

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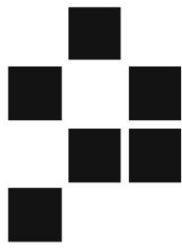
Agendas are produced electronically and members of the committee are using a tablet/device for the purpose of accessing the documents for today's meeting.

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.**



**Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## **Cabinet Petitions Committee**

**Wednesday 29 January 2020 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 18 December, 2019.
4. Progress Update.

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

Sandwell Council House  
Freeth Street  
Oldbury  
West Midlands

**Distribution:**

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

**Agenda prepared by Trisha Newton  
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Email: trisha\_newton@sandwell.gov.uk**

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](http://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**

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 5.30pm  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillors Crompton (Chair), Ali and Hadley.

12/19 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

13/19 **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 6.10pm)

Contact Officer: Trisha Newton  
Democratic Services Unit  
0121 569 3193

## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### Appendix

<b>Petition Received From</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
1. West Bromwich market traders, shopkeepers and shoppers requesting that the Council liaises with West Midlands Police regarding anti-social behaviour concerns.	This matter had been referred to West Midlands Police for investigation and an update will be submitted to a future meeting.
2. Residents/road users in the vicinity of Cottrell Street, West Bromwich requesting double yellow lines along one side of Cottrell Street due to issues created by parking.	This matter was being investigated by officers within Highways and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
3. Service users/park visitors requesting 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 was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
4. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick regarding speeding and traffic accidents.	Arrangements had been made for a seven day traffic survey to be undertaken. An update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<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>The availability of the building for community purposes was advertised in an SCVO newsletter and six expressions of interest had 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 would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>6. Various road users/residents requesting traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury.</p>	<p>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 that the junction should be monitored to ensure that the traffic calming measures made a difference. Arrangements had been made for a further traffic survey prior to the installation of the vehicle activated speed sign. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>



## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>7. Residents of View Point, Tividale requesting installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at View Point.</p>	<p>Greenbelt Group wished 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 were currently billed in respect of areas. However, Greenbelt Group had 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 had advised that residents were not prepared to contribute. As the land was not in Council ownership, the Council could not take on the liability or maintenance of the gates. No further action was 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.</p>
<p>8. Residents of The Broadway, West Bromwich requesting to gate off The Wallface, Hill Top</p>	<p>Wallface was 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 was likely to be granted only as a last resort and it must be demonstrated that other methods of resolving the issues had been considered. In this case, an application to obtain a Public Space Protection Order was unlikely to succeed. The issue had been raised at Wednesbury Town Tasking, where partners met to discuss community safety issues and devise solutions to ongoing problems.</p>

## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>Several measures that had been put in place, such as targeting street drinking in the area and extra patrols by wardens and Police had had a positive effect with the number of incidents reported to the Council, Police and other agencies being relatively low. Temporary CCTV cameras could be allocated through the Town Tasking process and should incidents reoccur in the future, the matter could again be considered by this group. Closing Wallface to the public would also affect residents who used Wallface to cut through Hill Top Park. Although the park had several other entrances, blocking one of these off would be difficult to justify in order to obtain the Public Space Protection Order. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>9. Residents in the vicinity of Temple Way and Shinwell Crescent, Tividale regarding parking issues caused by local businesses and anti social behaviour on the car park.</p>	<p>Observations revealed 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 had off-street parking available and therefore did 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 was 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.</p>

## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The locations would be considered in a future parking review and this would involve following the Traffic Regulation Order process for the implementation of parking restrictions. The head petitioner had been informed. Following representations at the meeting with regard to parking on the residents' car park and also vehicles left on the highway, residents were provided with details to liaise with their local ward member/town lead member to investigate whether a barrier/signage could be provided to the car park. With regard to vehicles on the highway, the Police should be contacted if vehicles were not taxed.</p>
<p>10. Residents of Wheatsheaf Road Estate, Tividale requesting a mini bus service following the removal of the 121 bus service.</p>	<p>Following the update provided to the Committee at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019, the matter had been 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 had been considered. The existing footway was approximately 1.6m wide on the south side and 2.0m on the north side and the carriageway was approximately 5.0m wide.</p>

**Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

<b>Petition Received From</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
	<p>The majority of residents had driveways but a large number of vehicles park on street which reduced the carriageway width even further. The narrow carriageway, coupled with on-street parking, made it difficult for opposing traffic to get through and this was much worse when larger vehicles needed to pass through. There was no extra space available along Wheatsheaf Road to consider extending the carriageway. The footways were already built to the minimum standard so they could not be reduced any further to allow extra space for the carriageway. The introduction of a one-way scheme would not be recommended because the on-street parking reduced the width of the carriageway which still did not leave enough space for a bus. The introduction of parking restrictions was an option to remove on street parking, however, this was not likely to be favourable with residents who wished to park their vehicles close to their houses. Objections were likely to be received for any such proposals. Highways would not therefore recommend that buses travelled along Wheatsheaf Road due to how the narrowness of the carriageway. This resulted in buses driving on the footpath to get passed which increased risk of injury to pedestrians. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>11. Residents of Regis Heath Road, Blackheath regarding parking issues.</p>	<p>Regis Heath Road did not meet the Council's criteria for a residents parking scheme, as off-street parking was available for residents. However, consultation would be undertaken with the residents to ascertain if other parking</p>

## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019


Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>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 would be included in a future review which could take between 9-12 months. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>12. Residents of Draycott Road, Smethwick requesting a residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>36 questionnaires were delivered to Draycott Road on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 one against. In view of the results, 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>13. 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>The Council had a policy on 'The Gating of Private Alleyways'. The Council's legal team had confirmed that the Council could not 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) had agreed to provide better land boundary fencing but had not yet agreed to the gating of the alleyway. The Council's Commercial Properties Team would continue to liaise with the developer to secure this agreement in writing. Assuming agreement could be obtained from the landowner, arrangements would need to be made for the ongoing management, maintenance and insurance of the gate.</p>

## Cabinet Petitions Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The Council's Risk Assessment Team had advised that the Council would not be able to insure the gates on behalf of the residents, but advised that Zurich could possibly provide insurance for the residents, providing they could prove that they had formed a committee. The Council's Commercial Property were exploring what help could be provided to residents to assist. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

## Cabinet Petitions Committee

29 January 2020

<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>
5.1.1 387 – 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

<b>Signatories</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
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

<b>Signatories</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
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**

**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**