti-social and criminal activity includes:

- Drug sales
- Drug taking
- Public drinking
- Threatening, abusive and aggressive behaviour (when trying to get people performing the three above activities to go away)
- Ringing doorbells and running away
- Using the alleyway as a toilet
- Using my front gate as a toilet
- Vandalism (damaging my front gates, setting fire to the fence, damaging the fence, spray painting a 6ft penis on the fence, spraying the word 'CUNT' on the fence in foot high letters, etc.)
- Throwing litter (beer cans, bags of dog poo, take away food, etc.) over the fence and into my garden as well as hanging bags of dog poo on my gate
- Unbagged dog poo.
- Use as a getaway route from burglaries.

At the moment the alleyway is clear of rubbish (I can only assume someone who is in favour of the proposed change has cleared this up because normally it falls to the owners of the bordering properties when it gets too out of hand) but the rubbish typically consists of drugs paraphernalia, empty beer cans and bottles, bags of dog poo and junk food wrappers. The beer cans are always a lottery to clear away because from time to time one of the number is half filled with urine for some reason. More exotic items that I've cleared away over the past five years

include used condoms, broken push chairs, broken umbrellas, black bags full of household refuse and of course the occasional obligatory shopping trolley.

I am concerned that the addition of a footpath would lead to calls for lighting the route, which may cause two additional problems. Firstly the addition of any lampposts may impede vehicular access to my property, as well as to number 173 Broad Lane. Secondly, to improve the security for myself and my family I did in the past put some lighting in place. Unfortunately this had the opposite effect and led to more people using the area for hanging out in the evenings and worsened the prior mentioned problems. The problems reduced to their previous levels when I returned the lighting to how it was previously.

I also expect there to be calls to put in place CCTV equipment, but without continuous monitoring this shall be a wasted expense as dummy cameras and signs have proved to be of no deterrent effect.

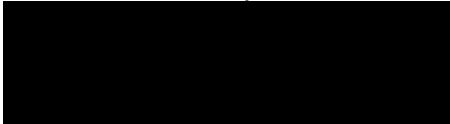
The only thing that I have seen that has positively impacted the problems was when someone took the unilateral decision to lock the gates for a period of around a month and a half in 2015. The effect during this period was stunningly positive and, while I disapprove of the fact that someone took action without consulting the local community, the drop in level of crime and anti-social behaviour (combined with the aggressive attitude of some people who thought that I was responsible for locking the gates) was enough to convince me that the benefit to those who border the alleyway outweighs the minor inconvenience caused to people who claim to use the alley way.

I am further concerned that this addition of a public footpath would increase the use of the route (when published on Google Maps, etc.) which would lead to an increase in the problems experienced. This would also increase the risks caused by the mixed use of the route by cars and pedestrians. There is simply not enough room for both on the drive way at the same time.

Having heard some of the comments from people who claim to use the alleyway at the time of the application in 2015 and learning where they live in relation to the alleyway I question whether taking this route saves them any significant time at all and I urge you to take this into consideration when weighing up the relative impact upon those affected negatively who border the alleyway.

In the investigation of this application I would expect that alternatives, such as introducing gates and keys to those who claim access would be investigated along with the alternative of introducing gates which are locked at certain times.

Yours Sincerely



x OBJECTION LETTER
PETITION SIGNED B/29

Dear Mr Taylor

In response to your letter dated 12th October we have several concerns regarding the piece of land between Broad Lane and Fir Tree Avenue becoming a public footpath.

We are aware that people have used it for some time now, although we believe that at one time there was a sign stating it was private property.

We personally maintain the stretch that runs between 171 and 173A Broad Lane and have periodically paid to have stone chippings laid so as it does not become a mud path. Unfortunately, despite our efforts we still have to clear up an unacceptable amount of litter.

Our concerns do not relate to law abiding citizens using it as a short cut, but unfortunately it attracts less desirable behaviour. We have had many problems over the 15 years we have lived here, including:

Use of the entry as an escape route by house breakers and thieves

Drug dealing

Drug taking, used needles and plastic bags left behind

Alcohol use including underage drinking

Witnessing men urinating in plain view

Sex acts, used condoms left outside our property

Arson

Vandalism

Menacing behaviour

Dog fouling

Littering

We have installed high electric gates on our property as did the previous owners of 173A as these anti-social activities have made us very anxious and nervous.

When we purchased the property in February 2002 there were locked gates (through the council scheme at that time) between 173A and 151 Fir Tree Avenue with key holders at this address and 173A and 151. I believe a 4th key was given to a gentleman in Cadden Drive so he could use it as a short cut with his elderly mother. After some neighbours protested the gates had to be unlocked, and this has been an ongoing issue ever since.

On numerous occasions we have had to call the police due to one or more of these anti-social threatening events, and they have always been very helpful and supportive of our case, but with already overstretched resources they are understandably unable to provide an effective deterrent to these incidents.

We fully understand that the 11 people you mention may have used this piece of land as a short cut and may be able to prove that to be the case, but we find it totally unfair to grant their wishes and allow the ongoing issues of the listed activities which are all against the law.

