

Chairs Announcement

Good afternoon and welcome to everyone, before we start the meeting I need to inform you that we are not expecting a fire drill so in the event of the fire alarm sounding please leave the building by your nearest fire exit, as quickly as possible, in an orderly manner and assemble at the Cenotaph in the main square, outside of Sainsbury's.

Welcome to the Cabinet Petitions Committee. Could I introduce the members of the committee, I am Councillor Crompton, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and I am accompanied by

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Agendas are produced electronically and members of the committee are using a tablet/device for the purpose of accessing the documents for today's meeting.

Please listen for the petition/report you are interested in as I call it out.

If there is more than one of you here for a petition then you must appoint one person to speak on behalf of all of you. You must make ALL relevant points known at this stage, as you will not be allowed to speak again unless asked a question.

Once the petition has been considered, you may leave or stay for the rest of the proceedings, but if you decide to leave, please do so quietly, so that you do not disrupt the proceedings.

Please note that members of the public and the press are now allowed by law to film, audio record, take photographs, blog or tweet at this meeting. I would ask at this point if anyone is intending to film the meeting? I would ask anyone who is recording to avoid any disruption of the meeting and to avoid filming members of the public. If you do film members of the public there is the potential for civil action against you by anyone who has not given their permission to be filmed.

Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 7 August, 2019 at 5.00pm
in Annexe 2 at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Agenda

(Open to Public and Press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest in matters to be discussed.
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June, 2019.
4. Progress Update.

David Stevens
Interim Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillors Ali, Crompton, Y Davies, Hadley, Lloyd, Millard, Shaeen, Taylor and Underhill.

**Agenda prepared by Trisha Newton
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This document is available in large print on request to the above telephone number. The document is also available electronically on the Committee Management Information System which can be accessed from the Council's web site on www.sandwell.gov.uk

Please note that this meeting may be filmed by members of the public and press, and may be filmed by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website.

Apologies

To receive any apologies from members

Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

Cabinet Petitions Committee

**27th June 2019 at 5.00pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillors Ali and Khatun (Chair).

Observer: Councillors Ashman, Crompton and L Giles.

7/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

8/19 **Progress Report**

Details were submitted of petitions received and of the action taken or proposed in each case, as detailed in the Appendix.

Resolved that the action taken or proposed, as detailed in the second column of the Appendix, be approved.

(Meeting ended at 5.51pm)

Contact Officer: Trisha Newton
Democratic Services Unit
0121 569 3193

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 27th June 2019

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Barker Street, Oldbury objecting to residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>This was the second petition received following consultation with residents in response to the first petition requesting a residents parking scheme. Residents were against a scheme being implemented as they thought the permits would be free and strongly disagreed with the charges. No further action would be taken. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>2. Residents of Edgbaston Road, Smethwick requesting a residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>Questionnaires relating to a residents parking scheme were last delivered in 2016, following a petition. At the time there was a low response and no further action was taken. A number of residents were against a scheme as only one permit per household would be available. The petition indicated more than half of the petitioners wanted more than one permit. Due to the width of the properties, most houses had space to park one vehicle on-street. In 2016 eight of the houses had been converted to flats. Permit schemes did not benefit residents where the lack of parking space was due to the number of vehicles belonging to residents. Officers were aware that some parking was from neighbouring roads, however, in these situations residents would be paying for an annual permit with no improvement in the parking and nowhere to park second or third vehicles. It was proposed that no further action was taken. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>3. Residents of View Point, Tividale requesting installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at View Point.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 27th June 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>4. Various road users/ residents of Wednesbury requesting traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury.</p>	<p>A site visit had been undertaken and various options were being considered. An update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>5. Residents of the Hateley Heath area requesting that the SAPA building on Hateley Heath estate be brought back into use for the community.</p>	<p>Officers had met with the tenants association to discuss the petition. The association were working on a business plan for the use of the building which included re-opening the centre for play activities, the building being a hub for the community including events for elderly people. The Council's community partnerships team had offered to review the business plan. Officers explained that a minimum of £5000 to £8000 a year would be required to run the building. The main concern was the heating. Essex Avenue tenants and resident's association had asked for a one year trial period, at nil rent to see if their aspirations were viable. A report had been prepared setting out all of the options for consideration by senior officers. The Committee was also advised that approval had been given for officers to work with the tenants association on their business case. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>6. Residents of Wheatsheaf Road Estate, Tividale requesting a mini bus service following the removal of the 121 bus service.</p>	<p>The role of Transport for West Midlands (TFWM) was to promote public transport within the West Midlands and provide roadside infrastructure (bus stops and shelters) and passenger information (such as timetables and journey planning). The majority of bus services were provided by private bus operators on a "for profit basis" meaning they only operated</p>

