

Agenda Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday, 22 June 2022 at 5.00 pm
in Committee Room 1

This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

3 **Minutes** 5 - 16

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022.

4 **Progress Report** 17 - 42

To provide details of petitions received and the proposed course of action.



Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL
Managing Director Commissioner
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Millard (Chair)
Councillors Ahmed, Carmichael, Hartwell, Piper, Rollins, Hackett, Hughes
and Padda

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Tuesday 23 March 2022 at 5:00pm
in the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Crompton (Chair);
Councillors Ahmed and Padda.

In attendance: Councillor Randhawa

Also present: Robin Weare (Service Manager – Highways), Rushpal Dhaliwal (Senior Neighbourhood Office Manager), Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Connor Robinson (Democratic Services Officer).

05/22 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Millard.

06/22 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

07/22 **Minutes**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

08/22 **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 5.08pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents St Marks Road requesting the extension of their car park.</p>	<p>Residents from 10 – 32 St Marks Road, Tipton had requested that the existing carparking area be extended to facilitate further vehicle parking capacity to the existing carpark.</p> <p>The land in question was owned and managed by housing services, there were 12 properties including 8 houses and the 4 flats. The tenure was mixed with only 4 properties (33%) in council ownership, the remaining properties were privately owned.</p> <p>The properties enjoyed a communal green space between the main highway and the properties, the greenspace included a carpark that facilitated 12 vehicles. However, there was on street parking available with no parking restrictions.</p> <p>Consultation had taken place with Highway Services and the approximate cost to increasing the parking facilities, by 8 extra parking bays, would be £26,400. This cost excluded the extra work that would be required to create a sustainable drainage system as a part of extending the carpark, the proposal would be subject to planning permission.</p> <p>The project was classed as an In Your Neighbourhood (IYN) improvement and Tipton had an annual budget of £10,000 for IYN projects. However, this request could not be facilitated from this budget due to the costs involved in delivering the project. Furthermore, extending carparking was not seen as a standalone</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>priority as the focus was the continued investment into council owned dwellings for tenants.</p> <p>Based on the costs involved to increase the size of the current carpark and the availability of on-street parking, the service was unable to deliver the project.</p> <p>Updated proposals for the scheme had been communicated to residents through the invitation letter. The Committee noted correspondence from the head petitioner requesting to withdraw the petition. The residents wished to pursue the purchase of the land from the Council.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed to close the petition.</p>
<p>2. Residents of Maple Rise requesting the fixture of faulty security lights, dangerous old TV aerial and guttering that is not fit for purpose.</p>	<p>The Committee received the petition and an update would be given at the next meeting.</p>
<p>3. Residents of Middlemore Road – requests for enforcement due to parked cars obstructing the footpath and yellow lines being ignored by motorists</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that the double yellow lines already in place along Middlemore Road were enforceable up to the back of the footway. Therefore, any motorist parking would be potentially liable with a Penalty Charge Notice.</p> <p>It had been observed that the double yellow lines at the location had faded and arrangements had been made for them to be renewed. In addition, parking enforcement would be undertaken in the area to help alleviate some of the parking problems and the installation of bollards should not therefore be required.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>In respect of concerns raised regarding speeding motorists, the Council had no powers in relation to speed enforcement as this matter was a Police enforcement matter.</p> <p>The Council had a statutory duty to investigate and reduce injury collisions on the highway network. The injury collisions for the whole of the Borough were being analysed and the areas with the most treatable injury collisions would be considered for the 2022/2023 road safety scheme. It was noted that Middlemore Road would be analysed and assessed whether it met the criteria.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed for petition to be closed.</p>
<p>4. Residents of Bilston Road requesting average speed cameras instillation due to speeding.</p>	<p>Having considered the issues raised by the ward members, the Committee heard that West Midlands Police had powers relating to traffic enforcement and had been informed of the petition. Officers would undertake speed surveys and historical data to identify the extent and distribution of the problem to assist the Police with their investigation.</p> <p>Officers would communicate with Councillor Williams on the specific times speed surveys would be undertaken to ensure it reflected the residents' concerns.</p> <p>An update was provided to the Committee detailing that a seven day traffic survey had been ordered for Bilston Road and if any speeding concerns were identified, these would be shared with the Police. The assessment criteria for the installation of average speed cameras had been</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>undertaken on Bilston Road. However, the road was not eligible for funding.</p> <p>A further update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>5. Residents of Tividale opposing the proposed one-way system for Hawfield Road.</p>	<p>The Committee noted that a consultation had been undertaken with the residents along Hawfield Road and adjoining roads, regarding the implementation of a one-way scheme.</p> <p>The results from both the consultation exercises and the petition shows that 97 residents out of 172 were not in favour of the implementation of a one-way scheme.</p> <p>As a result, Highway Services had resolved not to implement this scheme. The residents and local ward members have been notified of the results.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed to close the petition.</p>
<p>6. Shelter with the support of Sandwell residents request the Council Leader to show support by writing to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove to implement the National Landlord Register as part of their upcoming Renters' Reform Bill.</p>	<p>The Committee received the petition and an update would be brought to a future meeting.</p>

