

Minutes of the Cabinet Petitions Committee

16th September 2020 at 5.00pm

- Present:** Councillor Ali (Chair);
Councillors Millard and Taylor.
- Observers:** Councillor Dhallu.
- Officers:** Robin Weare – Service Manager - Highways; Trisha Newton
– Senior Democratic Services Officer.

5/20 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February, 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

6/20 **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 5.33pm



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Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Europa Estate, West Bromwich requesting clean up of public open space in the Europa middle-way area.</p>	<p>Arrangements would 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 had been informed.</p>
<p>2. 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.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>3. 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. Officers were working with the group to ensure that there was a sustainable and robust business plan in place for the building. The group wanted to work with the community. The pandemic had delayed progress; however, officers were working to see if a sensible plan for the building was possible. A further update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>4. 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>

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	<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, 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>5. 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>

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	<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. Following representations, further investigation would be undertaken, and a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>6. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick 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 (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.</p>

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7. 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.	The double yellow lines along Bridge Street South assisted with free flow of traffic. The removal of the parking restrictions in the turning head at the north end of Bridge Street South was 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 would result in parking on both sides of the carriageway. This was likely to compromise access onto Bridge Street South for larger vehicles and also made it difficult for vehicles to access and egress from the business premises. There was some parking provision which allowed motorists to park along the east side of Bridge Street South. It was not possible to use the grassed area of land in the turning head for parking, due to planning restrictions. The petition would be closed, however, in response to further representations from the head petitioner, officers were requested to investigate the use of the grassed area further and respond direct to the head petitioner.
8. 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.	Arrangements would 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. This would be a similar layout to the grass verge on the east side of Eastwood Road where trees and a lighting column were already in place. The carriageway at this location was not sufficiently wide enough for motorists to park wholly in the carriageway on both sides of the road.

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	There would only be sufficient space for parking on one side of the carriageway which would result in more available carriageway space for motorists entering Eastwood Road from Jayshaw Avenue. The head petitioner had been informed.
9. 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.	See 8 above.
10. Service users/residents 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 referred).
11. West Bromwich market traders, shopkeepers and shoppers requesting that the Council liaises with West Midlands Police regarding anti-social behaviour concerns.	The COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on personal movements had 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 continued to meet by video conferencing on a monthly basis and any security issues relating to the town centre were discussed. Currently, the issues referred to in the petition had subsided, but the monthly stakeholders' meetings would continue to monitor the situation and if these issues re-emerged then a partnership approach would be taken to address them. The head petitioner had been informed.