


Cabinet Petitions Committee

29 January 2020

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
5.1.1 387 – service users/residents (Langley)	Against closure of Brandhall Golf Course and Brandhall Golf and Social Club.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 6/1/2020)

5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 966 - 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)
5.2.2 400 – 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)

5.2.3	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)
5.2.4	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 three formal expressions of interest have now been received. A meeting has been arranged to discuss the way forward. A further update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee. (Received 26/4/2019)
5.2.5	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)

5.2.6 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 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 location is already on file for double yellow lines to be considered along one side of the road, to prevent obstructive parking, and will be included in a future review of the area. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 7/11/2019)

6 Source Documents

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

David Stevens
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**