

## EALING COUNCIL'S ALLEY GATING SCHEME

<b>Committee name</b>	Residents' Services Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Elleni Yiangu – Gating officer – Ealing Council
<b>Papers with report</b>	None
<b>Ward</b>	All London Borough of Ealing

### HEADLINES

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an understanding of Ealing's gating scheme process and operational delivery and to inform any decision by Members and officers in relation to Hillingdon's gating process.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. **Gains an understanding of Ealing's model of delivery; and**
2. **Considers adopting aspects of Ealing's Alleyway Gating Scheme process as a guide to assist the review and refresh of Hillingdon's Alleyway Gating Scheme.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Ealing's Alleyway Gating Scheme allows residents to apply to have secure steel gates installed in private alleyways as an attempt to deter acts of anti-social behaviour and crime from taking place in or with the assistance of the alleyway. The scheme is resident led and once the gates are installed, they become residents' responsibility to manage, fund and maintain.

All schemes must be on private land and all residents must be both willing to give their consent for the installation to go ahead and be willing to take responsibility of maintenance and administration of the gate following installation.

All applications are evaluated using crime statistics from the police, council records and an assessment of value for money.

Ealing's gating team require only three criteria for an application to be considered:

1. All applications must have a lead resident, who will serve as a single point of contact for the council and residents.
2. 100% consent must be provided by all home and landowners affected.

3. A clear outline must be provided of the behaviours being experienced by residents due to the alleyway being ungated.

Ealing Council do not hold keys to any gates that are gifted to residents. The council are also clear that they will not intervene in any civil disputes related to the gates that may arise in the future. Ownership and accountability by the residents and, in particular the lead resident, are promoted and expected. This feeds into the long-term sustainability for schemes, with the additional benefit of often creating better networked communities of neighbours who may not have communicated with each other prior to the shared ownership of a gating scheme.

A flowchart of our agreed process with Drayton Fencing is attached as APPENDIX 1.

Ealing Council only offer residents one type and style of gate. By doing this we keep the costs to a minimum and keep the gate standard fair. We are also able to look at a photo and make an educated guess as to whether the gates were installed via the scheme or not.

Ealing council have also now started installing signs on completed gating schemes to remind residents that the scheme is resident led and the gates now belong to the residents. Signage is attached as APPENDIX 2.

## **PERFORMANCE DATA**

Since 2018 (when the process for tracking alley-gating applications was moved to a new system), Ealing has received 119 'new scheme' applications; 59 of these have been approved, with 54 delivered and 5 pending as of March 2023.

Measuring the impact of gating schemes is never an exact science; however, Ealing has undertaken reviews of the effectiveness of schemes via the safer communities data analyst utilising police crime reports and ASB data.

As part of a focussed assessment of single gating schemes in the W5 area of Ealing the installation of gates appears to have substantially contributed to a reduction in crime and, in particular, incidents of burglary and anti-social behaviour. The one-year period saw a relatively stable crime, albeit slight reduction, in an aggregate count of crime incidents in the area as a whole; however the total level of crime in the location affected by the gating scheme fell by 41%. Data from other schemes indicates similar levels of crime reduction in areas where gating is installed in response to an identified need.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT**

The Alleyway Gating Scheme allows residents to be gifted with secure steel gates. There is no cost for residents when they receive the gift of gates from the council; however, the residents are expected to fund the maintenance once installation is complete. Residents are encouraged to form a sort of resident's association to ensure the gate and alley are maintained. Residents are also encouraged to form better relationships with their neighbours to ensure the community is safer and healthier.

The gate has 12 months warranty so if the gates do fail in the first year, they can call Drayton

Fencing for assistance. Ealing Council's Alleyway Gating Applications undergo an evaluation of the reported crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as value for money. The alleyways that are gifted with gates have been identified as areas that are subject to acts of anti-social behaviour and crime, meaning the gates gifted to residents via the alleyway gating scheme aim to assist in making the area safer and healthier by securing the land and preventing perpetrators from accessing the area.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In Ealing the gating scheme is funded out of a limited community safety capital budget. In terms of financial implications for Hillingdon, there are no specific financial implications in this report. Ultimately, the quantum of costs to the council will be clarified once a model for Hillingdon is identified.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Ealing council only consider applications when there is 100% consent obtained from all affected Homeowners and Landowners. We confirm the homeowners and landowners by completing a land registry check. As residents apply to install gates on private land we must obtain consent from the homeowners and landowners with access rights.

