

Appendix 1 – Detailed consultation feedback responses

Type of contact	Relates to which footpath/ PROW 1. Valentines Passage 2. Prospect Passage 3. Laser Lane 4. Trinity Passage	Consultation Feedback
Resident	All	I thoroughly support the policy of gating all alleyways where antisocial behaviour occurs. I think it should be expanded to cover the whole of Hastings and St Leonards.
Resident	All	I think the gates should stay in place to stop antisocial behaviour, and the proposed new gate should be installed.
Resident	Valentines Passage	<p>Prior to installation of the gates both ends of Valentines Passage the surrounding area Shepherd St, North St, Gensing Rd were severely affected by continual antisocial behaviour mainly drug dealing and taking within and around the alleyway. After nearly two years of consultation and recording of antisocial behaviour the gating order was approved. Since installation in 2021 this has stopped completely. The area feels safe and quiet and far less fly tipping. The residents and those closest to the alleyway tell me life is completely different. Residents can come & go from their home without having to witness the antisocial behaviour, and certainly for the residents walking down the alleyway at night is no longer a scary ordeal. Or a dirty one with no faeces to dodge.</p> <p>Parents no longer need to shield their children from the sights that were regularly seen no matter what time of day.</p> <p>The whole area around Valentine’s passage has improved tremendously. It is a pleasant place to live.</p> <p>To remove these gates would be a terrible mistake as it would only be a matter of time before the drug dealing and taking and its associated behaviour would return making residents lives miserable. Never mind the money & effort that went into installing these gates.</p> <p>When my father lived in the area he often felt too scared to go out or come home especially in the dark because of the situation. The last time he visited there he was overwhelmed with the difference.</p> <p>At the very least one could try keeping gates open in the daytime (once the alleyway is safe & the wall is stabilised) and review whether this attracts the antisocial behaviour again.</p>

		Currently the wall in the alleyway is falling in and needs to be stabilised before the alleyway is safe for public use.
Resident	Valentine's Passage	<p>I wanted to let you know what a hugely positive effect the gates on Valentine's Passage have had on my life as a resident, but also on the North Street and the local area overall.</p> <p>I spent more than 10 years pre-gating regularly feeling genuinely unsafe in my home because of persistent and ongoing ASB in and around the alley. This was predominantly drug dealing and drug taking, complete with associated erratic and aggressive behaviour, but also included more extreme activities requiring emergency service attendance.</p> <p>Before gating, Valentine's Passage was a little-used passageway owing to people not even knowing it was there. Those that did know it was there generally chose not to use the cut through because it felt unsafe.</p> <p>Since the installation of the gates ASB in the immediate area has gone from sometimes dozens of incidents a day at its worst to literally zero. It's been transformative.</p> <p>I have no doubt that removing the gates or having them unlocked would lead to an almost immediate recurrence of ASB once people became aware of the change in circumstances.</p> <p>Removal of gates would not, in my opinion, serve to benefit the local residents in anyway. It would simply serve to again provide an isolated space for people intent on carrying out illicit activities, which would be to the significant detriment of local residents.</p>
Business	Trinity Passage	<p>Hastings Urban Design Group notes the Council's proposal to gate Trinity Passage, connecting Claremont to Robertson Street.</p> <p>If this proposal is carried out the gates should be a site specific design that reflects the conservation area setting, perhaps of a quality akin to the gates at the end of Gotham Alley on Claremont, rather than the "off the peg" standard galvanized gates used to close off alleys elsewhere in the town.</p> <p>As the proposal is within a conservation area, and is adjacent to a listed building, we look forward to seeing a detailed planning application for the proposal should it go ahead.</p>
Hastings Borough	All	Licensing within Hastings Borough Council engages with many town centre businesses and residents in connection with their work. The issue of Gating Orders for various passageways

