

Cabinet Petitions Committee

16 September 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
5.1.1 118 - Residents of Europa Estate, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Request for clean up of public open space in the Europa middle-way area.	Arrangements will be made by the Parks Section for a deep clean of the brookcourse and the surrounding green corridor over the Autumn/early Winter period 2020. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 18/3/2020)
5.1.2 16 – residents in the vicinity of Oakham Road doctor’s surgery, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for visibility/safety improvements on Oakham Road in the vicinity of the doctor’s surgery.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 27/3/2020)

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.	Following an advertisement process in March, an expression of interest was received from a community organisation to re-open the building. Officers are working with the group to ensure that there is a sustainable and robust business plan in place for the building. The group want to work with the community. The pandemic has delayed progress, however, officers are working to see if a sensible plan for the building is possible.

5.2.2 413 – 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

A further update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

(Received 26/4/2019)

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. The traffic surveys had to be rearranged due to the pandemic which resulted in reduced traffic levels. This survey will be undertaken as soon as vehicle numbers return to normal levels. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

(Received 17/4/2019)

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| 5.2.3 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. Following representations, further investigation would be taken and a further report would be submitted to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future date. (Received 5/3/2019) |
| 5.2.4 79 – residents of Queens Road, Smethwick (Smethwick) | Concern regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick. | A seven day traffic survey has been undertaken for Queens Road between Basons Lane and the traffic island at the junction with Warley Road. It shows that 85% of vehicles are travelling at 32.8mph or less (includes both directions). A three year injury collision analysis has also been undertaken and it shows there has been 1 recorded injury collision. |

When Queens Road is compared to other roads in Sandwell it has a very low number of injury collisions and does not therefore meet the criteria for the implementation of a traffic calming scheme. Although the vehicle speeds are slightly higher than the 30mph speed limit, this is still within the parameters of 35mph set by the Police for enforcement purposes. However, a carriageway lining scheme was implemented in October last year in response to enquiries received from residents at Queens Road. Following representations submitted to the Committee, a further traffic survey will be undertaken in spring/summer and compared to the survey results from the winter. Arrangements will be made for a traffic survey to be undertaken as soon as traffic levels return to normal. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

(Received 24/8/2019)

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 12 – business/resident in the vicinity of Bridge Street South, Smethwick (Soho & Victoria)	Request for removal of double yellow lines in Bridge Street South or provision of limited parking to enable customer parking.	The double yellow lines along Bridge Street South assist with free flow of traffic. The removal of the parking restrictions in the turning head at the north end of Bridge Street South is likely to compromise HGV turning movements in an industrial area. In addition to this,

the removal of parking restrictions along the west side of Bridge Street South will result in parking on both sides of the carriageway. This is likely to compromise access onto Bridge Street South for larger vehicles and also make it difficult for vehicles to access and egress from the business premises. There is some parking provision which allows motorists to park along the east side of Bridge Street South. It is not possible to use the grassed area of land in the turning head for parking, due to planning restrictions. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/2/2020)

5.3.2 72 – residents in the vicinity of Eastwood Road/Jayshaw Avenue, Great Barr (Newton)

Request to prevent parking on both sides of Eastwood Road near its junction with Jayshaw Avenue during the day.

Arrangements will be made to install trees and/or bollards to prevent the parking on the grass verge on the west side of Eastwood Road near to the junction with Jayshaw Avenue. The decision to place trees/bollards in the grass verge on the west side of Eastwood Road will prevent motorists parking half on/half off the grass verge. This will be a similar layout to the grass verge on the east side of Eastwood Road where trees and a lighting column is already in place. The carriageway at this location is not sufficiently wide enough for motorists to park wholly in the carriageway on both sides of the road. There will only be sufficient space for parking on one side of the carriageway which will result in more available carriageway space for motorists entering Eastwood Road from Jayshaw Avenue. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 6/2/2020)

5.3.3 41 - residents in the vicinity of Eastwood Road/Jayshaw Avenue, Great Barr (Newton)	Request for verge to be restored and a replacement tree to be planted in Eastwood Road.	See 5.3.2 above. (Received 6/2/2020)
5.3.4 387 – service users/residents (Langley)	Against closure of Brandhall Golf Course and Brandhall Golf and Social Club.	This matter was reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 27 May 2020 (Minute No. 36/20 refers). (Received 6/1/2020)
5.3.5 966 - West Bromwich market traders, shopkeepers and shoppers (West Bromwich Central)	Request that the Council liaises with West Midlands Police regarding anti-social behaviour concerns.	The COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on personal movements have resulted in a decline in anti-social behaviour from groups of youths that previously congregated at certain points around the Kings Square shopping centre and the Indoor Market. Town centre stakeholders continue to meet by video conferencing on a monthly basis and any security issues relating to the town centre are discussed. Currently, the issues referred to in the petition have subsided but the monthly stakeholders' meetings will continue to monitor the situation and if these issues re-emerge then a partnership approach will be taken to address them. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 15/10/2019)

6 Source Documents

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