At this stage Ealing's scheme focuses only on private land. However, the service is currently exploring how the gating scheme could be developed for use on adopted roads.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Agreed process between LBE and Drayton Fencing

Appendix 2: Signage

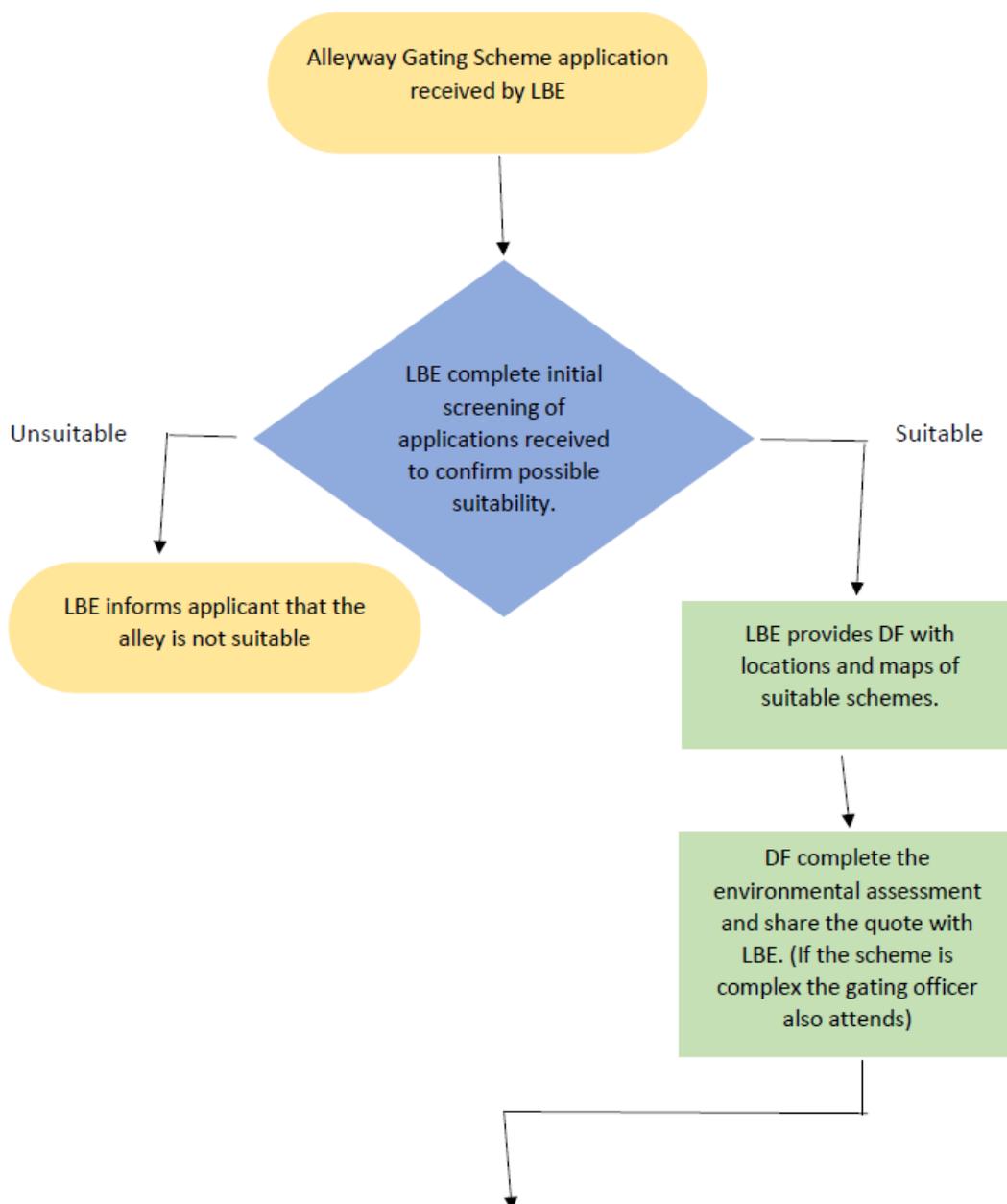
# Agreement between LBE Gating team and Drayton Fencing