<p>7. Residents of Friar Park request the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street near the primary school.</p>	<p>Having considered the issues raised by the head petitioner. It was confirmed that arrangements would be made for pedestrian counts and traffic surveys to be undertaken to check if the location meets the national criteria for the implementation of a formal crossing facility. If the location met the national criteria, then funding would be identified for the implementation of a crossing facility.</p> <p>Officers reported that a number of attempts had been made to appoint a new school crossing patrol at Oxford Street in the vicinity of Mesty Croft School, however, recruitment attempts had been unsuccessful.</p> <p>An updated was provided to the Committee and it was noted that arrangements had been made for a traffic survey and a pedestrian count to be undertaken along Oxford Road. Once finalised, the results would be used to check the suitability of the location for a crossing facility.</p> <p>It was resolved that an update would be presented to a future Committee.</p>
<p>8. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, request for traffic calming measures</p>	<p>Having considered the issues raised by the head petitioner, the Committee requested that Highway Services undertake a traffic survey, once traffic patterns had normalised. Officers confirmed that a traffic calming scheme was proposed for Lightwoods Hill and a consultation process with residents would be conducted during October 2021.</p> <p>Letters had been sent out to local residents for comments on Thursday 11 November 2021.</p>

	<p>It was confirmed that a consultation had been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. A number of objections had been raised regarding the proposed scheme and a review had commenced. Comments from the consultation process would be considered to see if any adjustments could be made to the scheme's proposal within the available budget.</p> <p>It was noted by officers that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill. Following objections, alternative options would be explored to identify the suitability of alternative measures.</p> <p>It was resolved that an update would be presented to a future Committee.</p>
<p>9. Residents of Church Road request for permit holder parking on Church Road</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that the grass verge along Church Road was Council owned and maintained by the Council's Housing Management directorate. The grass verge opposite property numbers 51-63 accommodated three utility boxes and had apparatus beneath the verge. Therefore, it was not possible to construct parking bays along this section due to the condition of the area.</p> <p>The utility boxes and apparatus would need to be relocated by the utility company thus incurring substantial costs to the Council. In addition, alternative locations to accommodate the utility boxes would need to be identified. There were also level differences between the grass verge and the footpath that would need to be addressed before the installation of</p>

