

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

Wednesday 18 January 2023

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 1405 – Residents of Sandwell	Petition in opposition to the proposed garden waste charges	Two-thirds of Councils nationally already charge for garden waste collections, reflecting the need to put non-statutory services on a sustainable and affordable footing. The recent resident survey indicated that while many residents are willing to consider paying for services. At £35 per year the charge has been set below both the national average of £40 and the West Midlands Average of £38. Between increased income and reduced costs, charging for green waste collection could save Sandwell in excess of £2million a year. Currently the typical Sandwell garden waste bin is less than half full when it comes to collection day. By moving to a subscription service both collections and costs are moved to households that are actively using the service.



This will reduce the number of crews required to collect the garden waste improving efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. In addition, a scheme to support residents to compost at home will be launched in the early spring. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 14/12/2022)

5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 141 – 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)
5.2.2 128 – Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for traffic calming measures	Consultation was undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. Objections, suggestions and comments were raised and the proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill had been altered in accordance with objections received to the initial proposal. Further objections have been received and the consultation responses and objections are currently being considered by the Cabinet Member for Environment. A further report will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 19/7/2021)



5.2.3	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)
5.2.4	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. APCOA have reviewed all of the Penalty Charge Notices issues to ensure they were issued correctly. (Received 21/11/2022)
5.2.5	692 – Users of Carnegie Building, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for community use of the Carnegie Building	Tipton Carnegie Building currently forms part of a council plan around locally based council services subject to the outcomes of the ongoing Customer Journey Programme Board.

5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 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. Officers have advised that the number of anti social behaviour incidents at Waring Road did not provide a solid basis for closing the road. The head petitioner has been informed.

6 Source Documents

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