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 27th June 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>services which generated enough fares to cover the cost of operation. Although TfWM was not directly responsible for providing bus services, they worked closely with local bus operators to champion the needs of local people and aimed to bring about a positive resolution in response to queries where possible. Following receipt of the petition, the issue of bus services for Wheatsheaf Road was raised with the bus operator National Express West Midlands (NXWM). Although the operator had considered the request again, NXWM confirmed it was unable to consider re-routing service 12A via Wheatsheaf Road. In addition to discussions with NXWM, TfWM also carried out an assessment of the local area, in order to ensure that residents were within a reasonable distance of the existing bus network. In some situations it was possible for TfWM to consider providing public funding for bus links where residents were located a significant distance from the bus network however, the proximity of residents along Wheatsheaf Road to the existing bus services meant this option did not apply. In looking at the other options available to people living along Wheatsheaf Road where services on Darby's Hill Road were difficult to reach, the Ring and Ride service represented an alternative for residents to consider. The Ring and Ride service had continued to operate normally for customers since the Accessible Transport Group became insolvent in March 2019. TfWM was working very closely with the Administrator to secure a long term sustainable future for Ring and Ride and residents could be assured that the service could provide a helpful and</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	reliable link should they need it. Following representations from a local ward member and concerns that the whole estate had not been taken into consideration in relation to proximity to existing bus services, the Chair requested that the matter be referred back to TfWM and also to the relevant Cabinet Member to look at options available. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
7. Residents in the vicinity of Pages Lane/service users, Great Barr requesting traffic calming measures/20mph speed limit/signage/lining in Pages Lane.	This matter was being investigated by officers within Highways. An update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
8. Residents of Cheshire Road, Smethwick requesting one way system.	This matter was being investigated by officers within Highways. An update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
9. Residents of Speaker's Close, Tividale requesting installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at the end of Speaker's Close.	The land referred to was in the ownership of Bellway. The head petitioner requested the Council's support in the installation of gates, which was requested by all of the residents in Speaker's Close following persistent anti-social behaviour issues in the area over a number of years. The Committee requested that officers investigate the feasibility of installing gating on Council owned land and undertake the necessary consultation. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
10. Residents of the Broadway, West Bromwich requesting the gating of the Wallface, Hill Top.	Officers had been requested by the Committee to investigate the possibility of providing gating. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>11. Residents of Avenue Road, Blackheath, requesting a residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>32 questionnaires were delivered on 5 March 2019 with a return date of 19 March 2019. 19 questionnaires were returned with 17 in favour of a scheme and two against. The request would be included in a future parking review and go through the Traffic Regulation Order process. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>12. Residents of Barker Street, Oldbury requesting residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>124 questionnaires were delivered to Barker Street and Bell Fold on 18 March with a return date of 1 April 2019. 50 questionnaires were returned, 11 voted in favour of a scheme and 38 voted against a scheme (1 form not completed). A second petition with 73 signatures was received 27 March 2019, from residents of Barker Street. The petitioners were against a residents parking scheme being implemented, as they thought the permits would be free and strongly disagreed with the charges. In view of the results, no further action would be taken. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>13. Residents of New Street North, West Bromwich requesting residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>16 questionnaires were delivered on 28 March 2019 with a return date of 12 April 2019. Of the 12 questionnaires returned, 10 were in favour of a scheme and 2 against. The request will be included in a future parking review as part of the Traffic Regulation Order process. The head petitioner has been informed.</p>
<p>14. Parents of children at Moat Farm School requesting a review of parking restrictions around school.</p>	<p>The parking restrictions around Moat Farm School had been reviewed. Double red lines had been installed around the school and nearby junctions as part of an 18 month experimental order. This should help to alleviate some of the parking problems around the school. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>15. Supporters of Britannia Park, Rowley Regis, requesting CCTV and lighting in the park.</p>	<p>Parks and Grounds Maintenance, Environmental Protection, Anti-Social Behaviour and West Midlands Police had met. A site meeting had also taken place, involving officers and elected members. Reports received by various services in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour within Britannia Park had been collated and information over a 12-month period had been reviewed, however, this did not demonstrate a significant increase in crime or anti-social behaviour. Reports of crime and anti-social behaviour were discussed regularly between police and council officers in meetings where crime figures/trends were discussed, and appropriate responses agreed. Consideration had been given to potential under-reporting. Park users were encouraged to report matters direct to the Police or the Council. If reports were made contemporaneously with events, this would allow officers to deal with issues as they occurred and would ensure that data accurately reflected the trends within the area. Appropriate measures/ additional resources could then be considered to tackle individual or locality-based problems such as the use of deployable CCTV cameras. The Council had a pool of cameras used in partnership with the Police. Information gathered was used to see where the cameras were best placed. While unable to meet the request at this time, crime and anti-social behaviour was monitored and the use of the deployable cameras would be considered where appropriate and proportionate. Issues relating to off-road bikes were a problem throughout Sandwell and a boroughwide approach was currently being considered to tackle</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>these issues however identifying key locations and possible offenders was essential and such evidence was often community based. At present the Council did not have any plans to install permanent CCTV. Britannia Park was discussed at the Rowley tasking meeting in June and partners confirmed they were receiving little in terms of reports of problems within the park. Police had reported it as a low crime area with only ten calls for service in the last 12 months, of which only three were classed as crimes. Youth services visited the park on a regular basis and encountered a good number of youths who reported that there are not many issues in the park. Environmental Protection Officers had carried out patrols and had not found anything untoward. ASB officers reported an on-going targeted graffiti problem but no other issues. Based on the amount of signatories to the petition a deployable camera had been temporarily installed near the main entrance of the park. Youth services would continue to engage with the young people using the park and would alert the tasking group to any issues that arose via feedback. Police and Environmental Protection Officers would also pay passing attention to the park as resources allowed and report back to the tasking group, if necessary. The tasking group would discuss any further findings in July. If there were no further concerns identified the matter would be closed. The head petitioner expressed disappointment with the Council's approach and advised that following a Freedom of Information request from the Police 26 crimes had been recorded in the park over 5 years, over half of a violent nature, with little ASB</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>recorded. In the past 12 months there had been an incident of mugging at knife point recorded by the Police. Other serious crimes had not been captured due to the crime being recorded against Britannia Road and the Police had been requested update the FOI to include the three surrounding roads to ensure all statistics were as conclusive as possible. The temporary measures that had been introduced were acknowledged and welcomed. A full proposal with costings had failed to be delivered despite a survey being conducted. The head petitioner was advised that a response would be provided, including details of the right of appeal.</p>
<p>16. Residents of Soho House and Park House, Soho Close, Smethwick, requesting soft play area and equipment.</p>	<p>An application for funding had been declined. The amount of funding required for the playground (£21k) exceeded the amount of monies available for the year. The fitting of the playground equipment was within funding but the cost of maintenance was too expensive. Officers would continue to look at alternative ways of funding. The head petitioner would be updated should funding become available.</p>
<p>17. Residents in the vicinity of Bearwood Road, Smethwick requesting bus service along Bearwood Road.</p>	<p>Further to previous updates to the Committee, a response has been received from the Mayor of West Midlands who confirmed that the changes occurred during National Express West Midlands' (NXWM) Sandwell and Dudley bus network review in 2017. At present, the 82 or 21 bus served customers who wished to travel between Bearwood Road and Bearwood High Street and this still complied with TfWM's access standards. For this reason, funding for supplementary subsidised public transport was unable to be considered at this time. In order to help</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>support customers who were not able to easily use traditional public transport or access local bus stops, door-to-door transport was provided via the Ring and Ride service. The Mayor of West Midlands would be more than happy to help councillors make contact with TfWM's marketing team to distribute targeted advertising for Ring and Ride for those who would benefit from it most.</p> <p>Assurances were given that the needs of elderly and disabled passengers were extremely important to TfWM and it was recommended that they made full use of the Ring and Ride service to help meet their needs. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

