Rochdale Canal undercroft

Proposed public safety measures
Proposed new safety measures to protect the public at the Rochdale Canal undercroft

A planning application has been submitted to install gates at both ends of the underground towpath, which runs between Dale Street and Minshull Street, near Piccadilly Station, closing the area off to pedestrians at night.

A number of people have drowned there over the past few years and robberies have also taken place at the location.

Other measures to make the area safer, such as installing CCTV and brighter lighting, have all been introduced without success.

Manchester City Council, working closely with Greater Manchester Police, the Greater Manchester Fire Service, CityCo and the Canal & River Trust, asked residents and businesses for their views on the gating proposal last year.

Following this consultation, it was agreed the gates would only be closed between 10pm and 7am, as police statistics show the worst periods are during the night. Access for boating will continue, but use of the towpath for walking through will be prevented during these hours.

Once it's published on manchester.gov.uk/planning, you can find out more about the planning application and listed building consent and make comments. Manchester City Council must apply for a Public Space Protection Order.

Walkers are being advised that an easy alternative route is available: from Minshull Street, along Auburn Street, cross the A6 London Road via a pedestrian crossing, and go along Ducie Street.