











Cabinet Petitions Committee

25 September 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 30 – residents of Regis Heath Road, Blackheath (Blackheath)	Parking issues in Regis Heath Road.	This matter is being investigated by officers within Highways and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 7/8/2019)
5.1.2 79 – residents of Queens Road, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Concern regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick.	This matter is being investigated by officers within Highways and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 24/8/2019)
5.1.3 32 – residents of Draycott Road, Smethwick (St Pauls)	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 21/8/2019)
5.1.4 61 – residents in the vicinity of Temple Way and Shinwell Crescent, Tividale (Oldbury)	Parking issues caused by local businesses and anti social behaviour on car park.	This matter is being investigated by officers within Highways and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 21/8/2019)

5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 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)
5.2.2 110 – residents of Wheatsheaf Road Estate, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for mini bus service following remove of 121 bus service	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 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)

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| 5.2.3 | 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) |
| 5.2.4 | 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 Committee requested the junction be monitored to ensure that the traffic calming measures made a difference. Arrangements have been made for a further traffic survey to be undertaken along Park Lane. The data will then be compared to the traffic survey which was undertaken prior to the installation of the vehicle activated speed sign. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
(Received 17/4/2019)

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 42 – residents of Herbert Road, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for residents parking scheme	Questionnaires have been sent out to the residents of Herbert Road. The majority of respondents are in favour of a residents parking permit scheme. Herbert Road will therefore be included on a future parking review. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 27/6/2019)
5.3.2 114 – residents in the vicinity of Pages Lane/ service users	Request for traffic calming/20mph speed limit in Pages Lane, Great Barr	The funding made available for traffic calming schemes such as speed humps is targeted in areas where injury collisions occur on a regular basis and are likely to continue without intervention. When the road traffic injury data for the whole borough was analysed, Pages Lane was not prioritised for a major road safety scheme as other sites took priority as there were higher numbers of treatable injury collisions

Although Pages Lane does not meet the criteria for a major road safety scheme other forms of traffic calming measures will be considered. The head petitioner has been informed.

(Received 22/5/2019)

5.3.3 33 – residents of View Point, Tividale (Tividale)

Request for installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at View Point.

Greenbelt Group wish to assist in reducing anti-social behaviour and would not oppose the installation of gates in principle, if this represented the wishes of the 299 households which are currently billed in respect of the areas. However, Greenbelt Group have specified that the Council would need to be responsible for the maintenance thereafter, agree to indemnify Greenbelt Group in respect of the gates (e.g. to cover any injury) and agree to fund the removal of the gates, if and when required. The head petitioner has advised that residents are not prepared to contribute. As the land is not in Council ownership the Council cannot take on the liability or maintenance of the gates. No further action is proposed by the Council. The head petitioner has been informed.

(Received 5/3/2019)

5.3.4 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

Bellway have given permission to erect the gates, however they will not take on the liability and maintenance. Bellway are willing to dispose of the land to the Council or another party, however, the Council does not wish to take the land.

As the land is not in Council ownership the Council cannot take on the liability or maintenance of the gates. No further action is proposed by the Council. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 27/2/2019)

5.3.5	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.	Although the land referred to is not in Council ownership, arrangements have been made with the Urban Regeneration Team for the site to be cleared and the bollard to be repaired. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 5/7/2019)
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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