

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 25 September, 2019 at 5.00pm
in Committee Room 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 7 August, 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

**7th August 2019 at 5.00pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillors Crompton (Chair), Lloyd and Taylor.

7/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June, 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 5.32pm)

Contact Officer: Shane Parkes
Democratic Services Unit
0121 569 3190

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 7th August 2019

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents of Herbert Road, Smethwick requesting a residents parking scheme.	This matter was being investigated by officers within Highways and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
2. Residents of Dagger Lane, West Bromwich requesting a residents parking scheme.	The request included numbers 16-38 (evens) Dagger Lane, however, officers would have to consider property numbers 2–14, as parking would be displaced. There was not enough on-street space available for one vehicle per household. Issues of parents parking had also been raised. Where schemes had been introduced near schools these were often shared use to allow parents to pick up and drop off. No further action was proposed. The head petitioner had been informed.
3. Residents in the vicinity of Grafton Road/Kestrel Road, Oldbury requesting a locked gateway at the entrances leading to garages to the rear of properties.	This matter was being investigated by officers within Neighbourhoods and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
4. Residents of View Point, Tividale requesting installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at View Point.	This matter was being investigated and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
5. Residents of the Hateley Heath area requesting that the SAPA building on Hateley Heath estate be brought back into use for the community.	Further to the initial update provided to the Committee, an update on the condition of the building had been received. The general condition of the building was ok, with no asbestos issues identified. Electrical works to the value of £2,400 had been identified. The heating system was beyond repair and a replacement system would cost in the region of £17,000.

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The total estimated building work was therefore estimated to be in the region of £20,000. Officers were currently awaiting a business case in order to move the matter forward. 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 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,</p>

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 7th August 2019











Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>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 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.</p>
<p>7. Residents of Speaker's Close, Tividale requesting installation of night and day gates in the gully located at the end of Speaker's Close.</p>	<p>Officers had been requested by the Committee to 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.</p>
<p>8. Residents in the vicinity of Pages Lane/service user's requesting traffic calming/20mph speed limit in Pages Lane, Great Barr.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers within Highways. An update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
9. Residents of The Broadway, West Bromwich requesting to gate off 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.
10. Various road users/ residents requesting traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury.	Funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals was prioritised where injury accidents were occurring. A five-year injury accident analysis showed there had been 3 recorded injury accidents during this period. This was low when compared to other locations being considered for major traffic calming schemes. Although this junction did 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 would be undertaken to 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. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
11. Residents of Cheshire Road, Smethwick requesting a one-way system Cheshire Road.	Funding available for traffic calming schemes was targeted in areas where injury accidents were occurring. A five-year injury accident analysis for Cheshire Road showed there had not been any recorded injury accidents during this period. The introduction of a one-way scheme would lead to an increase in vehicle speeds and could result in an increase of injury accidents. Highways would therefore not recommend changes to the road layout at Cheshire Road. The head petitioner had been informed.

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