

Agenda

Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 5.00 pm
in Committee Room 1, 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 - 8

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022.
- 4 **Progress Report** 9 - 14

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



Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
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 18 January at 5:00pm
in Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Hackett (Chair);
Councillors Rollins and Hughes.

Observers: Councillors Simms and E M Giles.

In attendance: Ben Percival (Assistant Director - Contracts, Projects, Strategy & Policy); Anthony Lloyd (Democratic Services Officer) and Trisha Newton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager).

1/23 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

2/23 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3/23 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022 be received.

4/23

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 5.32pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Sandwell in opposition to the proposed garden waste charges.</p>	<p>Two-thirds of Councils nationally already charged 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 were willing to consider paying for services. At £35 per year the charge had 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 was less than half full when it came to collection day. By moving to a subscription service both collections and costs were moved to households that were actively using the service. This would 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 would be launched in the early spring. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>2. Convenience Store Customers, Toll End Road, Smethwick, requesting a ramp outside the store to enable easy access for customers.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>

<p>3. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, requesting traffic calming measures.</p>	<p>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>4. Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich concerning the proposed cycle lane between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley.</p>	<p>Following representations by the head petitioner regarding the consultation process and the proposed cycle route, officers were asked to report back to the next meeting of the Committee outlining the consultation process and scheme details. Consideration would also be given to presenting a report to the relevant Scrutiny Board.</p>
<p>5. Residents of Hales Crescent, Smethwick requesting for the removal of a large portion of grass area and for further parking bays to be identified, including designated disabled spaces.</p>	<p>Officers would engage with residents to further understand their concerns. APCOA had reviewed all of the Penalty Charge Notices issues to ensure they were issued correctly.</p>
<p>6. Users of Carnegie Building, Tipton requesting community usage of the Carnegie Building.</p>	<p>Tipton Carnegie Building formed part of a council plan around locally based council services subject to the outcomes of the ongoing Customer Journey Programme Board. Updates to the Committee would be provided in due course.</p>
<p>7. Residents of Sandgate Road/ Woodhall Close, Tipton requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/ASB.</p>	<p>Officers advised that the number of anti social behaviour incidents at Waring Road did not provide a solid basis for closing the road and no further action would be taken. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

1 March 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
5.1.1 175 – Residents in and around Wellington Road, Tipton	Request for the easing of traffic problems on Wellington Road, Tipton	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 14/02/2023)
5.1.2 97 – Residents in and around Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury	Concerns regarding road safety on the junction of Wolverhampton Road/Queensway	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 31/01/2023)
5.1.3 35 – Residents from various addresses across Sandwell	Concerns regarding green waste collection charges and surrounding communications involving the matter.	A petition regarding the introduction of charges was received and a response provided to the Committee at its meeting on 18 January 2023 (Minute No. 4.23 refers). The issues raised concerning communication/consultation will be investigated and a response will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 20/2/2023)

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)
5.2.2 146 - Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Concerns with the proposed cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley	Following representations made by the petitioners in relation to their concerns around the consultation process and the cycle route proposals, officers will submit a report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. A report will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 1/11/2022)
5.2.3 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)

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 128 – 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 and considered by the Cabinet Member for Environment. A consensus could not be reached with residents over a suitable scheme within the identified budget. There have been no recorded casualties since 2020, particularly at the identified problem location of Galton Road junction following the work already undertaken. It is therefore recommended, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, that the 20mph zone is extended past Lightwoods Primary School and that Vehicle Activated Speed Signs are installed along Lightwoods Hill to help satisfy the community concern regarding vehicle speeds.

(Received 19/7/2021)

5.2.4 692 – 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 which are subject to the outcomes of the ongoing customer strategy review. The Head Petitioner will be informed of any future updates.

(Received 29/11/2022)



6 Source Documents

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



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