

Cabinet Petitions Committee Agenda

**Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 5.00pm
Online Virtual Meeting**

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- 1. Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from members relating to any item on the agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct and/or S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 3. Minutes**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2020 as a correct record.
- 4. Progress Update**
To provide details of petitions received and the proposed course of action.

David Stevens
Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillors Ali, Allcock, Crompton, Hadley, Millard, Padda, Shaeen, Singh, Taylor and Underhill.

Information about meetings in Sandwell



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Members who cannot attend the meeting should submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk) Alternatively, you can attend the meeting remotely as per the 2020 Regulations.



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Cabinet Petitions Committee

**26th February 2020 at 5.00pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillors Millard (Chair), Hadley and Taylor.

3/20 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January, 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/20 **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 5.26pm)

Contact Officer: Trisha Newton
Democratic Services Unit
0121 569 3193

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Business/residents in the vicinity of Bridge Street South, Smethwick requesting removal of double yellow lines in Bridge Street South or provision of limited parking to enable customer parking.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>2. Residents in the vicinity of Eastwood Road/Jayshaw Avenue, Great Barr requesting that parking be prevented on both sides of Eastwood Road near its junction with Jayshaw Avenue during the day.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>3. Residents in the vicinity of Eastwood Road/Jayshaw Avenue, Great Barr requesting the verge be restored and a replacement tree to be planted in Eastwood Road.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>4. Service users/residents against closure of Brandhall Golf Course and Brandhall Golf and Social Club.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>5. West Bromwich market traders, shopkeepers and shoppers requesting that the Council liaises with West Midlands Police regarding anti-social behaviour concerns.</p>	<p>The issues had been raised at Borough Tasking and a subsequent meeting was held with stakeholders including West Midlands Police, SMBC Markets and Town Centre Management, Neighbourhoods Team, Environmental Protection and Enforcement, Sandwell College, Kings Square Shopping Centre and West Bromwich BID to discuss a partnership-based approach to tackling the issues raised in the petition.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	Each partner agreed to review their operations and to report back the actions they could contribute. A further update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
6. Residents of the Hateley Heath area requesting that the SAPA building on Hateley Heath estate be brought back into use for the community.	The availability of the building for community purposes was advertised in an SCVO newsletter and three formal expressions of interest had been received. The selection process for a community-based organisation to make a bid for the former SAPA building had commenced and an application form would go out to the three organisations who had expressed an interest. The groups would be given 28 days to submit their proposals. A further update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
7. Road users and residents in Wednesbury requesting a 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 was prioritised where injury accidents were occurring. A five-year injury accident analysis showed there had been three recorded injury accidents during this period. This was low when compared to other locations that were 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. This would 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 had been made for a further traffic survey to be undertaken along Park Lane.

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The data would 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.</p>
<p>8. 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 the 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, further investigation would be undertaken, and a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>9. Service users/park visitors requested 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, be desilting the pool and restoring the park pools to a safe environment for wildlife and humans.</p>	<p>Due to a large number of wildfowl death at Smethwick Hall Park, the Council had facilitated a number of meetings with multi agencies including the Environment Agency, Severn Trent, RSPCA, Animal Plant Health Agency and Swan Watch where it was agreed that the build-up of silt at Smethwick Hall Park was the energy source for the Clostridium Botulism.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>Avian Botulism had been identified as the most probable cause of the bird deaths although post mortems carried out by the Animal Plant Health Authority had proved inconclusive. Overall, presumptive diagnosis was made based on the clinical and epidemiological presentation of the disease and absence of other obvious causes of death on post-mortem examination and laboratory testing. The Council was now in the process of procuring contractors to remove the silt from the pool. Once obtained a report would be provided for consideration. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>10. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick had concerns regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick.</p>	<p>A seven-day traffic survey had been undertaken for Queens Road between Basons Lane and the traffic island at the junction with Warley Road. It showed that 85% of vehicles were travelling at 32.8mph or less (included both directions). A three-year injury collision analysis had also been undertaken and it showed there has been one recorded injury collision. When Queens Road was compared to other roads in Sandwell it had a very low number of injury collisions and did not therefore meet the criteria for the implementation of a traffic calming scheme. Although the vehicle speeds were slightly higher than the 30mph speed limit, this was 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.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	Following representations submitted to the Committee, a further traffic survey would be undertaken in the Spring/Summer and compared to the survey results from the winter. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

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)

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).