

Agenda Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday, 18 January 2023 at 5.00 pm
At Council Chamber, Oldbury Council House

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.
- 3 **Minutes** 5 - 12

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2022.
- 4 **Progress Report** 13 - 18

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
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

Wednesday 7 December at 5:00pm
in Committee Room 1, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Millard (Chair);
Councillors Ahmed and C S Padda.

Also present: Councillor Preece;
Nicola Plant (Assistant Director - Public Protection and
Community Safety); Robin Weare (Service Manager –
Highways); Alex Goddard (Democratic Services
Officer) and John Swann (Democratic Services
Officer).

17/22 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

18/22 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

19/22 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26
October 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

20/22

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 6.40pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich, concerning the proposed cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley.	This matter was being investigated by officers. Members undertook to investigate issues raised regarding the communication and consultation stages. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.
2. Residents of Hales Crescent, Smethwick, requesting removal of a grass area and further parking bays, including designated disabled parking spaces.	Officers were engaging with residents to further understand their concerns. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.
3. Users of Carnegie Building, Tipton, requesting community use of the Carnegie Building.	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.
4. Residents of Sandgate Road/Woodhall Close, Tipton, requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/anti social behaviour.	The access road to Waring Close, Tipton, forms part of the adopted highway and under legislation has to remain open and free from obstructions for all highway users. The problems that occur relate to anti-social behaviour and the only authority with the powers to deal with this matter was the Police. The closing of a highway would not resolve anti-social behaviour problems it would only move the problem to another street or area. The Committee was advised that the number of anti social behaviour incidents at Waring Road did not provide a solid basis for closing the road.
5. Convenience Store Customers, Toll End Road, Smethwick, requesting a ramp outside the store to enable easy access for customers.	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.

<p>6. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, requesting traffic calming measures.</p>	<p>Consultation had been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. Objections, suggestions and comments had been raised regarding the proposed scheme. The proposed road safety scheme had been altered in accordance with objections received to the initial proposal. Further objections had been received and were being considered by the Cabinet Member for Environment. A further report would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>7. Residents of Farmer Way Road, Tipton, requesting traffic calming signage.</p>	<p>A seven-day traffic survey was undertaken along Farmer Way in August 2019, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The traffic survey was conducted between Jackson Close and Stead Close and the results showed 85% of motorists were travelling at 27.4mph or less. There were no plans to recommend traffic calming measures along Farmer Way as the funding must be prioritised where injury collisions are occurring. However, additional carriageway markings would be provided to remind motorists to slow down. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>8. Residents of Friar Park requesting installation of a crossing on Oxford Street, Wednesbury.</p>	<p>A number of attempts had been made to appoint a School Crossing Patrol at Oxford Street in the vicinity of Mesty Croft School, however, there had not been any applicants. Traffic surveys and pedestrian surveys had been undertaken and this location would be recommended for a permanent crossing facility. Further site investigation works would begin along with consultation with residents to assess feasibility for the crossing facility. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

<p>9. Residents of West Park Road, Smethwick, concerning the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park</p>	<p>Significant consultation had been undertaken prior to the project commencing. Officers continued 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 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. 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 continued to deal with any fly tipping and littering as it arose. Officers intended to commence work on the new entrance way with immediate effect. Assessments on impact of traffic calming from other roads would be undertaken as soon as the work has been completed. The car park was now open. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>10. Residents of Grafton Road, West Bromwich, requesting residential permit parking on both sides of Grafton Road.</p>	<p>Questionnaires were distributed 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 had 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 would need to be in favour for a residents parking permit scheme to be considered.</p>

	<p>The majority of returned questionnaires for Grafton Road and Sandwell Road North were in favour of a residents parking scheme, however, the majority of returned questionnaires for Graham Road were against the scheme. Officers recommended that if a residents parking scheme was to be introduced in this area then all three roads should be included to prevent displacement of parking. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>11. Various road users/ residents requesting a traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury.</p>	<p>Funding for road safety schemes was prioritised where injury accidents are occurring. The funding for road safety improvements such as traffic signals must be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions had occurred. The junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road did not meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme, 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. Following representations from a ward councillor, 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. The injury collision data for the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road showed one injury collision had occurred in the past 3 years. The number of injury collisions recorded on this junction had not increased since the petition was submitted.</p>

