

NET LINE ONE – FOOTPATH ACCESS, DAVID LANE TRAMSTOP

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, NET

1. SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- 1.1. The Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch Association has written to this Committee requesting that fencing is erected across an informal footpath that leads from David Lane Tramstop to prevent youths from gaining access and causing problems of anti-social behaviour on a neighbouring housing estate. This report discusses the issues that need to be considered in addressing the matter.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee considers this report and that a decision on how to proceed should be withheld until the outcome of consultation with local residents, mentioned in paragraph 5.3, is known.

3. REQUEST BY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

- 3.1. Access to and from the north end of David Lane Tramstop can be obtained via an informal footpath that links to the west bank of the River Leen and to a neighbouring housing estate. Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch Association has written to inform this Committee that youths, who are causing problems of anti-social behaviour, are gaining access via this “cut-through” and that they are requesting that a fence is erected to prevent this. A copy of the letter can be seen at Appendix A. The Police are aware of the anti-social behaviour that is occurring and report that, when they have been called out by residents, the offenders have used the cut-through as an escape route. It should be clarified that there is currently no fence across this access as suggested in the letter, although it is partially obstructed by a mine water pipeline (see photos, Appendix B).

4. USE OF THE CUT-THROUGH

- 4.1. The land on which the cut-through lies forms part of the land that is leased to Arrow Light Rail Ltd for the construction and operation of NET. It has been observed that it is used by a considerable number of people taking a short-cut from the housing estate to use the tram; the alternative route to reach the tramstop is to use Firecrest Way and Mill Street which is approximately twice the distance. In addition, the cut-through is used by people walking alongside the River Leen who are otherwise forced to divert through the housing estate. The erection of a fence across the cut-through would therefore prevent such use.
- 4.2. Arrow and their operations contractor, Nottingham Tram Consortium (NTC), are not in favour of erecting a fence at this location as they consider that it could encourage people who are insistent on using the cut-through to take greater risks adjacent to the tram tracks or the river or to damage the boundary fencing of neighbouring property to create an alternative route.

5. RIVER LEEN ACCESS & BIO- DIVERSITY PROJECT

- 5.1. The City Council has recently received confirmation of funding from the Government for a scheme to create a multi-user path along the length of the River Leen within the City boundary, linking the Trent / Canal (Big Track) in the south with the Mill Lakes Paths in Ashfield in the north. The bid was made in partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Details of the scheme, which will be the subject of local consultation, are yet to be finalised but it is intended that implementation will take place over the spring and summer of 2011. The upgrading of the footpath along the river bank to the north of David Lane is included as part of this scheme (see Appendix C) but, because of the existing access constraints immediately north of the tramstop, including insufficient width, the presence of the mine water pipeline and the proximity to the tram tracks, it will be necessary to purchase third-party land if a formal link to the tramstop is to be achieved.
- 5.2. The property immediately adjacent to the tramstop and the cut-through comprises the car park of a former DHSS building that is currently vacant. Enquiries are being made by the City Council into the availability for purchase of a small amount of land from this site.
- 5.3. A consultation meeting with the residents of the adjacent housing estate, at which the above proposals will be discussed, is due to be held in January and it is recommended that any decision on how to take this matter forward is withheld until the outcome of this meeting is known.

6. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 6.1. None.

7. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 7.1. None.

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Pat Armstrong,
Director MET,
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Dear Pat,

Subject: Dauids Lane Tram Stop.

I am writing to you, as Chairman of Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch Association, regarding concerns of residents on the "Birds Estate" off of Mill Street, Old Basford.

Young people are using Dauids Lane Tram Stop as a "cut through" onto the above Estate.

The estate in question is suffering from Anti Social behaviour, and the people using this "cut through" have been identified as causing some of these problems.

I have taken the liberty to examine the fencing and signs on the north bound side of the Dauids Lane Tram Stop and it appears perfectly adequate for the normal commuters. There is, however, a stretch of about 80 yards, past the platform barrier, where it is possible to climb over the fencing to gain access to the green bank area bordering the River Leen and where there is evidence of footpaths in the grass leading to the "Birds Estate".

Mick Newton, Nottingham City Councillor for Old Basford, who attended our recent OBNWA Meeting in September, has been witness to these young people trespassing, in the way described, at the Dauids Lane Tram Stop.

Would it please be possible for further fencing to be erected along this 80 approx. yard boundary up to where the River Leen is diverted under the tram lines. This, hopefully, would deter these trespassers and solve some of the ASB on this Estate.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman, Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch
Association.

Copies to:
Councillor Mick Newton. ✓
Secretary, OBNWA.

APPENDIX B



DRAFT

Plan 3: West of David Lane Tram Stop

Proposed Route of the new path alongside the Leen

Potential future link to David Lane Tram Stop and cycle network to the east

Playground - path will need to go around

Existing path to be closed at the request of local residents

Short section of path linking Corncrake avenue/footway to the existing footpath network

Existing route of NCN6

Existing path alongside the Leen