Cabinet Petitions Committee

7 August 2019

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Trisha Newton Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Petitions Committee:-

- (1) approve the action taken or proposed as detailed in the third column below.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Cabinet Committee of petitions received and of the action which has been taken or proposed.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 Petitions are one of the many ways in which people who live and work in the Borough can influence the decision making process. Many of the issues typically raised by petitions underpin the Council's Vision. Petitions alert members and officers to current local issues and ensure that services are being targeted appropriately in delivering the Council's priorities.

3 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct strategic resource implications arising from this report.

4 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Section 46 of the Localism Act 2011 removes the requirements for principal local authorities in England and Wales to make, publish and comply with a scheme for the handling of petitions made to the authority, with effect from 1 April 2012. At its meeting on 22 May 2012, the Council decided to retain a petitions scheme, although there was no longer a statutory requirement to have such a scheme.

5. Background Details

5.1 Petitions received since last reporting period

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.1.1 42 – residents of Herbert Road, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for residents parking scheme	This matter is being investigated by officers within Highways and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 27/6/2019)
5.1.2 11 – residents of Dagger Lane, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Request for residents parking scheme	The request includes numbers 16–38 (evens) Dagger Lane, however, officers would have to consider property numbers 2–14, as parking would be displaced. There is not enough on-street space available for one vehicle per household. Issues of parents parking have also been raised. Where schemes have been introduced near schools these are often shared use to allow parents to pick up and drop off. No further action is proposed. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 5/7/2019)