Council Licensing		<p>regularly features in our meetings and is seen by all as a proven method of improving the areas to the benefit of all.</p> <p>Therefore, licensing supports the renewing of these existing gating orders and fully supports the proposal for a new one between Robertson Street and Claremont (Hastings No 177), we have recently visited the area in support of a new application and witnessed first hand the fly tipping that had occurred.</p>
Resident	All	I agree those passageways need to continue being gated.
Business and resident	Prospect Passage	<p>I am writing in relation to the gates in Havelock Road.</p> <p>They were installed due to many unsavoury incidents and I am pleased to report that they have been an amazing success. The level of traffic around that area has obviously dropped with their installation and therefore the number of incidents have become non existent.</p> <p>I would definitely recommend that their closure continues as it has made this part of town far safer.</p>
Business	Trinity Passage	<p>I am a business owner in Claremont and I wanted to voice my encouragement of the proposed gated area between Claremont and Robertson Street.</p> <p>Currently this alley is a health hazard from the rubbish and other mess that builds up there. It make it unsafe for public access and is a spot for antisocial behaviour/. I have had two incidents of graffiti on our shutters in the last month and the alley acts as an easy hiding place for these people. I believe gating this will make the area safer and aesthetically more attractive which will help with local businesses.</p>
Hastings BCRP and Hastings BID	Laser Lane Prospect Passage Trinity Passage	<p>I am writing in my capacities as Town Centre Manager for the Hastings Business Improvement District and manager of the Hastings AREA BCRP CIC to support both the retention of the gating order at Laser Lane in St Leonards and the creation of a new order to protect Trinity Passage in the town centre.</p> <p>Laser Lane has a long history of anti-social behaviour problems, and the gating of the area has helped considerably, with the area now much tidier and less prone to activities that previously generated many complaints from neighbouring residents and business alike. A community project has now developed in the alley to the rear of the shops, and the retention of the gate will support this endeavour's continued existence. The non-renewal of this order would be seen</p>

		<p>as a retrograde step by the local community at large.</p> <p>Trinity Passage has been a concern to people and businesses in the surrounding area since I took on this role some six years ago. The alleyway is hardly (if ever) used for legitimate purposes by anyone other than residents whose front doors are in the alley itself and a small handful of businesses who store their bins there. The layout of Robertson Street and Claremont means that it does not serve as a 'short-cut' for anyone walking through the area, and as such this makes it a haven for ASB, including public urination/defecation and drug use/dealing. Local residents and businesses have witnessed and been confronted with this type of behaviour over many years, and there have been calls for the alley to be gated going back well before my tenure started. Gating this passage would be warmly welcomed by everyone in the area, and has my full support.</p>
Sussex Police	All	<p><u>Trinity Passage – Supported to be Gated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01/04/21 to 31/03/22 (12mths) – 9 crimes and 19 incidents. • 01/04/22 to 31/03/23 (12mths) – 6 crimes and 3 incidents. • 01/04/23 to 30/09/23 (6mths) – 6 crimes and 1 incident. <p>*Please note that the last period is six months. It is predicted for the full 12-month period that there will be twelve crimes and two incidents*.</p> <p>Violence Against the Person remains the highest crime type of 12 offences, followed by theft and handling offences. These are public space crime and have seen a projected increase this year. The location is in the heart of Hastings Town Centre which has both day and night public violence concerns. The re-opening this passage would lead to the use of this passage being used as a cut through and a secluded area for crime to occur freely without 3rd party protection, offences would include violence, drug dealing and handling of stolen goods, linked to an increase in organised shoplifting to fund drug habits locally. This would put all users of this passage at increased risk and vulnerability and as such my recommendation is that it is remained gated.</p> <p><u>Valentine’s Passage – Supported to remain gated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01/04/21 to 31/03/22 (12mths) – 61 crimes and 19 incidents. • 01/04/22 to 31/03/23 (12mths) – 144 crimes and 9 incidents. • 01/04/23 to 30/09/23 (6mths) – 63 crimes and 2 incidents. <p>*Please note that the last period is six months. It is predicted for the full 12-month period that there will be 126 crimes and four incidents.</p>

Theft and handling offences are the predominate crime type of 159, followed closely by violence against the person offences of 87. There are also significant reports of ASB in the location. This passage with unrestricted access would create an environment that would attract an increase in ASB and move it away from the public eye and thus increasing the associated risks. We have seen other person base associated with this location such as robbery and sexual offences, although small numbers a secluded, unprotected dark alleyway could increase these opportunities for an increase in these offences. There is significant crime in this area and all measure to prevent crime being hidden or easier to commit must be taken, and as such I recommend that this passage remains gated.

Laser Lane – Support to remain gated

- 01/04/21 to 31/03/22 (12mths) – 37 crimes and 10 incidents.
- 01/04/22 to 31/03/23 (12mths) – 37 crimes and one incident.
- 01/04/23 to 30/09/23 (6mths) – 11 crimes and 0 incidents.

*Please note that the last period is six months. It is predicted for the full 12-month period that there will be 22 crimes and 0 incidents.

Whilst crime has a projected reduction in the last 12months, as seen in other location violence against person offences and theft/handling offences remain the predominate offence types. This location is within a shopping High Street and would provide opportunities for easy escape routes and crime to be hidden from view. There are limited other crime prevention opportunities to protect communities using this passage due to the narrowness and darkness of the location. The location being gated has had a positive effect on reduction of calls and as such recommendation are that this remains.

