

Cabinet Petitions Committee Agenda

**Wednesday 20 January 2021 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 21 October 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, Millard, Padda, Shaeen, Singh, Taylor and Underhill.

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Minutes of the Cabinet Petitions Committee

21st October 2020 at 5.00pm

Present: Councillor Ali (Chair);
Councillors Padda and Underhill.

Officers: Robin Weare – Service Manager - Highways; Trisha Newton
– Senior Democratic Services Officer.

7/20 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September, 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

8/20 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 5.11pm



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Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents of the Hateley Heath area requesting that the SAPA building on Hateley Heath estate 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. The pandemic has delayed progress, however, officers were working to see if a sensible plan for the building was possible. Detailed discussions had taken place with the head petitioner and the CEO of the community organisation that had formally bid for a voluntary body lease. The business plan was nearing completion and the organisation had confirmed they were happy to support a community offer from the building. It was proposed that the matter should be resolved by calendar year end, with details of the community offer and the business plan to be agreed and Cabinet approval sought for a voluntary body lease. A further update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
2. 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 which 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, which would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction.

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The Committee requested that 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. The data would 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 and would be undertaken as soon as vehicle numbers returned to normal levels. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>3. 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>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
4. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick.	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 (both directions). A three-year injury collision analysis had also been undertaken and it showed there had 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. Following representations submitted to the Committee, a further traffic survey would be undertaken as soon as traffic levels return to normal. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
5. Residents in the vicinity of Oakham Road doctor's surgery, Tividale requesting visibility/safety improvements on Oakham Road in the vicinity of the doctor's surgery.	The piece of land fronting nos. 139/141 Oakham Road was not in Council ownership. Land registry records showed the land was unregistered. The Council did not hold any maintenance responsibility for this area and could not undertake work on the land. In addition, the land had a level difference, a mature tree, foliage and an embankment. The area would need to be reduced in height in order to create a footpath.

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>This would require a retaining wall at the rear of any constructed footpath to retain the gardens to property nos. 139/141 as they were in an elevated position. The request for traffic calming measures along Oakham Road had previously been considered. Oakham Road was a heavily trafficked local distributor route, particularly during peak times. Due to the high numbers of vehicles using Oakham Road it would not be suitable for the implementation of vertical traffic calming measures, such as speed humps, as this would create noise for residents. The implementation of give and take traffic calming measures (similar to the type used at Throne Road) would create delays and congestion in the area as high numbers of vehicles would be forced to stop and give way. Further problems could be created when motorists were reluctant to wait and give way which results in conflict. It was for this reason vehicle activated speed signs were considered a more suitable option and subsequently were installed either side of the junction with Regent Road. Injury collision data for Oakham Road, between Hoylake Drive and the borough boundary with Dudley, showed there had been two recorded injury accidents in the last 5 years. Compared with other roads in Sandwell the figure was low and those areas with higher numbers of recorded treatable injury collisions must be prioritised at this current time. The installation of cameras to tackle speeding could not be considered by the Council.</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	Local authorities held no power to deal with speeding motorists - it was a criminal offence and only the Police had authority to enforce the speed limit. The head petitioner had been informed.

Cabinet Petitions Committee

20 January 2021

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 Residents of Timbertree Crescent, Cradley Heath (Cradley Heath and Old Hill)	Concern regarding height of trees and damage to property.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 7/12/2020)

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. The pandemic has delayed progress, however, officers are working to see if a plan for the building is possible. Detailed discussions have taken place with the head petitioner and the CEO of the community organisation that has formally bid for a voluntary body lease. The business plan was nearing completion and the organisation had confirmed they were happy to support a community offer from the building. A further update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee. (Received 26/4/2019)

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

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 will 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)

6 Source Documents

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