

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Operational Services Cabinet Committee
Date: Thursday 24 November 2022
Reporting officer: Stuart Alford – Assistant Director (Operations)
Subject: Alley Clearance Project Update

Purpose and summary of report:

To update Members on the progress of the Alley Clearance Project

Recommendations:

1. Information Only

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	There are no legal implications to this report.
Finance and Value for Money	A one-off budget of £150,000 for 2022/23 has been set aside for this project. The project is funded from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account
Corporate Plan	#1 People: To create clean, welcoming neighbourhoods and parks.
Climate Change	When designing the scheme, it was decided that the alley crew would use an electric powered van. This was ordered in March and was due to be delivered in August. However due to disruption in Worldwide supply chains, the delivery of the vehicle has been delayed until the New Year.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 For the year 2022/23, a new project to clean up alleys across the borough has been established.
- 1.2 The aim of the project is to clear alleys which have become overgrown and/or suffer from excess flytipping whether the alleys are privately or council owned to make them accessible and improve resident's local environment. Where suitable and there is resident support, the aim is to gate alleys to stop future flytipping or unauthorised access.

- 1.3 A list of 18 alleys has been established through looking at historical enquiries from residents, councillors and liaising with housing officers.
- 1.4 A budget of £150,000 was set aside for the project to fund the two operational staff, equipment, a vehicle and gates (where appropriate). The plan was to use an electric vehicle for the project, however although this was initially due to be delivered in August, as with many vehicles, delivery has been delayed until after Christmas.

2. Project Update

- 2.1 Before an alley clearance is started, the local ward councillors are notified by email and a letter is sent to all residents who are affected by the alley. The letter informs residents that the Council will be carrying out a one-off clearance of their alley and that the option of alley gating funded by the Council is available.
- 2.2 The alley gating part of the project should be led by local councillors and residents and an alley gating guide has been established to assist councillors and residents in getting the necessary support. When gating an alley, residents have to agree to manage the gates moving forward including their maintenance and keys.
- 2.3 An initial list of 18 alleys was established and the clearance team have completed nine of these alley clearances.
- 2.4 The completed alleys have been in the following areas
 - 2.4.1 St Margarets Crescent
 - 2.4.2 Medhurst Crescent
 - 2.4.3 St Marks Avenue
 - 2.4.4 Rural Vale
 - 2.4.5 Abbey Road
 - 2.4.6 Bellman Avenue
 - 2.4.7 Alanbrooke
 - 2.4.8 Haynes Road
 - 2.4.9 Taunton Vale
- 2.5 Appendix 1 shows some before and after photos of the completed alleys.
- 2.6 Over the next few months, the crew will be carrying out clearances in alleys in the Havelock Road, Seymour Road, Kings Farm, Huntley Avenue and Railway Street areas.
- 2.7 Overall the project has been well received by residents, with officers receiving a number of positive comments from residents who have benefited from the alley clearances.

3. Appendices

- 3.1 The following documents are to be published with the report:
Appendix 1 – Before and After Photos

4. Background Documents

4.1 There are no background documents.

Lead Officer: Stuart Alford

Email: stuart.alford@gravesham.gov.uk

Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	It is essential that residents manage the alley gating process and ongoing maintenance otherwise there is the risk of the gates now being managed and there being a large long liability to the Council.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No</p> <p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? NA</p> <p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk. NA</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. NA</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. NA</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>
Crime and Disorder	The gating of alleys will help with unauthorised access so reducing the likelihood of crime.
Digital and website implications	There are no implications
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	There are no implications