

Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

24th February 2021 at 5:00pm
Online Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillor Ali (Chair);
Councillors Millard and Taylor.

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

3/21 Minutes

Agreed that:-

the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/21 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 5:16 pm



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Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents of Old Warley requesting a pedestrian crossing system at Bleakhouse Road/Castle Road West Junction.	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.
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	<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. 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.</p> <p>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>

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<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.</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. Following representations, further investigation would be undertaken, and a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>4. 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.</p>

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	<p>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>
<p>5. 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. 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 was to outline the details and timescales for the use of the building via an agreement to lease, followed by a lease to the organisation.</p>

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	Officers from property services were working on the terms for the lease. The head petitioner had been informed.
6. Residents of Timbertree Crescent, Cradley Heath regarding concerns over the height of trees and damage to property.	Officers were in the process of commissioning contractors and confirmed that the required work would be carried out by the end of March 2021. Following concerns raised by residents with regard to the Council's complaint handling process and further detail on the planned work, the Committee requested that officers liaise with the head petitioner to discuss the works. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.

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