**Queens Road Gate Locking and Unlocking**

**Pedestrian Gates: Sutherland & Queens Road**

**Incident:** 28th May 2025 at 10.15pm, Police contacted Clerk to say that 20 yr old, 10 yr old, dog and bike were locked in Queens Road Field. Kath tried to unlock gate but the padlock had been changed. Luckily, gate locker was able to go to Queens Road pedestrian gate and let her out.

Unlocked at: 6am

Locked at: 9pm

Originally, they were meant to have a whistle and walk round the park blowing the whistle as they walked their dogs prior to locking. That has finished and now they do have look but just lock gates.

**Sutherland Way.**

There is a key padlock which only the gate unlockers have keys for at Sutherland. Kath used to have a spare key and would let out anyone locked in accidentally. The padlock was changed in December and the two spare keys are with the 2 people who lock and unlock the gates.

**Queens Road**

This is a combination lock which I have just requested the code for and received.

**History:**

When Josh’s Jumps was originally built in March, 2010, the gates were locked due to antisocial behaviour and it was agreed that the spare funds raised by charity would pay for gate lockers. These people have since passed their keys to other neighbours and we have been informed who is doing it.

The extra funds raised by charity, approx. £9,000, would have been used up within 3-5 years at that time, with GBPC funding the gate locking from at least 2015 onwards.

**2024/25 Annual Cost: £3,680** (At £5 per gate locking or unlocking, £10 per day)

**Total approx. cost to Council so far: £45,000**

NB; The Council still hold the original Josh’s Jump fund account but that money has been ‘spent’ many times over by the annual payments and GBPC hold no charity raised funds in relation to Queens Road.

**Factors to take into account when deciding the future of gate locking and unlocking:**

* Sutherland Way is unlocked and the gate then locked into open position to deter dogs being let off leads.
* If cancelled for trial period, could be extremely difficult to attract new gate lockers as they do every day, including Christmas Day, at 6am – in all weathers
* Could anti-social behaviour return to park or do young people act differently with introduction of technology and Covid years.
* Would it benefit locals as there are queues of dog walkers waiting for it to be unlocked in the mornings
* Would it stop incidents of people being locked in which apparently does happen, more likely in Summer
* Could not locking the Sutherland gate open, increase dog walkers again –or should the gate be removed entirely and possibly widened to make disabled access at Sutherland Way?
* No other open space owned by GBPC is locked