

Agenda

Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday, 3 August 2022 at 5.00 pm
At Council Chamber, Oldbury Council House

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 - 34

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 23 March and 22 June 2022.

4 Progress Report 35 - 48

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
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West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Millard (Chair)
Councillors Ahmed, Carmichael, Hartwell, Millard, 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

Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 5:00pm
in Committee Room 1, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Ahmed (Chair);
Councillors Hartwell and Piper.

In attendance: Councillor Williams.
Alison Jones (Supporting Petitioner in respect of
Boscobel Estate, Tipton Green).
John Nicklin (Supporting Petitioner in respect of
Boscobel Estate, Tipton Green).

Also present: Robin Weare (Service Manager – Highways).
Trevor Fields (Senior Neighbourhoods Officer).
Jim Brennan (Business Manager).
Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer).
Mateusz Sliwinski (Democratic Services Officer).

09/22 **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Millard.

10/22 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

11/22 **Minutes**

It was agreed to defer the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 to the next meeting as no member present was in attendance at that meeting.

Resolved that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2022 be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

12/22 **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 5.59pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton requesting average speed cameras.</p>	<p>The Council referred the matter to West Midlands Police for a response as speed enforcement was a responsibility of West Midlands Police.</p> <p>It was acknowledged by the Petitioner that there were consistent speeding incidents in the vicinity of Batmans Hill. There was a concern that without any speed enforcement measures there would be a fatality.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the responsibility of speed enforcement and the limited funding set in accordance with the Council's Road Safety Plan.</p> <p>According to the legislation, any additional actions, such as speed calming measures, could only be taken once sufficient study has been undertaken by the Council and evidence base was there to justify the spend. Only the West Midlands Police had the power to install a speed cameras.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the issue of speed monitoring in the area and the potential for a community speed watch.</p> <p>The Chair moved the proposal and it was agreed to put a speed check device on Batmans Hill Road, Tipton to ascertain the percentage of vehicles exceeding the speeding limit.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>2. Residents of Boscobel Estate, Tipton Green, requesting a warden and support with ASB issue.</p>	<p>Officers investigated the concerns and provided the follow response:</p> <p><u>Supporting People:</u> The officer said the council was no longer offering the Supporting People Service. There was a Floating Support Service, provided by the Council but this service was designed to support certain vulnerable groups. The Committee noted the Floating Support Service referral forum should any resident 'meet the criteria'.</p> <p>It was noted that the care support was not provided by the floating support service, however they may be able to offer some advice and limited assistance.</p> <p>One of the concerns raised in the petition, was that of isolation of residents from help and support. The TMO had a community focussed service and the officers at the TMO were in constant contact with residents, to provide support and help where possible.</p> <p>The TMO encouraged the residents to wear the piper alarm pendants through the Community Alarms Service. However, the type of wrap around care that was requested by residents could be purchased privately.</p> <p>Individual residents or groups of residents may have to seek access private funding to purchase this wrap around care, but at this time it was not a service provided by the Council.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p data-bbox="802 257 1485 638"><u>Warden Service:</u> The officer noted that, with regards to a patrolling service to either remove or move on certain behaviours and activities officers confirmed that the Council operated a Warden Patrol Service on the Boscobel Estate. However, this was focussed on issues relating to Fly tipping and General Anti-Social Behaviour.</p> <p data-bbox="802 685 1485 891">The TMO had a strong relationship with the local police team (Tipton Green), and there was a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who patrols the estate.</p> <p data-bbox="802 943 1517 1323">There was 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 was a forum to report concerns, but this service was suspended during the pandemic.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1373 1517 1536">There was an expectation that there would be a resumption of the local surgeries to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss their concerns.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1585 1501 2004">The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team had 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 had 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.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>Members noted that the estate management building's opening hours had been reduced as a result of the pandemic. However, there was a desire for the office to open full time to ensure all residents could report incidents. It was stressed that officers could be contacted by telephone when the office was closed.</p> <p>As it stands, neither the ASB Team nor the Police can lawfully stop groups congregating in the area.</p> <p>Having heard the concerns raised by the petitioners, the Committee were satisfied with the proposed action taken and therefore, it was agreed to close this petition.</p>
<p>3. Residents of Grafton Road requesting establishing residential permit parking on both sides of the road.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The deadline date for questionnaires to be returned was the 10 June 2022.</p> <p>The questionnaires were still being analysed and a response would be provided at a future meeting.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>4. Various local residents (Friar Park) request for installation of a crossing on Oxford Street near No.93.</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, so far there hasn't been any applicants.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If this location meets the national criteria, then funding will need to be identified for the implementation of a crossing facility.</p> <p>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 would be used to check if the location meets the criteria for a crossing facility.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>5. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey) requesting traffic calming measures</p>	<p>Following representations from the head petitioner at the previous meeting, the Committee requested that Highways undertake a traffic survey.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p data-bbox="804 255 1485 376">A proposal to implement a traffic calming scheme along Lightwoods Hill was to be made.</p> <p data-bbox="804 427 1501 591">A Road Safety Improvement Scheme had been designed for Lightwoods Hill and a consultation was underway with local residents.</p> <p data-bbox="804 642 1501 763">Letters have been sent out to local residents for comments on Thursday 11th November 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="804 815 1513 1279">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 was being reviewed. Suggestions and comments from the consultation process were being considered to see if any adjustments could be made to the scheme proposal within the available budget.</p> <p data-bbox="804 1330 1501 1538">Officers submitted an update which noted that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill.</p> <p data-bbox="804 1590 1513 1798">Consequently, options are being explored if alternative measures are appropriate and any changes would be presented to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Community Safety, for their consideration.</p> <p data-bbox="804 1850 1433 2007">The proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections that were received to the initial proposal.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The new proposal would be taken to the Cabinet Member for Highways in the next two weeks.