	<p>parking bays. This would require retaining walls to support the land incurring further substantial costs. The grass verge opposite property numbers 1-49 also accommodated a utility box that required removal.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the area was lined with mature trees, 6 of which would need to be removed before parking bays could be constructed. The removal of trees and green spaces was usually met with objection, although if this was agreed, they would need to be replaced with 12 new trees in the local vicinity in accordance with Council policy. Approximately 40 additional parking spaces could be achieved at this location, although the costs to undertake the work was estimated to be in excess of £230,000. The Council's Housing directorate confirmed that removing grass verges and local trees to create parking bays would not support the Council's commitment to encourage sustainable methods of travel and protect green spaces.</p> <p>Following further representations made the head petitioner, the Committee requested that the Council's Highways directorate investigate whether it was feasible to convert part of the grass verge to accommodate a maximum of 7 parking spaces, as opposed to 40 spaces. It was confirmed that a reduced number of parking bays could be accommodated within the grassed verge along Church Road, the parking bays cost approximately £3,000 to construct and there was likely to be additional costs for utility diversions.</p>
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	<p>These costs would be obtained from the relevant utility companies. The grassed verge area was maintained by the housing directorate and funding would therefore need to be identified by the service.</p> <p>An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>10. Residents of West Park Road concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park</p>	<p>Significant consultation had been undertaken prior to the project commencing. Officers from the Council's Highways Directorate were consulted, and no concerns were raised. However, discussions were taking place to address the concerns highlighted by the residents.</p> <p>The issues highlighted were addressed as part of the local town forum to identify appropriate measures to mitigate any concerns. All existing entrances into the park would be improved as part of the restoration project, with an exception of the existing car park entrance which was proposed to be relocated. Properties on West Park Road received letters notifying residents of the planning application on the 10th April 2017. In addition, new litter bins would be installed as part of the restoration project and fly tipping and littering issues would be dealt with as and when required. Officers confirmed that work on the new entrance had commenced.</p> <p>It was agreed for officers to undertake an assessment on the impact of traffic calming from other roads as soon as the work had been completed and a further update be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.</p>

<p>11. Various road users/ residents request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury</p>	<p>The Committee noted that funding for road safety schemes, were prioritised in accordance with traffic incident data. 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, which would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction.</p> <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. A seven-day traffic survey had been undertaken around the junction of Park Lane / Manor House Road. It showed that 85% of motorists had been travelling at 29.7mph or less.</p> <p>Officers reported that Council Policy required funding for road safety improvements to be prioritised in areas of high injury rates. As a result, the junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road did not meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme.</p>
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	<p>Following representations from a ward councillor on behalf of the head petitioner, the Committee decided that a visit with the Cabinet Member and officers would take place as soon as practical to determine if any low cost alternatives could be identified.</p> <p>An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
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Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

22 June 2022

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
Contact Officer:	Matt Powis Matt_Powis@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

To receive petitions and approve action taken/proposed in response.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		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.
		
		



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 54 – Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton	Requesting average speed cameras.	Referred to West Midlands Police for response.
5.2 71 – Boscobel Estate – Tipton Green	Requesting a warden and an issue with ASB	Officers investigated the concerns and provided the follow response:

Supporting People

The council no longer offer: Supporting People Service

There is a Floating Support Service, provided by the council but this service was designed to support certain vulnerable groups.

Provided to the Committee is a referral form to access the Floating Support Service should any resident 'meet the criteria' – (attached as appendix 1).

It should be noted that The Floating Support Service does



not provide care support, however they may be able to offer some advice & limited assistance.

One of the concerns raised in the petition, was that of isolation of residents from help and support.

The TMO do have a community focussed service and the officers at the TMO are in constant contact with residents, to provide support and help where possible.

The TMO have encouraged the residents to wear the piper alarm pendants through the Community Alarms Service, which many have done. The type of wrap around care that is being requested, can be purchased privately but it can be quite expensive. Individual residents or groups of residents may have to seek access private funding to purchase this wrap around care, but at this time it is not a service provided by the council.

Warden Service

In the matters relating to a patrolling service to either remove or move on certain behaviours and activities officers confirmed that



there is a Warden Patrol Service, that the council operate on the Boscobel Estate, but this is focussed

- Fly tipping
- General Anti-Social Behaviour

The TMO have a strong relationship with the local police team (Tipton Green), and there is a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who patrols the estate. There is CCTV in the area and residents have been advised on how to reports incidents that will then be reviewed on the CCTV. The PCSO had been host police surgeries in the Boscobel office prior to the COVID lockdown, and this will a forum to report concerns, but this service was suspended during the pandemic.

The expectation is that there will be a resumption of this surgeries to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team have been contacted regarding how potential criminal activities that may be undertaken by members of the public whom do not live on the Boscobel Estate. The ASB team have given advice to the TMO as well as engaged with some of the



residents, but the ASB team cannot make any interventions without the appropriate evidence.