Prospect Place – Supported to remain gated

- 01/04/21 to 31/03/22 (12mths) – 23 crimes and 15 incidents.
- 01/04/22 to 31/03/23 (12mths) – 42 crimes and 1 incident.
- 01/04/23 to 30/09/23 (6mths) – 23 crimes and 5 incidents.

*Please note that the last period is six months. It is predicted for the full 12-month period that there will be 46 crimes and 10 incidents.

Theft and Handling offences have increase over the Violence Against the Person offences in the past month, this fits with the national picture of increase in shoplifting offences across all community sectors. Alleyway, and passages generate an environment for stolen or illegal property to be exchanges without 3rd party witnessing. We continue to tackle shoplifting nationally and locally, but this location is within a highly populated retail environment my recommendations are that this remains gated.

<p>Hastings Borough Council Waste Services</p>	<p>Trinity Passage</p>	<p>Trinity Passage has been an issue for many years, mainly for flytipping, literally on a weekly basis. The numbers of reports are high. The Passage attracts drug users and those needing the toilet. Flytipping has reduced at the moment, possibly as one of the main fly tippers was prosecuted/fined. With the fly tip frequency and the assumption that the police have a lot of reports for the alley, plus the number of complaints that Community safety receive from the residents in the alley, this passage would certainly benefit from gating.</p>
<p>ESCC Public Rights of Way</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Thank you for consulting us on the Borough Council's review of the above Order. Concerns regarding the continuation of this Order relate primarily to the difficulties that the prolonged closure of the paths will pose to any future reinstatement of the public's use. Having already been closed to the public for almost three years, the perception of them as private ways will only become more established if the Order is renewed for a further 3 years. If it is decided that the continuation of the Order is needed, I would ask that consideration is given to measures to counter this.</p> <p>In particular I would ask that consideration is given to the possible benefits of partially reopening them to the public by varying the Order to gate the paths during night time hours only. In my opinion this would strike a better balance between addressing the misuse of the paths and retaining them as public spaces, which I would suggest has the potential to counter anti-social problems.</p> <p>I acknowledge that this presents a challenge in respect to the management of the gating. However, the application of gating PSPOs carries a responsibility on the Borough Council's part towards the management of the gates. Whereas my impression is that the management of the gates imposed by this Order is currently delegated entirely to residents with little or no control on the part of Borough Council.</p> <p>For example, in the case of Laser Lane, Footpath 97, I understand that the management of the southerly gate is controlled exclusively by residents of the new development, The Hideaway. The occupants of which will have moved to the property since the Order was applied in 2021 and so will likely have no appreciation of the lane as being a public path. I am very concerned that if the Order and this arrangement are continued it will be extremely difficult to reverse the perception on the part of residents that the public have no right to use the lane.</p> <p>The arrangement with the northerly gate on Kings Road also appears to be undermining the purpose of the Order. The gate being routinely left open is enabling the persistence of antisocial issues and the closure of the lane to the public arguably only serves to make the area a more discreet space and prone to the problems it is attracting.</p>

		<p>The use of the space adjoining the lane for community events is a positive development and there appears to be the potential to integrate this with the management of the gating. The delegation of the management of the gates to the community group in combination with the reinstatement of the public use in daytime hours could offer more positive long-term benefits than the continuation of the Order in its current form.</p> <p>I recognise that a similar arrangement is unlikely to be possible in the case of Footpaths 94 or 175. However, management agreements could conceivably be put in place with the property owners who have control of the gates requiring them to be kept unlocked between certain hours.</p> <p>If the Order is to be continued in its current form consideration should be given to other measures to counter the perception of the paths as being permanently closed to the public. Adjoining residents with access should be reminded in writing that the Order is temporary that the paths remain designated as public highway.</p> <p>Regular checks should be made on the paths to document their condition and ensure against any encroachment or obstruction.</p> <p>In respect to Footpath 175, I am aware that the Brass Monkey pub has closed since the Order was made. I would ask that the Brough Council's Planning Team is made aware of the need to retain the public footpath with any future use or redevelopment of the property, or otherwise that a permanent stopping-up by way of an appropriate planning order needs to be considered.</p> <p>In the case of all three paths, whether the Order is continued in its current form or varied to introduce daytime opening hours, I suggest that permanent notices should be erected detailing the terms of the PSPO. This would serve both to inform the public and remind residents of their public status and the temporary nature of the Order.</p> <p>I confirm that I do not wish to object to any continuation of the Order but would request that these matters and the possible variation of the Order are given consideration by the Borough Council in conducting its review.</p>
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