</p> <p>An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>6. Residents of West Park Road (St Paul's) concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park</p>	<p>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 were now in place to address the concerns highlighted by the residents.</p> <p>Officers continue to work alongside partners in the local community to address the issues raised.</p> <p>The issues highlighted were addressed as part of the local town forum in order to identify what measures could 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.</p> <p>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 fly tipping and littering as it arises.</p> <p>Officers intended to commence work on the new entrance way with immediate effect.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>Assessments on impact of traffic calming from other roads will be undertaken as soon as the work has been completed.</p> <p>The Car Park was scheduled to open in April/May, highways would then be able to undertake an inspection. An update in June stated that the car park should be opened next month to fully undertake the inspection.</p> <p>A further update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>7. 413 – Various road users/residents (Wednesbury North) request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Rd and Hobs Road / Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury</p>	<p>The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals was prioritised where injury accidents had occurred. A five-year injury accident analysis showed there was 3 recorded injury accidents during this period.</p> <p>This was low when compared to other locations that are being considered for major traffic calming schemes.</p> <p>Although this junction had not met 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. This would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction.</p> <p>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.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>The data would 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 were travelling at 29.7mph or less (figure includes both directions).</p> <p>Officers reported that Council Policy required funding for road safety improvements to be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions had occurred. The junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road does not meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme, this was because there were other areas in Sandwell with higher numbers of injury collisions which must be prioritised first in accordance with Sandwell's Strategic Road Safety Plan.</p> <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 to determine if any low-cost alternatives could be identified. These might be afforded from local community budgets.</p> <p>Officers confirmed that a meeting with local ward members, Cabinet Member for Highways and Highways officers had 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 re-scheduled.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	A further update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.
<p>8. Residents of Maple Rise regarding faulty security lights, dangerous old TV aerial and guttering not fit for purpose</p>	<p>The following actions were undertaken since the last meeting: 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 were 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> <p>Having heard the concerns raised by the petitioners, the Committee were satisfied with the proposed action taken and therefore, it was agreed to close this petition</p>
<p>9. Residents of Sandwell asking Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing to implement the National Landlord Register as part of</p>	<p>Motion brought by Councillor Ahmed and seconded by Councillor Piper at Full Council on 21 April 2022 which was unanimously passed.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>upcoming Renters' Reform Bill</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.</p> <p>It was confirmed that these letters had been sent.</p> <p>Having heard the concerns raised by the petitioners, the Committee were satisfied with the proposed action taken and therefore, it was agreed to close this petition.</p>
<p>10. Bilston Road (Princes End) residents requesting average speed cameras due to speeding</p>	<p>Following representation from Cllr Williams officers confirmed that while the Police were responsible for speed enforcement. Officers would 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.</p> <p>Officers would communicate with Cllr Williams to determine what date and time to undertake the speed survey to ensure it reflects the time at which residents made their concerns.</p> <p>Officers confirmed that a seven-day traffic survey had been ordered for Bilston Road and if any speeding concerns were</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>identified, these would be shared with the Police.</p> <p>The assessment criteria for the installation of Average Speed Cameras took into consideration the number and severity of the injury collisions along a given road.</p> <p>The funding for the installation of average speed cameras was determined at a Black Country level by the Black Country Average Speed Enforcement Board and was targeted at sites where collisions resulting in fatalities and serious injuries had occurred regularly.</p> <p>After being assessed for the installation of average speed cameras, Bilston Road did not meet that criteria.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Police were the responsible authority for speeding and therefore would enforce speed limits accordingly. It was noted that there was a Borough and national issue with excessive speeding on roads.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>Therefore, the Committee requested that the Lead Petitioner refer speeding matters on Bilston Road to the Police to ensure that issues were logged and appropriately actioned.</p> <p>Having heard the concerns raised by the petitioners, the Committee were satisfied with the proposed action taken and therefore, it was agreed to close this petition.</p>
<p>11. Residents of Church Road (Soho and Victoria) requesting permit holder parking on Church Road</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that the grass verge along Church Road was Council owned and maintained by housing management. The grass verge opposite property numbers 51-63 accommodates three utility boxes and also had apparatus present underneath the verge.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There were 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.</p> <p>The grass verge opposite property numbers 1-49 also accommodated a utility box that would need to be removed and relocated.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>This section was also lined with mature trees, 6 of which would need to be removed before parking bays could be constructed.</p> <p>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 would be substantial as outlined above.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Housing directorate did not have available funding for the implementation of additional parking bays as alleviating parking issues was not one of the priorities set for estate and housing improvements.</p> <p>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.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p data-bbox="804 255 1508 595">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 as there are some utility apparatus present in the verge area.</p> <p data-bbox="804 645 1508 891">The associated costs would need to 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 them.</p> <p data-bbox="804 940 1508 1236">Highways investigated the original request for a parking permit scheme for Church Road. However, this scheme wasn't recommended as there was not enough space on street to accommodate all of the vehicles that are owned by the residents along this stretch.</p> <p data-bbox="804 1285 1508 1491">This results in residents paying for parking permits with no guarantee parking. It was then requested if the grassed verge area on the opposite side to the properties could be used to construct parking bays.</p> <p data-bbox="804 1541 1508 1995">This land was maintained by the housing directorate which confirmed: The Council's priority was to preserve grassed areas and trees for the benefit of tenants and wider communities. The Council did 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.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	Therefore, having heard the concerns raised by the petitioners, the Committee were satisfied with the proposed action taken and therefore, it was agreed to close this petition.