As it stands, neither the ASB Team nor the Police can lawfully stop groups congregating in the area.

5.3 16 - Grafton Road Residents

Establishing residential permit parking on both sides of the road

Officers in response to the petition had distributed questionnaires to residents in Grafton Road to ask if they would be in favour of a residents permit parking scheme.

Graham Road and Sandwell Road North have also been included in this process to prevent any displacement of parking in these roads should a scheme be implemented. The majority of residents in all roads will need to be in favour for a residents parking permit scheme to be considered. The deadline date for questionnaires to be returned was the 10 June 2022.

5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 92 – Various local residents (Friar Park)	Request for the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street near No.93	Officers have reported that a number of attempts have been made to appoint a new School Crossing Patrol at Oxford Street in the vicinity of Mesty Croft



School, however, so far there hasn't been any applicants.

Arrangements will be made for pedestrian counts and traffic surveys to be undertaken to check if the location meets the national criteria for the implementation of a formal crossing facility.

If this location meets the national criteria, then funding will need to be identified for the implementation of a crossing facility.

Officers confirmed that arrangements had been made for a traffic survey and a pedestrian count to be undertaken along Oxford Road. Once the results have been received these will be used to check if the location meets the criteria for a crossing facility.

Traffic Surveys and pedestrian surveys had been undertaken along Oxford Street. The results from the surveys have now been received and are currently being analysed by Highways.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.



5.2.2 128 – Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey)

Request for traffic calming measures

Following representations from the head petitioner at the previous meeting, the Committee requested that Highways undertake a traffic survey.
A proposal to implement a traffic calming scheme along Lightwoods Hill was to be made. A Road Safety Improvement Scheme has been designed for Lightwoods Hill and a consultation is underway with local residents.
Letters have been sent out to local residents for comments on Thursday 11th November 2021. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

Officers confirmed that the consultation has been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. A number of objections have been raised regarding the proposed scheme, which is now currently being reviewed. Suggestions and comments from the consultation process are being considered to see if any adjustments can be made to the scheme proposal within the available budget.



Officers submitted an update noting that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill.

Consequently, options are being explored if alternative measures are appropriate and any changes will be presented to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Community Safety, for their consideration.

The proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections that were received to the initial proposal. The new proposal would be taken to the Cabinet Member for Highways in the next two weeks.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

5.2.2 63 – Residents of West Park Road (St Paul’s)

Concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park

Officers confirmed that a significant consultation had been undertaken prior to the project commencing. Furthermore, while officers from Highways were consulted and no concerns were raised, discussions are now in place to address the concerns highlighted by the residents.



Officers continue to work alongside partners in the local community to address the issues raised.

The issues highlighted were addressed as part of the local town forum in order to identify what measures can be adopted to mitigate any concerns. All existing entrances into the Park would be improved as part of the restoration project, with an exception of the existing car park entrance which was proposed to be relocated.

Properties on West Park Road received letters notifying residents of the Planning Application on the 10th April 2017. New litter bins would be installed as part of the restoration project and Officers continue to deal with any flytipping and littering as it arises.

Officers intend to commence work on the new entrance way with immediate effect. Assessments on impact of traffic calming from other roads will be undertaken as soon as the work has been completed. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

The Car Park was scheduled to open in April/May, highways



would then be able to undertake an inspection.

Updated in June that the car park should be opened next month to fully undertake the inspection.

5.2.4 413 – 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. A seven day traffic survey had been undertaken around the junction of Park Lane / Manor House Road. It shows that 85% of motorists are travelling at 29.7mph or less (figure includes both directions).

Officers reported that Council Policy required funding for road safety improvements to be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions are occurring. The funding for road safety improvements such as traffic signals must be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions are occurring. The junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road does not currently meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme, this is because there are other areas in Sandwell with higher numbers of injury collisions which must be prioritised first in accordance with Sandwell's Strategic Road Safety Plan.