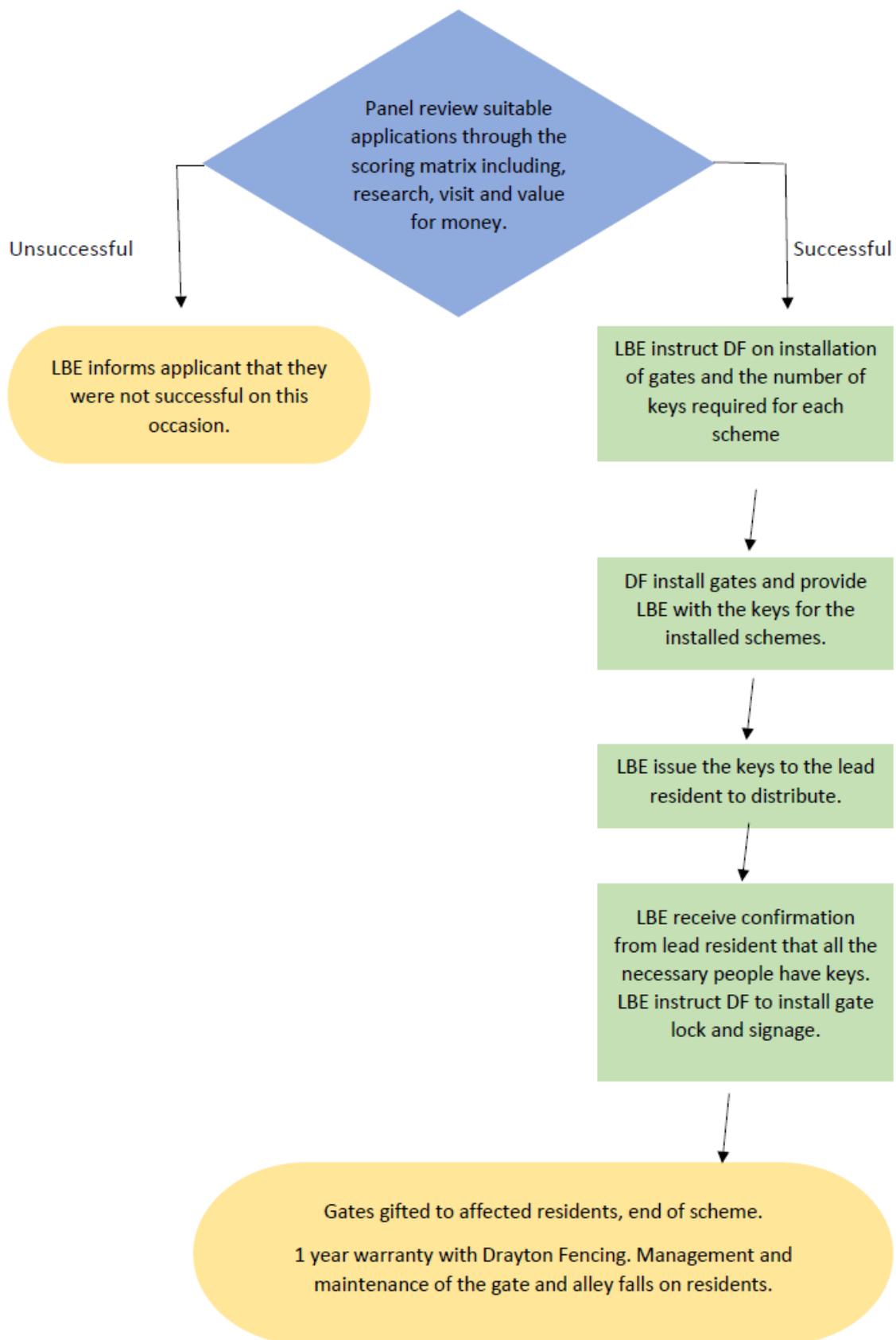
Agreed on 14 November 2022

Ealing council's Gating team delivers the Alleyway Gating Scheme with the assistance of Drayton Fencing.

The Alleyway Gating Scheme allows residents to apply to have secure steel gates installed in private alleyways.

The agreement between the Gating team and Drayton Fencing is as follows.





Agreed by: Elleni Yangu – LBE Gating Officer & Paul Smith – Drayton Fencing

**This gate was gifted by Ealing Council  
to local residents following an application  
to the alleyway gating scheme.**

It is the residents' responsibility to maintain  
and manage this gate, its lock and the alleyway.



For information on how to apply for  
the private alleyway scheme,  
visit: [www.ealing.gov.uk/gating](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/gating)

EALING COUNCIL

