

**PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**  
**UPDATE:**

1     **10/17/1271    Underpass on Laburnum Road – rear of 248 Whalley New Road and ahead of 166 Laburnum Road, Blackburn**

To further support the recommendation to approve the permanent closure of the underpass as stated in paragraph 1.0 of the main report, further information has been produced by the Council's Community Safety Team together with the Police, which the Members should be aware of before making a decision on the planning application. The information is considered to be an important material consideration in the assessment of the formal planning application.

Planning application 10/17/1271 was formally submitted by the Community Safety Team, corresponding with a request for the consideration of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the area. This was in response to the effectiveness of the gate when closed in reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime and, concern from residents and the constabulary over the risk posed to residents closing and opening the gate, frequently reported to both Police and the Community Safety Team. This included threats and intimidation of residents, damage to the gate itself with locks glued so as to prevent the gate from being closed, and ongoing reports of Anti-Social Behaviour in the area in the hours leading up to the gates closure.

What is the evidence base?

Police statistics relating to ASB within the current proposed PSPO mapped area (see appendix A) – the area directly affected by the gates closure, show that ASB complaints made to the Police since the full closure of the gate (October & November 2017) have decreased by over 50% when compared with the same statistics for the same period of 2015.

In addition to the police statistics, following a residents meeting where issues were raised with their ability to report ASB via the police 101 number, a direct line was provided to council officers with 31 separate formal complaints reported from 170 communications and concerns raised from residents since the end of October 2016 over and above those raised with the constabulary.

Prior to the gates daytime closure 20 Community Protection Warnings, including 11 this year have been issued by the council the equivalent of 1/3rd of all warnings instigated across the borough to date. **None have been issued since the gate was permanently locked.**

Additionally following the installation of dedicated CCTV equipment, evidence has been collated and passed to the constabulary indicating possible drug dealing to and from the vehicles from persons coming through the open gate to vehicles parked on Laburnum Road during the day.

Since the gate was locked on the 2nd October 2017 there has been a **70% reduction** in calls to the Community Safety Team for this area.

Gavin Prescott  
Development Manager  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2018