

## Cabinet Petitions Committee

18 December 2019

<b>Subject:</b>	Petitions Progress Report
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	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

<b>Signatories</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
5.1.1 966 - West Bromwich market traders, shopkeepers and shoppers (West Bromwich Central)	Request that the Council liaises with West Midlands Police regarding anti-social behaviour concerns.	This matter has been referred to West Midlands Police for investigation and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 15/10/2019)
5.1.2 73 – residents/road users in the vicinity of Cottrell Street, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Request for double yellow lines along one side of Cottrell Street due to issues with created by parking.	This matter is being investigated by officers within Highways and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 7/11/2019)
5.1.3 400 – service users/park visitors (St Pauls and Soho and Victoria)	Request for immediate action to stop the deaths and illness of wildfowl at Victoria Park, Smethwick Hall Park and West Smethwick Park, following a serious pollution incident at Stoney Lane, by desilting the pool and restoring the park pools to a safe environment for wildlife and humans.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 22/11/2019)

## 5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

<b>Signatories</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
5.2.1 79 – residents of Queens Road, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Concern regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick.	Arrangements have been made for a seven day traffic survey to be undertaken. An update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 24/8/2019)
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.	The availability of the building for community purposes was advertised in a SCVO newsletter and six expressions of interest have been received. The building would be opened up for a viewing following which it was expected that any remaining interested groups would present their proposals to the Council. A further update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee. (Received 26/4/2019)
5.2.3 413 – 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)

5.2.4 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.

Following representations from the head petitioner and the local ward member, arrangements would be made for a meeting to take place between the residents, local ward member, Greenbelt Group and the Police. (Received 5/3/2019)

### 5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 34 – residents of The Broadway, West Bromwich (Wednesbury South)	Request to gate off The Wallface, Hill Top.	Wallface is a public right of way and as such would require a Public Space Protection Order to close this off by way of a lockable gate. A Public Space Protection Order is likely to be granted only as a last resort and it must be demonstrated that other methods of resolving the issues have been considered. In this case, an application to obtain a Public Space Protection Order is unlikely to succeed. The issue has been raised at Wednesbury Town Tasking, where partners meet to discuss community safety issues and devise solutions to ongoing problems. Several measures that have been put in place, such as targeting street drinking in the area and extra patrols by wardens and Police have had a positive effect and the number of incidents reported to the Council, Police and other agencies is relatively low. Temporary CCTV cameras can be allocated through the Town Tasking process and should incidents reoccur in the future, the matter can again be considered by this group.

Closing Wallface to the public would also affect residents who use Wallface to cut through Hill Top Park. Although the park has several other entrances, blocking one of these off would be difficult to justify in order to obtain this Public Space Protection Order. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 07/11/2017)

5.3.2 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.

Observations reveal parking along parts of Temple Way and Shinwell Crescent near Dudley Road East. Vehicles were not causing an obstruction, although a couple of cars were parked close to the junction of Temple Way/Shinwell Crescent. Properties in Temple Way and Shinwell Crescent have off-street parking available and therefore do not meet the Council's criteria for a residents parking scheme. Introducing long lengths of waiting restrictions to prevent non-residents from parking would displace parking, leading to further complaints from other residents. To improve access and visibility, it is proposed that No Waiting At Any Time restrictions be placed at the junction of Temple Way and Shinwell Crescent.

Restrictions would also be considered for the access to the two communal parking areas in Shinwell Crescent. The locations will be considered in a future parking review and this will involve following the Traffic Regulation Order process for the implementation of parking restrictions. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/8/2019)

5.3.3 110 – residents of Wheatsheaf Road Estate, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for mini bus service following remove of 121 bus service	<p>Following the update provided to the Committee at its meeting on 7 August, the matter was referred back to Transport for West Midlands 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. Transport for West Midlands advised that they had asked the operator if it would be willing to reconsider options for a service via Wheatsheaf Road if measures were introduced to manage parking along the road. National Express indicated that it would be willing to explore this possibility further if the Council was minded to look at the options around potential parking restrictions along the road. The highway layout on Wheatsheaf Road has been considered. The existing footway is approximately 1.6m wide on the south side and 2.0m on the north side and the carriageway is approximately 5.0m wide. The majority of residents have driveways but a large number of vehicles park on street which reduces the carriageway width even further. The narrow carriageway, coupled with the on street parking makes it difficult for opposing traffic to get through and this is much worse when larger vehicles need to pass through. There is no extra space available along Wheatsheaf Road to consider extending the carriageway.</p>
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The footways are already built to the minimum standard so they can't be reduced any further to allow extra space for the carriageway.

The introduction of a one way scheme wouldn't be recommended because the on street parking reduces the width of the carriageway which still doesn't leave enough space for a bus. The introduction of parking restrictions is an option to remove on street parking, however, this is not likely to be favourable with residents who wish to park their vehicles close to their houses. Objections are likely to be received for any such proposals. Highways would not therefore recommend that buses travel along Wheatsheaf Road due how narrow the carriageway is. This results in buses driving on the footpath to get passed which increases risk of injury to pedestrians. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 1/5/2019)

5.3.4 30 – residents of Regis Heath Road, Blackheath (Blackheath)

Parking issues in Regis Heath Road.

Regis Heath Road does not meet the Council's criteria for a residents parking scheme, as off-street parking is available for residents. However, a consultation will be undertaken with the residents to ascertain if other parking restrictions would be suitable. These could mirror similar restrictions of single yellow lines applied by Dudley MBC to prevent parking in residential areas around train stations.



- Any proposal made for parking restrictions will be included in a future review which can take between 9-12 months. The head petitioner has been informed.  
(Received 7/8/2019)
- 5.3.5 32 – residents of Draycott Road, Smethwick (St Pauls) Request for residents parking scheme. 36 questionnaires were delivered to Draycott Road on the 23 October 2019 to ask if they would be in favour of a residents parking scheme. 21 questionnaires were returned, 20 in favour of a scheme and 1 against. In view of the results, the request will be included in a future parking review and go through the traffic regulation order process. The head petitioner has been informed.  
(Received 21/8/2019)
- 5.3.6 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 The Council has a policy on 'The Gating of Private Alleyways' which has been provided to the head petitioner. The Council's legal team has confirmed that the Council cannot use any highway powers to resolve the gating issues at this location, therefore, the gating proposal would have to be implemented by a facilitated agreement between residents and landowners. The developer/landowner (Bellway) has agreed to provide better land boundary fencing but have not yet agreed to the gating of the alleyway. The Council's Commercial Properties Team will continue to liaise with the developer to secure this agreement, in writing.

Assuming agreement can be obtained from the landowner, arrangements will need to be made for the ongoing management, maintenance and insurance of the gate. The Council's Risk Assessment Team has advised that the Council would not be able to insure the gates on behalf of the residents, but advise that Zurich could possibly provide insurance for the residents, providing they could prove that they had formed a committee. The Council's Commercial Property are exploring what help we can provide residents to help them with this. The head petitioner has been informed.  
(Received 27/2/2019)

## **6 Source Documents**

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

**David Stevens**  
**Interim Chief Executive**

**Dr Alison Knight**  
**Executive Director – Neighbourhoods**

**Alan Caddick**  
**Director – Housing and Communities**

**Darren Carter**  
**Executive Director – Resources**

**Surjit Tour**  
**Director of Law and  
Governance and Monitoring  
Officer**

**Amy Harhoff**  
**Director – Regeneration and  
Growth**