

Agenda

Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 5.00 pm
At Annexe 1 - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

- 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 1 March 2023 as a correct record.
- 4 Progress Report** 9 - 16

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 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 1 March at 5:01pm
in Committee Room 1, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Hackett (Chair);
Councillors Hartwell and Padda.

Observers: Councillor Preece

In attendance: Robin Weare (Service Manager - Highways); Anthony Lloyd (Democratic Services Officer) and Trisha Newton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager).

5/23 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

6/23 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7/23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 be received.

8/23

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 5.57pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents in and around Wellington Road requesting the easing of traffic problems.	The matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.
2. Residents in and around Wolverhampton Road regarding concerns around road safety.	The matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.
3. Residents regarding the introduction of garden waste collection charges and the surrounding communications.	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 would be investigated and a response would be submitted to a future meeting.
4. 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.
5. Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich concerning the proposed cycle lane 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 would submit a report to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.
6. 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.	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. An update would be provided to the Committee at a further meeting.

<p>7. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, requesting traffic calming measures.</p>	<p>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 had been no recorded casualties since 2020, particularly at the identified problem location of Galton Road junction following the work already undertaken. It was 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. Following representations made by the head petitioner, members requested that officers review the detailed report which had been produced by the petitioners, and provide responses to the concerns raised. An update would be provided to a future meeting.</p>
<p>8. 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. Following representations from petitioners seeking more details, the Committee requested that officers contacted the petitioners with more information. An update would be provided to a future meeting.</p>

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

21 June 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 16 – residents of Park Lane West, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for resident only parking spaces outside of 173-184 Park Lane West.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 12/03/2023)
5.1.2 211 - against the withdrawal of the No. 45 bus service, Yew Tree and Charlemont Estates, West Bromwich (Charlemont with Grove Vale)	Petition against the withdrawal of the No. 45 bus service, Yew Tree and Charlemont Estates, West Bromwich.	TfWM is now funding the 45 bus service which will continue to be operated by Diamond Bus and remains unchanged. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 28/03/2023)



5.1.3 138 – residents of Thomas Cox Wharf and Alexandra Grange, Tipton (Great Bridge)

Request for the adoption of roads by Sandwell Council.

The responsibility to progress the adoption of any new roads on a development falls solely on the land owner (typically the Developer) who must initially offer any new roads to the Authority for adoption and, importantly, then enter into a legal adoption agreement with the Local Highway Authority (typically an agreement under Section 38 of the Highway Act). The Council has no powers to force a developer to enter into any adoption agreement. In this instance, the Developer gave the Authority every impression that they were going to enter into the necessary Section 38 agreement for adoption on numerous occasions and took discussions well beyond the cut off time allowable to undertake enforcement under Section 220. However, the Developer did not complete the necessary Section 38 agreements for the adoption of the roads, or complete the necessary process. Consequently, the roads on these sites were retained as private roads. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/04/2023)



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| 5.1.4 | 26 – residents in and around Farran Way, Great Barr (Great Barr with Yew Tree) | Request for the pruning of trees and removal of leaves in the area on an annual basis. | The Council recently adopted a new trees strategy which was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. This includes the commitment to complete a full inspection of all council owned trees in red risk areas within the next 18 months. Farran Way is scheduled for inspection in July 2023, and any remedial works identified from this inspection will be scheduled to take place after bird nesting season. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/04/2023) |
| 5.1.5 | 23 – residents in the vicinity of Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich (Charlemont with Grove Vale) | Request for the maintenance of trees on Charlemont Avenue and Charlemont Crescent. | The Council recently adopted a new trees strategy which was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. This includes the commitment to complete a full inspection of all Council owned trees in red risk areas within the next 18 months. Charlemont Avenue is scheduled for inspection in July 2023, and any remedial works identified from this inspection will be scheduled to take place after bird nesting season. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/04/2023) |



5.1.6	77 – residents in support of Warley Baptist Church, Oldbury (Old Warley)	Request for double-yellow or red lines on Castle Road East, Oldbury.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 05/06/2023)
5.1.7	19 – Residents of Field Road, Tipton (Princes End)	Request for speed bumps on Field Road, Princes End, Tipton.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 12/06/2023)

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. An update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 1/11/2022)
5.2.3 175 – residents in and around Wellington Road, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for the easing of traffic problems on Wellington Road, Tipton	Petitioners raised concerns regarding parking problems in the area. A request to utilise a nearby pot of land in the area to ease parking was made. An update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 14/02/2023)



5.2.4	97 – residents in and around Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury (Old Warley)	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)
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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	In December 2022 a report was submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment for a decision on how to progress the proposals for Lightwoods Hill. The report highlighted the findings from the two previous consultations Highways had carried out with affected residents on the two different proposals for Lightwoods Hill. Subsequently, petitioners had created and presented a report to Highways. A response had been submitted to the petitioners in relation to their report. A further updated briefing session was held with the Cabinet Member which contained the additional details of the findings from the petitioner’s report. After considering all the information presented, the Cabinet Member concluded that the correct course of action would be to approve the extension of the Bearwood



			<p>20mph zone and the installation of Digital Vehicle Activated Speed signs on Lightwoods Hill, to help satisfy some of the community concern raised over perceived excessive speed in the area. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 19/7/2021)</p>
5.3.2	692 – users of Carnegie Building, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for community use of the Carnegie Building	<p>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 Carnegie building is being considered for use as a library. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 29/11/2022)</p>
5.3.3	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.	<p>APCOA have reviewed all of the Penalty Charge Notices issued to ensure they were issued correctly. Officers hand delivered letters in January to all households within the Crescent, inviting them to meet to see if there was interest in pursuing a community-led solution, possibly a local responsible parking charter. Unfortunately, only two responses were received. Officers do not believe that there was enough community buy-in to take things forward. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/11/2022)</p>



5.3.4	35 – residents from various addresses across Sandwell	Concern 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 Council has access to suppliers that can translate communication in various languages upon request. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 20/2/2023)
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6 Source Documents

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

