

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

3 August 2022

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
Contact Officer:	Matt Powis Matt_Powis@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 19 – Residents of Pitfields Road, Oldbury	Request for a car parking space and CCTV installation in Pitfields Road, Oldbury, B68 0RQ	
5.1.2 39 - Farmer Way Road, Tipton	Requesting Traffic Calming Signage	
5.1.3 38 - Residents of John Guest Close/Argyll Way/William Avery Way/Arthur Kee Drive/Soap Works Drive	Blocked sewage drains causing draining issues at a number of properties	
5.1.4 36- Residents of Dartmouth Street	Request for parking permits for residents	
5.1.5 12 - Residents of Sandgate Rd / Woodhall Close	Requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/ASB	



5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 54 – Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton	Requesting average speed cameras.	<p>Referred to West Midlands Police for response.</p> <p>A traffic survey was conducted along Batmans Hill Road for a seven day period starting 23rd April 2022.</p> <p>The traffic survey showed 85% of motorists are travelling along Batmans Hill Road at 35mph or less (figure includes both directions). It also showed that 44% of motorists were travelling in excess of the current 30mph speed limit.</p> <p>The details of the traffic survey had been shared with the Police who hold the powers to enforce the speed limit. The traffic survey data will help the Police to identify the times of day when speed enforcement should be most effective.</p>
5.2.2 16 - Grafton Road Residents	Establishing residential permit parking on both sides of the road	<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</p>



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. The deadline date for questionnaires to be returned was the 10 June 2022.

Questionnaires had been sent out to residents along Grafton Road, Graham Road and Sandwell Road North in response to the petition requesting a residents parking scheme along Grafton Road. This was to address any parking that was likely to be displaced to adjacent roads if a residents parking permit scheme was considered solely for Grafton Road.

The results from the questionnaire had been showing that

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Grafton Road

50 questionnaires delivered and 30 completed and returned
25 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against

Graham Road

28 questionnaires delivered and 11 completed and returned



5 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 6 against

Sandwell Road North
17 questionnaires delivered and 13 completed and returned
8 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against

The majority of returned questionnaires for Grafton Road and Sandwell Road North are in favour of a residents parking scheme, however, the majority of returned questionnaires for Graham Road are against the scheme.

Highways recommend that if a residents parking scheme is to be introduced in this area then all three roads should be included to prevent displacement of parking.

5.2.3 92 – Various local residents (Friar Park)

Request for the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street near No.93

Officers have reported that a number of attempts have 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.

Arrangements will 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.

If this location meets the national criteria, then funding will need to be identified for the implementation of a crossing facility.

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 will be used to check if the location meets the criteria for a crossing facility.

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.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

5.2.4 128 – Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey) Request for traffic calming measures

Following representations from the head petitioner at the previous meeting, the Committee requested that Highways undertake a traffic survey.

A proposal to implement a traffic calming scheme along



Lightwoods Hill was to be made. A Road Safety Improvement Scheme has been designed for Lightwoods Hill and a consultation is underway with local residents.

Letters have been sent out to local residents for comments on Thursday 11th November 2021. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

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 is now currently being reviewed. Suggestions and comments from the consultation process are being considered to see if any adjustments can be made to the scheme proposal within the available budget.

Officers submitted an update noting that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill.



Consequently, options are being explored if alternative measures are appropriate and any changes will be presented to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Community Safety, for their consideration.

The proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections that were received to the initial proposal. The new proposal would be taken to the Cabinet Member for Highways in the next two weeks.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

5.2.5 63 – Residents of West Park Road (St Paul's)

Concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park

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 are now in place to address the concerns highlighted by the residents. Officers continue 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 can 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 continue to deal with any flytipping and littering as it arises.

Officers intend to commence work on the new entrance way with immediate effect. Assessments on impact of traffic calming from other roads will be undertaken as soon as the work has been completed. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

The Car Park was now open and an inspection was scheduled for August or September 2022, dependent on staff availability.

5.2.6 413 – various road users/ residents

Request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor

The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals is prioritised where injury



(Wednesbury North)

House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury

accidents are occurring. A five-year injury accident analysis shows there have been 3 recorded injury accidents during this period.

This is low when compared to other locations that are being considered for major traffic calming schemes. Although this junction does not meet 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 will be undertaken. This will help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction.

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. The data will 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 are travelling at



29.7mph or less (figure includes both directions).

Officers reported that Council Policy required funding for road safety improvements to be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions are occurring. The funding for road safety improvements such as traffic signals must be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions are occurring. The junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road does not currently meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme, this is because there are 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 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. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.



Officers confirmed that a meeting with local ward members, Cabinet Member for Highways and Highways officers has 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 the meeting needs to be re-scheduled.

This matter is to be discussed with local ward members and the new Cabinet Member for highways. Meeting to be arranged.

The injury collision data for the junction of Park Lane / Manor House Road and Hobs Road is currently showing 1 injury collision has occurred in the past 3 years. The number of injury collisions recorded on this junction has not increased since the petition was submitted.

In accordance with Sandwell's Strategic Road Safety Plan, the funding available for road safety improvements is targeted in areas where the most treatable injury collisions are occurring. Prioritising funding this way has contributed to continued success in reducing injury collisions in Sandwell and is



helping to meet the council's statutory duty to investigate and reduce injury collisions on the highway.

There are currently no recommendations being made by highways to prioritise major funding for traffic signals at this particular location where injury collisions appear to be quite low.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions



5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
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6 Source Documents

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

