

Agenda

Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday, 8 November 2023 at 5.00 pm
In 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 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2023.
- 4 **Progress Report** 11 - 18

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

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 5:04pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

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

Observing: Councillors Anandou and Fenton.

In attendance: Robin Weare (Assistant Director - Highways); Alex Oxley (Capital Projects Manager); Johane Gandiwa (Committee and Constitutional Services Lead Officer), Connor Robinson (Democratic Services Officer), and John Swann (Democratic Services Officer).

21/23 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rollins.

22/23 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23/23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 be received as a correct record.

24/23

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 5.56pm

Appendix 1

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Oldacre Road, requesting parking restrictions for non-residents during school pick-up/ drop-off times.</p>	<p>Following representations from petitioners, officers were requested to explore options and recommendations that address the parking challenges for residents of Oldcare Road. An update would be provided to a future meeting.</p>
<p>2. Residents in and around Hancox Street, requesting double yellow lines for part of Hancox Street.</p>	<p>Following representations from petitioners, officers were requested to investigate options for addressing the parking challenges raised by residents of Hancox Street, including the possibility of putting double yellow lines. An update would be provided to a future meeting.</p>
<p>3. Residents requesting the protection of the Albright Mosaic Mural located at Langley Baths.</p>	<p>Following representations from petitioners, officers were requested to explore options that would assist the residents in saving Albright Mosaic Mural. Residents undertook to follow up leads they had on moving the mosaic in the limited timeframes available as 14 November 2023 was the deadline. The Council had been quoted £56,300 for removing the mural. The figure excluded the costs for transportation, repair, and restoration. The estimated cost to the Council was found to be prohibitive and there was no funding available for the activity. The Committee agreed that officers would continue to support the residents in their own efforts to mobilise resources as well as in accessing the site. It was approved that the petition be closed. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>4. Residents in and around Gospel Oak Road, Tipton, requesting the creation of a car park on Gospel Oak Road.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>

<p>5. Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich, concerning the proposed cycle lane.</p>	<p>Following representations made by the petitioners in relation to their concerns around the consultation process and the cycle route proposals, officers had submitted a report to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>6. Residents in and around Wellington Road requesting the easing of traffic problems.</p>	<p>Petitioners had raised concerns regarding parking problems in the area. A request to utilise a nearby pot of land in the area to ease parking had been made. An update will be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>7. Residents of Thomas Cox Wharf and Alexandra Grange, Tipton, requesting adoption of roads.</p>	<p>The responsibility to progress the adoption of any new roads on a development fell solely on the land owner (typically the Developer) who must initially offer any new roads to the Authority for adoption and, importantly, enter into a legal adoption agreement with the Local Highway Authority (typically an agreement under Section 38 of the Highway Act). The Council had no powers to force a developer to enter into any adoption agreement. In this instance, the Developer had given the Authority every impression that it was 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. Following representations by Shaun Bailey MP in support of the residents proposing that a collaborative approach would be the way forward, the Committee requested that officers undertake further</p>

	<p>investigation into the matter considering all options available and respond to all of the issues raised in the correspondence that had been submitted over a period of time. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>8. Residents of Park Lane West, Tipton, requesting residents parking outside nos. 173-184.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>9. Residents of Yew Tree and Charlemont Estates concerning the withdrawal of the no. 45 bus service.</p>	<p>Transport for West Midlands had advised that it was now funding the 45 bus service which would continue to be operated by Diamond Bus and remained unchanged. However, the Committee understood that this proposal was for a six month period and therefore requested clarification be sought from TfWM as to future provision. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>10. Residents of Dartmouth Street. West Bromwich, requesting a parking permit scheme.</p>	<p>Following further discussions with petitioners, it was agreed that the Council's Highways department would begin work to consider the introduction of a resident parking scheme for Dartmouth Street. Time limits in relation to free parking on the street would also be reviewed. An update would be provided to a future meeting.</p>
<p>11. Residents in and around Wolverhampton Road regarding concerns around road safety.</p>	<p>A study and outline business case were being developed for the corridor along the length of the A4123 by Transport for West Midlands. The study would consider improvements relating to road safety, walking, cycling and bus movement along the route and would be implemented in phases over several years. The junction of the Wolverhampton Road and Queensway would be considered as part of the route improvement scheme. The junction was placed sixth on the list of priorities and had not met the criteria for major funding</p>