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

3 August 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
5.1.1 19 – Residents of Pitfields Road, Oldbury	Request for a car parking space and CCTV installation in Pitfields Road, Oldbury, B68 0RQ	
5.1.2 39 - Farmer Way Road, Tipton	Requesting Traffic Calming Signage	
5.1.3 38 - Residents of John Guest Close/Argyll Way/William Avery Way/Arthur Kee Drive/Soap Works Drive	Blocked sewage drains causing draining issues at a number of properties	
5.1.4 36- Residents of Dartmouth Street	Request for parking permits for residents	
5.1.5 12 - Residents of Sandgate Rd / Woodhall Close	Requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/ASB	



5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 54 – Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton	Requesting average speed cameras.	<p>Referred to West Midlands Police for response.</p> <p>A traffic survey was conducted along Batmans Hill Road for a seven day period starting 23rd April 2022.</p> <p>The traffic survey showed 85% of motorists are travelling along Batmans Hill Road at 35mph or less (figure includes both directions). It also showed that 44% of motorists were travelling in excess of the current 30mph speed limit.</p> <p>The details of the traffic survey had been shared with the Police who hold the powers to enforce the speed limit. The traffic survey data will help the Police to identify the times of day when speed enforcement should be most effective.</p>
5.2.2 16 - Grafton Road Residents	Establishing residential permit parking on both sides of the road	<p>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.</p> <p>Graham Road and Sandwell Road North have also been included in this process to</p>



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.

Questionnaires had been sent out to residents along Grafton Road, Graham Road and Sandwell Road North in response to the petition requesting a residents parking scheme along Grafton Road. This was to address any parking that was likely to be displaced to adjacent roads if a residents parking permit scheme was considered solely for Grafton Road.

The results from the questionnaire had been showing that

:-

Grafton Road
50 questionnaires delivered and 30 completed and returned
25 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against

Graham Road
28 questionnaires delivered and 11 completed and returned



5 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 6 against

Sandwell Road North
17 questionnaires delivered and 13 completed and returned
8 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against

The majority of returned questionnaires for Grafton Road and Sandwell Road North are in favour of a residents parking scheme, however, the majority of returned questionnaires for Graham Road are against the scheme.

Highways recommend that if a residents parking scheme is to be introduced in this area then all three roads should be included to prevent displacement of parking.

5.2.3 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.

5.2.4 128 – 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.

5.2.5 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 now open and an inspection was scheduled for August or September 2022, dependent on staff availability.

5.2.6 413 – various road users/ residents

Request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor

The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals is prioritised where injury



(Wednesbury North)

House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury

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.

The injury collision data for the junction of Park Lane / Manor House Road and Hobs Road is currently showing 1 injury collision has occurred in the past 3 years. The number of injury collisions recorded on this junction has not increased since the petition was submitted.

In accordance with Sandwell's Strategic Road Safety Plan, the funding available for road safety improvements is targeted in areas where the most treatable injury collisions are occurring. Prioritising funding this way has contributed to continued success in reducing injury collisions in Sandwell and is



helping to meet the council's statutory duty to investigate and reduce injury collisions on the highway.

There are currently no recommendations being made by highways to prioritise major funding for traffic signals at this particular location where injury collisions appear to be quite low.

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



5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
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6 Source Documents

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

