

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Malcolm Taylor, Area Engineer
Corporate Plan Output: Safety Improvements 9.5.90	

The purpose of this report is to respond to the petition presented earlier in this Agenda.

BACKGROUND

Twenty residents from the area of Castletown Place and Bower Avenue have signed a petition requesting the closure of the alleyway that runs between Castletown Place and Palmers Road. These residents have expressed concern over the acts of vandalism and general nuisance to Castletown Place caused by people using this alleyway.

The alleyway provides an access way for pedestrians and cyclists to many facilities and services in this area. In this area is located; two schools, a kindergarten, a shopping centre, bus stops, sports venue and recreation facilities (*see map attached*). The concerns of vandalism and general nuisance have been referred to the Police.

The following reply has been received from the New Zealand Police addressing the residents concerns for this lane; 'If the lane had better lighting along it, this would perhaps prevent some of the problems occurring. As for closing it, this is entirely up to the Council, but as far as the Police are concerned, this lane does not create any specific problems.'

CONCLUSION

The City Streets Unit does not support the closure of the alleyway as it provides a well located pedestrian facility linking a residential area with a shopping centre, two schools, a kindergarten, bus stops, a sports venue and other recreational facilities. The Community Advocate has agreed to meet together with the Community Constable and residents to discuss their concerns of vandalism and general nuisance behaviour in this area.

The lighting of the lane has been investigated and the positions of proposed additional lighting are shown on the attached map (*see page 53*). They will be installed this financial year.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the alleyway between Castletown Place and Bower Avenue remain open.
 2. That the petitioners be informed of the decision that the Board will not pursue the closure of the alleyway due to the importance of this link between Bower Avenue and Palmers Road.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the aforementioned recommendations be adopted, and that the Board support the installation of additional lighting.