	<p>There were currently no recommendations being made by highways to prioritise major funding for traffic signals at this particular location where injury collisions appeared to be quite low. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>12. Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton, requesting average speed cameras.</p>	<p>The traffic survey showed 85% of motorists were travelling along Batmans Hill Road at 35mph or less (both directions). It also showed that 44% of motorists were travelling in excess of the current 30mph speed limit. The details of the traffic survey had been shared with the Police who held the powers to enforce the speed limit. The traffic survey data would help the Police to identify the times of day when speed enforcement should be most effective. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>13. Residents of Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich, requesting parking permits for residents.</p>	<p>The on-street space available along Dartmouth Street, allowing the recommended 6 metres per vehicle for pulling in and out of the parking space, equated to 26 parking spaces. There were 38 properties along the south-east side of Dartmouth Street and 13 along the north-west side. There was not enough space to allow each property at least one parking permit and therefore a residents permit parking scheme would not be recommended for this location due to site constraints as additional parking spaces could not be created to accommodate all cars belonging to residents. The head petitioner had been advised.</p>

<p>14. Residents of Poplar Avenue, Tividale concerning issues with visibility in and around the junction of Trafalgar Road and Poplar Avenue due to parked cars.</p>	<p>Arrangements would be made to make a proposal for the implementation of yellow lines around the junction to prevent parking and help improve visibility. This involved a statutory process which must be followed and allowed members of the public to object. Therefore, there was no guarantee of the outcome of any proposals. The location would be included in the next review of this area. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>15. Residents of California Road, Quarry Rise and Packford Road, Tividale concerning issues leaving and accessing California Road due to parked vehicles at the junction.</p>	<p>Arrangements would be made to make a proposal for the implementation of yellow lines around the junction to prevent parking and help improve visibility. This involved a statutory process which must be followed and allows membered of the public to object. Therefore, there was no guarantee of the outcome of any proposals. The location would be included in the next review of this area. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday 18 January 2023

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







1 Recommendations

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

2 Reasons for Recommendations

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	1405 – Residents of Sandwell	Petition in opposition to the proposed garden waste charges	Two-thirds of Councils nationally already charge for garden waste collections, reflecting the need to put non-statutory services on a sustainable and affordable footing. The recent resident survey indicated that while many residents are willing to consider paying for services. At £35 per year the charge has been set below both the national average of £40 and the West Midlands Average of £38. Between increased income and reduced costs, charging for green waste collection could save Sandwell in excess of £2million a year. Currently the typical Sandwell garden waste bin is less than half full when it comes to collection day. By moving to a subscription service both collections and costs are moved to households that are actively using the service.



This will reduce the number of crews required to collect the garden waste improving efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. In addition, a scheme to support residents to compost at home will be launched in the early spring. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 14/12/2022)

5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 141 – Convenience Store Customers, Toll End Road, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Request for a ramp outside a convenience store to enable easy access for customers.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 4/10/2022)
5.2.2 128 – Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for traffic calming measures	Consultation was undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. Objections, suggestions and comments were raised and the proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections received to the initial proposal. Further objections have been received and the consultation responses and objections are currently being considered by the Cabinet Member for Environment. A further report will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 19/7/2021)



5.2.3	146 - Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Concerns with the proposed cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 1/11/2022)
5.2.4	31 – Residents of Hales Crescent, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Request for removal of a large portion of grass area and for further parking bays to be identified, including designated disabled parking spaces.	Officers will engage with residents to further understand their concerns. APCOA have reviewed all of the Penalty Charge Notices issues to ensure they were issued correctly. (Received 21/11/2022)
5.2.5	692 – Users of Carnegie Building, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for community use of the Carnegie Building	Tipton Carnegie Building currently forms part of a council plan around locally based council services subject to the outcomes of the ongoing Customer Journey Programme Board.

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 12 - Residents of Sandgate Road/ Woodhall Close, Tipton (Princes End)	Requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/anti social behaviour.	The access road to Waring Close, Tipton, forms part of the adopted highway and under legislation has to remain open and free from obstructions for all highway users.



The problems that are occurring relate to anti-social behaviour and the only authority with the powers to deal with this matter is the Police. The closing of a highway would not resolve anti-social behaviour problems it would only move the problem to another street or area. Officers have advised that the number of anti social behaviour incidents at Waring Road did not provide a solid basis for closing the road. The head petitioner has been informed.

6 Source Documents

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



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