Following representations from a ward councillor on behalf of the head petitioner, the Committee decided that a visit with the Cabinet Member and



officers would take place to determine if any low-cost alternatives could be identified. These might be afforded from local community budgets. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

Officers confirmed that a meeting with local ward members, Cabinet Member for Highways and Highways officers has been scheduled for 14th February at 3pm. An online meeting was attended by Local Ward Members and the Highways Service Manager, however, the cabinet member could not attend and consequently the meeting needs to be re-scheduled.

This matter is to be discussed with local ward members and the new Cabinet Member for highways. Meeting to be arranged.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions



5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 10 – Residents of Maple Rise	Faulty security lights, dangerous old TV aerial and guttering that is not fit for purpose.	<p>Under investigation by Officers, response to be provided at future Committee.</p> <p>Officers engaged with the tenants and it was confirmed that tenants were happy with lights when working, the issues were when they are not working. Officers offered to replace the bulb with upgraded LED, reducing the need to call out as much. It was understood that tenants were happy with response.</p> <p>Contractors have attended and re-fixed loose external cables to the aerials, no further work was required.</p> <p>Removing old TV aerials are private so the Council are unable to remove these.</p> <p>Officers had raised a work order to attend to the guttering to all 3 blocks (1-7, 19 – 37 and 2 – 24 Maple) on 4th April 2022.</p> <p>Officers had also placed a work order to replace a gate near number 15 appointed for 12th April 2022.</p>



5.3.2 12 – Residents of Sandwell	National Landlord Register - Asking the Council Leader to show support by writing to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove implement the register as part of their upcoming Renters’ Reform Bill	<p>Motion brought by Councillor Ahmed and seconded by Councillor Piper at Full Council on 21 April 2022 which was unanimously passed. It was agreed that:</p> <p>The Leader of the Council would write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities urging him to include a National Landlord Register in the Renters’ Reform Bill.</p> <p>The Leader would also write to local MPs asking them to urge the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to support the below. These letters had been sent on 10 May and the Council awaits a response. These letters had now been sent.</p>
5.3.3 48 - Bilston Rd (Princes End)	Average Speed Cameras Instillation requested from the residents of Bilston Rd due to speeding.	<p>Following representation from Cllr Williams officers confirmed that while the police are responsible for speed enforcement.</p> <p>Officers will undertake speed surveys to identify the extent and distribution of the problem on Bilston Road and share with them any data and information around accidents to assist the Police with enforcement. Officers will communicate with Cllr Williams to determine what date and time to undertake the</p>



speed survey to ensure it reflects the time at which residents have made their concerns.

Officers confirmed that a seven day traffic survey had been ordered for Bilston Road and if any speeding concerns are identified, these will be shared with the Police.

The assessment criteria for the installation of Average Speed Cameras takes into consideration the number and severity of the injury collisions along a given road.

The funding for the installation of average speed cameras is determined at a Black Country level by the Black Country Average Speed Enforcement Board and is targeted at sites where collisions resulting in fatalities and serious injuries are occurring regularly.

After being assessed for the installation of average speed cameras, Bilston Road does not currently meet that criteria.

Officers updated that a seven day traffic survey had been undertaken along Bilston Road and it showed that an average of 11,537 vehicles a day are travelling along it (figure includes both directions).



It also shows 85% of motorists had been travelling at 35mph or less.

This speed was higher than the posted 30mph speed limit for this area and therefore the traffic survey data had been shared with the Police with a request for speed enforcement.

5.3.4 26 - Residents of Church Road (Soho and Victoria) Request for permit holder parking on Church Road

Officers have confirmed that the grass verge along Church Road is Council owned and maintained by housing management. The grass verge opposite property numbers 51-63 accommodates three utility boxes and also has apparatus present underneath the verge.

The utility boxes and apparatus would have to be moved by the utility company which would incur substantial costs to the Council. In addition, alternative locations suitable to accommodate the utility boxes would need to be identified. There are also level differences between the grass verge and the footpath that would need to be addressed before parking bays could be constructed.

This would require retaining walls to support the land which



would incur further substantial costs.

The grass verge opposite property numbers 1-49 also accommodated a utility box that would need to be removed and relocated. This section was also lined with mature trees, 6 of which would need to be removed before parking bays could be constructed.