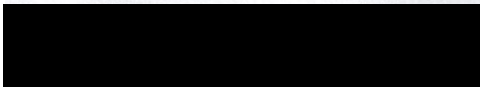
We strenuously request that this application be denied, and that the gates are allowed to be locked again, with keys issued to those with a genuine need for access. That way they could still continue to use it as a short cut and we could feel safe in our own homes. Many other entries and garage access paths have been gated in this area and many other parts of Coventry (and the UK in general) for several years now to help cut down on crime, and to our knowledge have been quite successful in doing so. People all over the city lost the right to walking wherever they wanted, what makes this case so different?

We also note this application is listed under the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981. We wish to bring to your attention that after many years of hard work and dedication we have a considerable list of wildlife visitors to our garden. We have Woodpeckers,

Nuthatches, Finches, Tits, along with many of the more common bird species which we feed and provide nesting place for. We also encourage a bee population, feed and provide hedgehogs with hibernation shelter, and have often seen bats We feel strongly that all these species must be protected, and that the noise and disruption from uncaring law breaking citizens, not to mention danger from sharps, cans, plastic, broken glass and so on are putting their safe haven at risk.

In conclusion we find it unacceptable that a handful of people can be allowed to be responsible for putting our homes and welfare at risk and for putting an already threatened wildlife population under unnecessary threat.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.



2nd November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you concerning the application for a public footpath to be added to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way in the City of Coventry. The path runs between Broad Lane and Fir Tree Avenue.

I am enclosing a copy of my reply letter to Mr Mike Taylor stating why we oppose this application and also a copy of a petition signed by local residents who feel this application should not be granted. Some of these residents have used this path as a short cut, but feel for the safety and peace of mind of the community it should indeed be gated as it was in 2001.


Coventry Council state that to combat anti-social behaviour they will:

1. Challenge the behaviour of those responsible.
2. Change the local environment to make nuisance harder to commit.
3. Support the victims and witnesses.

We wish to call on these pledges, in particular number 2 above: re-implementing the gating of this path would most certainly "Change the local environment to make nuisance harder to commit". Indeed, we feel that our rights in this matter are being overlooked.

I am sending copies of this letter, my reply letter, and petition to Coventry Council, West Midlands Police and my local Councillor.

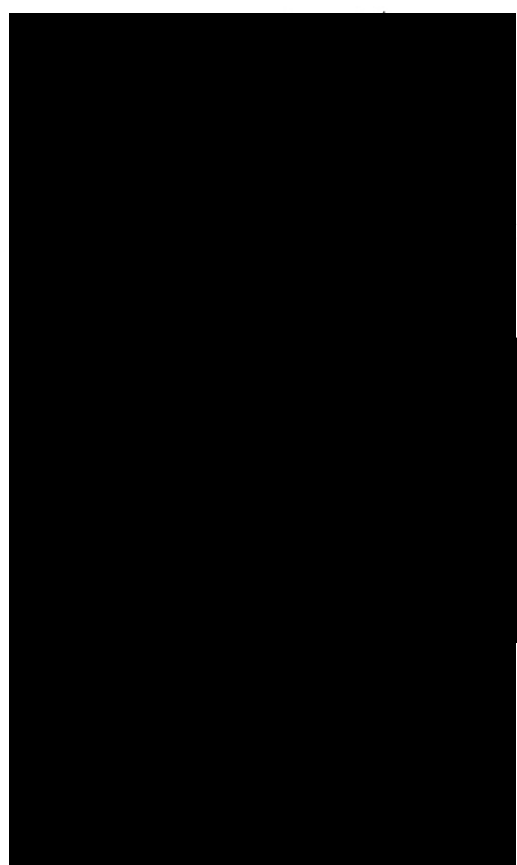
Yours sincerely



Regarding the application for addition of a public footpath between Broad Lane and Fir Tree Avenue, we the undersigned would like to register our objection to the proposal. We do not believe that it adds any significant benefit to the local community, comprising what is merely a minor shortcut between the two roads which can in any case be reached within a few minutes' walk to the east or west of the entryway itself. Granted, this particular entryway was a part of a once much longer path running from Broad Lane to Lime Tree Estate, but the rest of that old pathway has either been demolished by the housing between the two locales, or been closed off by locked gates as part of the gating scheme of the 1990s and 2000s.

We feel that any such benefit as described above is more than offset by the continual instances of anti-social behaviour engendered by its secluded nature such as drug taking and dealing, public consumption of alcohol (such activities often involving minors), indecent and deviant behaviour, vandalism, and other such scurrilous activities, not to mention it being a convenient bolthole for thieves making a getaway after breaking into a house or car.

It is our belief that any action which underlines the availability of this entryway as a public space will only serve to increase its inappropriate use. Indeed, the entryway should be gated (as was originally done at the turn of the century), with various key holders as appropriate.



[Redacted] Bread Lane

[Redacted] BROAD LANE

[Redacted] FIR TREE AVE

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[Redacted] FIR TREE AVENUE

SPENCER AVE. EARLSDON
OWNER OF NO. [REDACTED] FIR TREE AVE)

[REDACTED] FIR TREE AVE

[REDACTED] " " "

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[REDACTED] Fir Tree Ave.

[REDACTED] Fir Tree Ave

[REDACTED] Malam Close

[REDACTED] FIR TREE

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[REDACTED] - FIR TREE AVE

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