

**London Borough of Sutton  
ST. HELIER, THE WRYTHE AND WANDLE VALLEY  
LOCAL COMMITTEE 13 May 2008**

**Report of the Executive Head of Planning, Transport &  
Highways  
In Response to the Residents Concerns Regarding Anti-  
Social Behaviour**

**HALESOWEN ROAD STEPS, ROSEHILL - PROPOSED  
MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXISTING FOOTWAY AND STEPS**

**Ward Location:** St. Helier  
**Area Served:** Rosehill

**Author(s)**  
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**Report for Decision**

**Lead Councillor**  
Councillor Colin Hall

**Summary**

This report considers the proposals that have been designed in response to local residents concerns regarding youths loitering on the steps in Halesowen Road.

**Recommendations**

I recommend the Committee to:

- (a) Acknowledge the need for implementing measures to discourage loitering within the alleyway located between Halesowen Road and Garendon Road.
- (b) Approve the modifications for implementation as proposed on drawing nos. T20041\_PD\_09/B and T20041\_PD\_10/A.
- (c) Approve the contribution of £7,500 towards the overall cost of the scheme.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 'The Steps' is the local name for the alleyway which is located between Halesowen Road and Garendon Road, in Rosehill.
- 1.2 Traditionally 'The Steps' have been a gathering place for youths, who have sometimes demonstrated anti-social behaviour.
- 1.3 Officers have been working in liaison with Ward Councillors, local residents and the Police to consider measures to discourage loitering, by making it uncomfortable for people to sit on the steps.

**2. Issues**

- 2.1 The proposals include the introduction of a series of shallow steps and bollards. The proposals include stair treads (the part that people step on) of 750mm depth and risers (the vertical difference between adjacent stair treads) of 100mm, with the overall width of the stairs being 2.0m. These unusual dimensions make it uncomfortable for people to sit on the steps for long periods of time, as it is almost the equivalent of sitting on a flat surface.

- 2.2 The shallow steps would start from the footway in Halesowen Road and would rise to a point approximately 14m into the alleyway, where they would tie-in to existing levels. Two other sets of steps, of similar dimensions, would link the footpaths that are located perpendicular to the alleyway. The three sets of steps would meet at a level platform.
- 2.3 It is normal practice to provide handrails to assist pedestrians. However, these have purposely been omitted from the proposals, as they could provide loiterers with something to lean against.
- 2.4 The proposed bollards are necessary to physically deter motorised vehicles from accessing the alleyway.
- 2.5 Officers will inform the residents of the proposals, prior to commencing the works on site.
- 2.6 The Committee is asked to approve the above measures for implementation.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The proposed options within this report are estimated to cost £15,000.
- 3.2 £7,500 of funding has been approved by the Safer Sutton Partnership. It is recommended that the St. Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley Local Committee approves the funding of the remaining £7,500, from the Committee's Public Realm Budget.

### **4. Influence of the Council's Core Values**

The proposed measures are in accordance with the 'Safer Sutton Partnership's' policy of "the development and implementation of work to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, misuse of drugs and alcohol and feelings of public safety".

### **5. Contribution to the Achievement of the Council's Policy Aims**

The scheme will cater for all sections of the local community.

### **6. Background Papers**

There are none.