

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday 7 December 2022

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
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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
5.1.1 146 - Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Concerns with the proposed cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 1/11/2022)
5.1.2 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	Officers will engage with residents to further understand their concerns. An update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 21/11/2022)
5.1.3 692 – Users of Carnegie Building, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for community use of the Carnegie Building	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting.



5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 12 - Residents of Sandgate Road/Woodhall Close, Tipton (Princes End)	Requesting closure of the access road to 7-11 Waring Road due to crime/anti social behaviour	The access road to Waring Close, Tipton, forms part of the adopted highway and under legislation has to remain open and free from obstructions for all highway users. The problems that are occurring relate to anti-social behaviour and the only authority with the powers to deal with this matter is the Police. The closing of a highway would not resolve anti-social behaviour problems it would only move the problem to another street or area. The Committee requested that the matter be referred to the ASB team for further investigation. An update would be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 21/6/2022)
5.2.2 141 – 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)
5.2.3 128 – Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for traffic calming measures	Consultation has been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. Objections, suggestions and comments have been raised regarding the proposed scheme.



The proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections that were received to the initial proposal. Further objections have been received regarding the new proposals for the Lightwoods Hill Safety Scheme. The consultation responses and objections are currently being considered by the Cabinet Member for Environment. A further report would be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 19/7/2021)

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 39 - Farmer Way Road, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Requesting traffic calming signage	<p>The funding available for traffic calming schemes is targeted in areas where injury collisions are occurring in accordance with Sandwell’s Strategic Road Safety Plan. A three year injury collision analysis for Farmer Way and the surrounding estate shows there hasn’t been any recorded injury collisions during this period. Funding cannot therefore be prioritised in this particular area. A seven day traffic survey was undertaken along Farmer Way in August 2019, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The traffic survey was conducted between Jackson Close and</p>



Stead Close and the results show 85% of motorists were travelling at 27.4mph or less. There are currently no plans to recommend traffic calming measures along Farmer Way as the funding must be prioritised where injury collisions are occurring. However, additional carriageway markings will be provided to remind motorists to slow down. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 13/7/2022)

5.3.2 92 – Various local residents (Friar Park)

Request for the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street

A number of attempts have been made to appoint a School Crossing Patrol at Oxford Street in the vicinity of Mesty Croft School, however, so far there had not been any applicants. Traffic surveys and pedestrian surveys had been undertaken along Oxford Street. Following the analysis of recent surveys undertaken along Oxford Street, this location will be recommended for a permanent crossing facility. Further site investigation works will begin along with consultation with residents to assess feasibility for the crossing facility. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 22/11/2021)



5.3.4 63 – Residents of West Park Road (St Pauls)

Concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park

Officers confirmed that significant consultation had been undertaken prior to the project commencing. 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 fly tipping 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. The car park was now open.



5.3.5 16 – Residents of Grafton Road, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)

Request for residential permit parking on both sides of Grafton Road

It is recommended to close this petition. The head petitioner had been informed. (Received 29/4/2021)

Questionnaires were distributed to residents in Grafton Road to ask if they would be in favour of a residents permit parking scheme. 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. The results from the questionnaires had shown that for Grafton Road, of 50 questionnaires delivered and 30 returned, 25 residents were in favour of a residents parking scheme and 5 against. For Graham Road, of 28 questionnaires delivered and 11 returned, 5 residents were in favour of a residents parking scheme and 6 against. For Sandwell Road North, of 17 questionnaires delivered and 13 returned, 8 residents were 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. Officers 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. It is recommended to close this petition. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 29/3/2022)

5.3.6 413 – various road users/ residents (Wednesbury North)

Request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury

Funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals is prioritised where injury accidents are occurring. 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. A seven day traffic survey



was undertaken at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road which showed 85% of motorists are travelling at 29.7mph or less (figure includes both directions). 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, 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. Following representations from a ward councillor, 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. 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. There were 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. It is recommended to close this petition. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 17/4/2019)

5.3.7 54 – Residents of Batmans Hill Road, Princes End, Tipton (Princes End)

Request for average speed cameras.

A traffic survey was conducted along Batmans Hill Road for a seven day period starting 23rd April 2022. 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. 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



5.2.1 36 - Residents of Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)

Request for parking permits for residents

most effective. It is recommended to close this petition. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 8/6/2022)

The on street space available along Dartmouth Street, allowing the recommended 6 metres per vehicle for pulling in and out of the parking space, equates to 26 parking spaces. There are 38 properties along the south-east side of Dartmouth Street and 13 along the north-west side. There is not enough space to allow each property at least one parking permit and therefore a residents permit parking scheme would not be recommended for this location due to site constraints as additional parking spaces cannot be created to accommodate all cars belonging to residents. The head petitioner has been advised. It is to close the petition.

(Received 22/6/2022)

5.2.3 19 – Poplar Avenue, Tividale (Tividale)

Issues with visibility in and around the junction of Trafalgar Road and Poplar Avenue due to parked cars.

Arrangements would be made to make a proposal for the implementation of yellow lines around the junction to prevent parking and help improve visibility. This involved a statutory process which must be followed and allows members of the public



to object. Therefore, there is no guarantee of the outcome of any proposals. The location would be included in the next review of this area. The head petitioner has been informed. It is recommended that the petition be closed. (Received 8/9/2022)

5.2.4 39 – Residents of California Road, Quarry Rise and Packford Road, Tividale (Tividale)

Issues with leaving and accessing California Road due to parked vehicles at the junction

Arrangements would be made to make a proposal for the implementation of yellow lines around the junction to prevent parking and help improve visibility. This involved a statutory process which must be followed and allows members of the public to object. Therefore, there is no guarantee of the outcome of any proposals. The location would be included in the next review of this area. The head petitioner has been informed. It is recommended that the petition be closed. (Received 8/9/2022)

6 Source Documents

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