	<p>during this financial year. However, the area would be considered for a road safety scheme to offer additional advance warning to motorists. There was capital funding available each year for the implementation of road safety improvements. It was noted that the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board may wish to receive a briefing on the subject matter. It was approved that the petition be closed. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
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Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

8 November 2023

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
Contact Officers:	Johane Gandiwa Johane_Gandiwa@sandwell.gov.uk John Swann John_Swann@sandwell.gov.uk







1 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Petitions Committee approve the action taken or proposed as detailed 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
5.1.1 109 – Residents in the vicinity of Abbey Road Schools Abbey)	Request for a Puffin Crossing to replace the Zebra Crossing at Abbey Road Schools	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 20 October 2023)
5.1.2 28 – Residents of Herbert Street (West Bromwich Central)	Request for the easing of Parking Restrictions	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 27 September 2023)
5.1.3 15 – Residents of Eastfield Road, Tipton (Princes End)	Request to close right- of- of way route/ footpath between Eastfield and Field Road	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 27 September 2023)



5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions			
Signatories		Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1	37 – Residents of Oldacre Road, Old Warley (Old Warley)	Request for parking restrictions for non-residents during school pick- up/ drop- off times	Following representations from petitioners, officers were requested to explore options and recommendations that address the parking challenges for residents of Oldcare Road. An update would be provided to a future meeting. (Received 8 September 2023)
5.2.2	29 – Residents in and around Hancox Street Oldbury (Bristnall)	Request for double yellow lines for part of Hancox street, Oldbury	Following representations from petitioners, officers were requested to investigate options for addressing the parking challenges raised by residents of Hancox Street, including the possibility of putting double yellow lines. An update would be provided to a future meeting. (Received 6 September 2023)
5.2.3	80 – Residents in and around Gospel Oak Road, Tipton (Princes End)	Request for the creation of a car park on Gospel Oak Road	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 20 July 2023)
5.2.4	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)
5.2.5	138 – Residents of Thomas Cox Wharf and Alexandra	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



	<p>Grange, Tipton (Great Bridge)</p>		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Consequently, the roads on these sites were retained as private roads. Shaun Bailey MP, in support of residents, proposed a collaborative approach. Officers are undertaking further investigation into the matter and will respond to all the issues raised. An update would be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 21/04/2023)</p>
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5.2.6	16 – Residents of Park Lane West, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for resident only parking spaces outside of 173-184 Park Lane West.	This matter was being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 12/03/2023)
5.2.7	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. TfWM have confirmed that the operation of the route will be continuing. (Received 28/03/2023)
5.2.8	46 – Residents of Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Request for Parking Permit Scheme on Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich.	Following further discussions with petitioners, it was agreed that the Council’s Highways department would begin work to consider the introduction of a resident parking scheme for Dartmouth Street. Time limits in relation to free parking on the street would also be reviewed. An update would be provided to a future meeting. (Received 20/06/2023)



5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories		Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1	146 - Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Concerns with the proposed cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley	<p>Following representations made by the petitioners in relation to their concerns around the consultation process and the cycle route proposals, officers had submitted a report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board (ESTE).</p> <p>The ESTE Scrutiny Board had considered the matter at its meeting on 3 October 2023 following a site visit and passed the following recommendation: 'That in connection with the Europa Avenue Cycle Path Consultation, the following findings of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Working Group, in relation to whether sufficient and appropriate consultation had been carried out in line with existing council policies, practices and procedures, be approved by the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board:-</p> <p>(1) That having listened and considered the views of local residents, the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Board:-</p> <p>(a) note that the Working Group are satisfied that consultation on the Europa Avenue cycle path, which was carried out both online</p>



			<p>and by letter drops to households, was conducted in accordance with Council processes, however, communication with residents could have been improved further;</p> <p>(b) note that in future, where simultaneous improvement works are being carried out within the vicinity by different departments, internal communication between departments should be undertaken to avoid confusion and disruption to residents;</p> <p>(c) suggest that the Council consider all platforms, including Citizen space and neighbourhood forums, for communicating with residents, taking into consideration digital deprivation across the borough;</p> <p>(d) acknowledge that the Overview and Scrutiny function should be used to consider matters of strategic importance within the borough and not local ward issues in order to ensure value is added.'</p> <p>It is therefore recommended to close the petition. The Head Petitioner has been informed. (Received 1 November 2022)</p>
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6 Source Documents

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



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