

Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 3 August 2022 at 5:00pm
in Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

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

In attendance: Councillor Williams.
Raj Duggal (Head Petitioner in respect of Dartmouth
Street, West Bromwich).

Also present: Robin Weare (Service Manager – Highways); Matt
Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer); Mateusz
Sliwinski (Democratic Services Officer); Ant Lloyd
(Democratic Services Officer); John Swann (Democratic
Services Officer).

13/22 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

14/22 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

15/22 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 23
March 2022 and 22 June 2022 be agreed as a correct
record.

16/22

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 5.22pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents of Pitfields Road, Oldbury, requesting car parking space and CCTV installation	The Committee agreed to receive the petition and an update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.
2. Residents of Farmer Way Road, Tipton, requesting traffic calming signage.	<p>Having considered representation made by Cllr Williams, the Committee agreed to receive the petition.</p> <p>The Committee requested that the Council's Highways directorate investigate the matter and that an update be presented to a future Committee meeting.</p>
3. Residents of John Guest Close/Argyll Way/William Avery Way/Arthur Kee Drive/Soap Works Drive regarding blocked sewage drains.	The Committee agreed to investigate the petition and an update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.
4. Residents of Dartmouth Street, request for resident parking permits.	<p>Having considered representation made by Head Petitioner, the Committee agreed for the matter to be referred to Highways department for investigation.</p> <p>An update would be presented to a future Committee meeting.</p>
5. Residents of Sandgate Road/Woodhall Close, requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/ASB	The Committee agreed for the officers to investigate the matter and an update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.
6. Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton	The matter was referred to West Midlands Police for response.

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	<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 would help the Police to identify the times of day when speed enforcement should be most effective.</p> <p>An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.</p>
<p>7. Residents of Grafton Road, requesting establishment of 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 would 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>Questionnaires had been sent out to residents along Grafton Road, Graham Road and Sandwell Road North in</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>The results from the questionnaire had shown that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grafton Road 50 questionnaires delivered and 30 completed and returned 25 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against. 2. Graham Road 28 questionnaires delivered and 11 completed and returned 5 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 6 against. 3. Sandwell Road North 17 questionnaires delivered and 13 completed and returned 8 residents in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against. <p>The majority of returned questionnaires for Grafton Road and Sandwell Road North were in favour of a residents parking scheme, however, the majority of returned questionnaires for Graham Road were against the scheme.</p> <p>Highways recommend that if a residents parking scheme was to be introduced in this area then all three roads should be included to prevent displacement of parking.</p>

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	<p>An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>8. Various local residents (Friar Park), request for the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street</p>	<p>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 had been no applicants.</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 had been received these would be used to check if the location meets the national criteria for a crossing facility.</p> <p>Traffic Surveys and pedestrian surveys had been undertaken along Oxford Street. The results from the surveys had now been received and were currently being analysed by Highways.</p> <p>An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>9. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey), requesting traffic calming measures</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that the consultation had been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. A number of objections had been raised regarding the proposed scheme, which was now being reviewed. Suggestions and comments from the consultation process were considered to see if any adjustments can be made to the scheme proposal within the available budget.</p> <p>Officers submitted an update noting that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original</p>

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	<p>proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill.</p> <p>Consequently, options were being explored if alternative measures were appropriate and any changes will be presented to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Community Safety, for their consideration.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>10. Residents of West Park Road (St Paul's), with 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. Officers continued 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>

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	<p>Properties on West Park Road received letters notifying residents of the Planning Application on the 10 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. 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 now open and an inspection was scheduled for August or September 2022, dependent on staff availability.</p> <p>An update would be provided at the future meeting of the Committee.</p>
<p>11. Various road users/residents (Wednesbury North), requesting traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs</p>	<p>The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals was prioritised where had occurred injury accidents. A five-year injury accident analysis showed that there had been 3 recorded injury accidents during this period.</p> <p>This was low when compared to other locations that were 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 would be undertaken. This would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction.</p>

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	<p>The Committee requested the junction be monitored to ensure that the traffic calming measures made a difference. Arrangements had been made for a further traffic survey to be undertaken along Park Lane. 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 showed 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 are occurring. The funding for road safety improvements such as traffic signals must be prioritised in areas where treatable injury collisions had occurred. The junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road did 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>

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	<p data-bbox="802 259 1509 595">Officers confirmed that a meeting with local ward members, Cabinet Member for Highways and Highways officers was scheduled for 14th February at 3pm. An online meeting was attended by Local Ward Members and the Highways Service Manager. However, the Cabinet Member was unable to attend.</p> <p data-bbox="802 689 1509 981">The injury collision data for the junction of Park Lane / Manor House Road and Hobs Road was currently showing 1 injury collision had occurred in the past 3 years. The number of injury collisions recorded on this junction has not increased since the petition was submitted.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1032 1509 1240">There were currently no recommendations being made by highways to prioritise major funding for traffic signals at this particular location where injury collisions appeared to be quite low.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1290 1509 1402">An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>

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