5.1.3 89 – residents in the vicinity of Grafton Road/ Kestrel Road, Oldbury (Langley)	Request for locked gateway at the top and bottom entrances, leading to garages at the back of the bottom of Grafton Road and the back of Kestrel Road, adjacent to Grafton Road and a locked gateway at the walkway leading from Kestrel Road to the back of the houses.	This matter is being investigated by offices within Neighbourhoods and an update will be submitted to a future meeting (Received 5/7/2019)
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5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 33 – residents of View Point, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for installation of night and day gates in the gully located at View Point.	This matter is being investigated and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 5/3/2019)
5.2.2 65 – residents of the Hateley Heath area (Hateley Heath)	Request for the SAPA building on Hateley Heath estate to be brought back into use for the community.	Further to the initial update provided to the meeting at the last meeting, an update on the condition of the building has been received. The general condition of the building is ok, with no asbestos issues identified. Electrical works to the value of £2,400 identified. The heating system is beyond repair and a replacement system would cost in the region of £17,000. The total estimated building works is therefore estimated to be in the region of £20,000. Officers are currently awaiting the business case in order to move the matter forward. An update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee. (Received 26/4/2019)

5.2.3 110 – residents of Wheatsheaf Road Estate, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for mini bus service following remove of 121 bus service	<p>The role of Transport for West Midlands (TFWM) is to promote public transport within the West Midlands and provide roadside infrastructure (bus stops and shelters) and passenger information (such as timetables and journey planning). The majority of bus services are provided by private bus operators on a “for profit basis”. This means that they only operate services which generate enough fares to cover the cost of operation. Although TfWM is not directly responsible for providing bus services, they work closely with local bus operators in order to champion the needs of local people and aim to bring about a positive resolution in response to queries wherever possible. Following receipt of the petition, the issue of bus services for Wheatsheaf Road was raised directly with the bus operator National Express West Midlands (NXWM). Although the operator has considered this request again, NXWM has confirmed that it is unable to consider re-routing service 12A via Wheatsheaf Road at this time. In addition to discussions with NXWM, TfWM also carried out an assessment of the local area, in order to ensure that residents are within a reasonable distance of the existing bus network. In some situations it is possible for TfWM to consider providing public funding for bus links where residents are located a significant distance from the bus network however, the proximity of residents along Wheatsheaf</p>
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Road to the existing bus services means this option does not apply. In looking at the other options available to people living along Wheatsheaf Road where services on Darby's Hill Road are difficult to reach, the Ring and Ride service does represent a good alternative for residents to consider. The Ring and Ride service has continued to operate normally for customers since the Accessible Transport Group (the company that run Ring and Ride) became insolvent in March 2019. TfWM is working very closely with the Administrator to secure a long term sustainable future for Ring and Ride and therefore residents can be assured that the service can provide a helpful and reliable link should they need it. Following representations from a local ward member and concerns that the whole estate had not been taken into consideration in relation to proximity to existing bus services, the Chair requested that the matter be referred back to TfWM and also to the relevant Cabinet Member to look at options available. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

(Received 1/5/2019)

5.2.4 29 – residents of Speaker's Close, Tividale (Tividale)

Request for installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at the end of Speaker's Close

Officers have been requested by the Committee to investigate the feasibility of installing gating on Council owned land and undertake the necessary consultation. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

(Received 27/2/2019)

5.2.5	114 – residents in the vicinity of Pages Lane/ service users	Request for traffic calming/20mph speed limit in Pages Lane, Great Barr	This matter is being investigated by officers within Highways. An update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 22/5/2019)
5.2.6	34 – residents of The Broadway, West Bromwich (Wednesbury South)	Request to gate off The Wallface, Hill Top.	Officers have been requested by the Committee to investigate the possibility of providing gating. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee. (Received 07/11/2017)

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 413 – various road users/ residents (Wednesbury North)	Request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury	The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals is prioritised where injury accidents are occurring. A five year injury accident analysis shows there have been 3 recorded injury accidents during this period. This is low when compared to other locations that are being considered for major traffic calming schemes. Although this junction does not meet the criteria for the installation of traffic signals a road safety scheme to implement additional carriageway markings and vehicle activated speed signs either side of the junction will be undertaken. This will help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 17/4/2019)

5.3.2	54 – residents of Cheshire Road, Smethwick	Request for one way system – Cheshire Road	The funding available for traffic calming schemes is targeted in areas where injury accidents are occurring. A five year injury accident analysis for Cheshire Road shows there have not been any recorded injury accidents during this period. The introduction of a one way scheme would lead to an increase in vehicle speeds. This could result in an increase of injury accidents. It is for this reason highways would not recommend any changes to the road layout at Cheshire Road. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 18/6/2019)
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6 Source Documents

Copies of petitions from various groups of residents (exempt information).

David Stevens
Interim Chief Executive

Darren Carter
Executive Director – Resources

Dr Alison Knight
Executive Director – Neighbourhoods

Surjit Tour
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Alan Caddick
Director – Housing and Communities

Amy Harhoff
Director – Regeneration and Growth