The removal of trees and green spaces was usually met with objection, although if this was agreed, they would need to be replaced with 12 new trees in the local vicinity in accordance with Council policy.

Approximately 40 additional parking spaces could be achieved at this location, although the costs to undertake the work will be substantial as outlined above. It was estimated the work would be in excess of £230,000 for which housing would need to identify a budget. At a previous meeting, officers confirmed the implementation of 40 parking spaces would result in a number of healthy trees being removed which would not support the council's commitment to protect and expand the borough's trees and green spaces.



Housing do not have available funding for the implementation of additional parking bays as alleviating parking issues is not one of the priorities set for estate and housing improvements.

At the last petitions meeting, the Committee requested for Highways officers to investigate whether the grass verge could be converted to accommodate a maximum of 7 parking spaces, as opposed to 40. It was confirmed that a reduced number of parking bays could be accommodated within the grassed verge along Church Road, the parking bays cost approximately £3,000 to construct and there is likely to be additional costs for utility diversions as there are some utility apparatus present in the verge area.

These costs will need to be obtained from the relevant utility companies. The grassed verge area is housing maintained and funding would therefore need to be identified by them. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.



Highways investigated the original request for a parking permit scheme for Church Road.

This wasn't recommended as there isn't enough space on street to accommodate all of the vehicles that are owned by the residents along this stretch. This results in residents paying for parking permits with no guarantee they can park their vehicles, which is never favourable.

It was then asked if the grassed verge area on the opposite side to the properties could be used to construct parking bays. This land is maintained by housing hence the reason housing were asked to look at this.

Housing:

“Our priority is to preserve grassed areas and trees for the benefit of tenants and wider communities. We do not allocate funding for the conversion of grassed areas to parking areas as this runs counter to our commitments to combatting the effects of climate change and to promoting health and wellbeing.”



5.3.5 71 – Boscobel Estate – Tipton Green

Requesting a warden and an issue with ASB

Officers investigated the concerns and provided the follow response:

Supporting People

The council no longer offer: Supporting People Service

There is a Floating Support Service, provided by the council but this service was designed to support certain vulnerable groups.

Provided to the Committee is a referral form to access the Floating Support Service should any resident 'meet the criteria' – (attached as appendix 1).

It should be noted that The Floating Support Service does not provide care support, however they may be able to offer some advice & limited assistance.

One of the concerns raised in the petition, was that of isolation of residents from help and support.

The TMO do have a community focussed service and the officers at the TMO are in constant contact with residents, to provide support and help where possible.

The TMO have encouraged the residents to wear the piper alarm pendants through the



Community Alarms Service, which many have done
The type of wrap around care that is being requested, can be purchased privately but it can be quite expensive.

Individual residents or groups of residents may have to seek access private funding to purchase this wrap around care, but at this time it is not a service provided by the council.

Warden Service

In the matters relating to a patrolling service to either remove or move on certain behaviours and activities officers confirmed that there is a Warden Patrol Service, that the council operate on the Boscobel Estate, but this is focussed

- Fly tipping
- General Anti-Social Behaviour

The TMO have a strong relationship with the local police team (Tipton Green), and there is a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who patrols the estate. There is CCTV in the area and residents have been advised on how to reports incidents that will then be reviewed on the CCTV
The PCSO had been host police surgeries in the Boscobel office



prior to the COVID lockdown, and this will a forum to report concerns, but this service was suspended during the pandemic.

The expectation is that there will be a resumption of this surgeries to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team have been contacted regarding how potential criminal activities that may be undertaken by members of the public whom do not live on the Boscobel Estate. The ASB team have given advice to the TMO as well as engaged with some of the residents, but the ASB team cannot make any interventions without the appropriate evidence.

As it stands, neither the ASB Team nor the Police can lawfully stop groups congregating in the area.

6 Source Documents

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



Sandwell Floating Support Service

Sandwell Floating Support Service provides housing-related support to vulnerable people to either remain in their homes and maintain their independence or resettle back into the community and achieve independence. The support is designed to help people develop the skills they need to run a home, stay safe, be healthy and participate in work, volunteering or social activities that make them feel part of their local community. The support provided will be different for each person as it is designed to specifically meet that person's individual need.

