

# 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>

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<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>

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	<p data-bbox="804 255 1485 636"><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="804 685 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="804 940 1513 1321">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="804 1370 1513 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="804 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>

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	<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>

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<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>

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	<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 1541">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 1592 1513 1803">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 1854 1433 1998">The proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections that were received to the initial proposal.</p>

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	<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>

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	<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>

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	<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>

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	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>

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<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>

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	<p data-bbox="804 255 1500 336">identified, these would be shared with the Police.</p> <p data-bbox="804 385 1509 555">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 data-bbox="804 600 1516 896">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 data-bbox="804 940 1506 1066">After being assessed for the installation of average speed cameras, Bilston Road did not meet that criteria.</p> <p data-bbox="804 1111 1509 1411">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 data-bbox="804 1456 1493 1666">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 data-bbox="804 1711 1503 1921">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>

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	<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>

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	<p data-bbox="804 255 1458 421">This section was also lined with mature trees, 6 of which would need to be removed before parking bays could be constructed.</p> <p data-bbox="804 472 1506 853">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 data-bbox="804 902 1485 1323">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 data-bbox="804 1373 1513 1626">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 data-bbox="804 1675 1469 1921">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>

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	<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>

<b>Petition Received From</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
	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](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)