

Agenda

Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 5.00pm
Online Virtual Meeting

The meeting will be conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

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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 20 January 2021 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 Cabinet Petitions Committee

20th January 2021 at 5:00pm
Online Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillor Ali (Chair);
Councillors Allcock and Shaeen.

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

1/21 **Minutes**

Agreed that:-

the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

2/21 **Progress Report**

Details were submitted of petitions received and of the action taken or proposed in each case, as detailed in the Appendix.

Agreed that:-

the action taken or proposed, as detailed in the second column of the Appendix, be approved.

Meeting ended at 5:09pm



Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Timbertree Crescent, Cradley Heath regarding concerns over the height of trees and damage to property.</p>	<p>This matter would be investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>2. 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>Following an advertisement process in March, an expression of interest was received from a community organisation to re-open the building. The pandemic delayed progress, however, officers were working to see if a plan for the building is possible. Detailed discussions had 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.</p>
<p>3. 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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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,</p>

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20th January 2021

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>which would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction. 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>4. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Following representations, further investigation would be undertaken, and a report would be submitted to a future</p>

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Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.
5. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick.	<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 (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.</p> <p>Following representations submitted to the Committee, a further traffic survey would be undertaken in spring/summer and compared to the survey results from the winter. Arrangements would 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.</p>

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

24 February 2021

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
Contact Officer:	Trisha Newton Trsha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







That the Cabinet Petitions Committee approve the action taken or proposed as details in the third column below.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

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 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan? (select relevant category and inc narrative how deliver)

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4 Context and Key Issues

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
5.1.1 168 - Residents of Old Warley (Old Warley)	Request for pedestrian crossing system at Bleakhouse Road/Castle Road West Junction.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 11/01/2021)



5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 413 – 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	<p>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</p>



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)

5.2.2 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)



5.2.3 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



5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 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.	<p>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. The Investing in the Third and Community Sector Officers Group endorsed an outline agreement for a not for profit organisation to re-open the building. The next stage will be to outline the details and timescales for the use of the building via an agreement to lease, followed by a lease to the organisation. Officers from property services are now working on the terms for the lease.</p> <p>(Received 26/4/2019)</p>



5.3.2	Residents of Timbertree Crescent, Cradley Heath (Cradley Heath and Old Hill)	Concern regarding height of trees and damage to property.	Officers are currently in the process of commissioning contractors and confirm that the required work will be carried out by the end of March 2021. (Received 7/12/2020)
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6 Source Documents

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