Eligibility for the service. Please tick all that apply.

- You must be either resident in Sandwell or placed out of borough in temporary accommodation by the Housing Options service or Sandwell MBC.**
- You must have access to welfare benefits.**
- You should be aged 18 or over (there is no upper age limit).**
- Young people aged between 16 and 17 will be considered who have been granted an independent tenancy or home and need support to sustain their accommodation.**

Referral: We would like you to answer several questions to help you decide whether you need to be referred to the service.

REFERRAL DETAILS	
Client Name	
Client Date of Birth	
Client Address	
Client Telephone number	
Client NHS Number	
Client Ethnicity	
Client Religion	
1st Language: Interpreter needed	
Referral Date	
<p>Capacity: Do you have capacity to make informed decisions about your own well-being:</p> <p>Tick as appropriate: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Do you want us to liaise with anyone else on your behalf if we need to arrange an assessment:</p> <p>Tick as appropriate: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please list the persons contact name and telephone number below:</p>	
<p>Are there any risks, that we should be aware of:</p> <p>Tick as appropriate: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please tell us more below:</p>	
Office Use only:	Date Referral received:
<p>Delete as appropriate: Accepted / Rejected for assessment</p> <p>If rejected: Date letter sent informing client of decision not to offer service:</p>	
<p>Referral accepted, date allocated to assessor and assessors name:</p>	
<p>Client ID Number:</p>	

Please answer yes or no to the statement that applies to you; failure to answer these questions will result in your referral being rejected:

CRITERIA	Yes	No
1. I am homeless and have been placed in temporary accommodation by the Local Authority		
2. I am homeless and have been awarded a priority by the Local Authority for housing and need support to re-settle		
3. I am at risk of homelessness (for example I am not managing in my current home and at risk of losing the place I currently live in)		
4. I would not be able to move in to more independent accommodation without support (for example I am moving from supported or semi supported housing or I am an offender leaving prison and need help to resettle)		
5. I am at significant risk of harm (for example safeguarding, domestic abuse, harassment due to vulnerability, race or culture)		
6. I need support following discharge from hospital (for example to enable me to re-settle back into my home and have no family, friends or support to help me)		
7. I need support to prevent the risk of admission to hospital or similar (with appropriate support I can remain at home and receive treatment and I have no family, friends or other support to help me)		

If none of the above statements apply to you then we will be unable to consider you for the Floating Support Service.

If you have answered **YES** to any of the above statements, please continue to tell us a bit more about your situation.

Please indicate which particular area is making you feel vulnerable at the moment:	
	Yes
Mental health	
Learning Disability	
Substance Misuse	
Homeless	
Leaving Care	
Domestic Abuse	
Family with children who are at risk of higher intervention (Children's services involvement/youth offending)	

Please tell us what outcome you are looking to achieve to maintain your own well-being: if your referral is accepted for assessment we will discuss this in depth at your face to face interview.

Outcome	Yes	No
1. To support me to establish and maintain a successful tenancy due to Homelessness		
2. To support me to establish and maintain a successful tenancy as I am at risk of becoming homeless		
3. To assist me to resettle into more suitable accommodation		
4. I require support from risk of harm		
5. I require support to assist with my discharge from hospital as I have no family support/network		
6. I require support with my physical and mental wellbeing to prevent my condition deteriorating and the impact this may have		

Any further information you wish to share to help us consider your referral:

Authority to Act on Behalf of and request information:

Finally, please confirm that you authorise the Floating Support Service to contact and request information and to act on your behalf with agencies and authorities as necessary

Signed:.....Date:.....

To understand more about why we collect your information, what we do with your information, how you can access your information, your personal information rights, how and to whom to raise a complaint about your information, please visit our privacy notice page at <http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotices>

If this referral has been completed on behalf of the client please complete below:

Name:.....

Contact Number:.....

Relationship:.....

Profession:.....

Please return to:

Sandwell MBC

Community Care Division,

Independent Living Centre

100 Oldbury Road

Smethwick

B66 1JE

Email: Community_care@Sandwell.gov.uk