

Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 5:00pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Millard (Chair);
Councillors Hughes and Rollins.

Observers: Councillor Davies, Fisher, W Gill, Hemingway, Khatun,
Lewis, Padda and Williams.

In attendance: Robin Weare (Assistant Director - Highways); Matthew
Huggins (Assistant Director – Green Spaces); Trisha
Newton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager);
Johane Gandiwa (Democratic Services Lead Officer).

9/23 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

10/23 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

11/23 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on
1 March 2023 be received.

12/23

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 6.20pm

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents of Thomas Cox Wharf and Alexandra Grange, Tipton, requesting adoption of roads.</p>	<p>The responsibility to progress the adoption of any new roads on a development fell solely on the land owner (typically the Developer) who must initially offer any new roads to the Authority for adoption and, importantly, enter into a legal adoption agreement with the Local Highway Authority (typically an agreement under Section 38 of the Highway Act). The Council had no powers to force a developer to enter into any adoption agreement. In this instance, the Developer had given the Authority every impression that it was going to enter into the necessary Section 38 agreement for adoption on numerous occasions and took discussions well beyond the cut off time allowable to undertake enforcement under Section 220. However, the Developer did not complete the necessary Section 38 agreements for the adoption of the roads, or complete the necessary process. Consequently, the roads on these sites were retained as private roads. Following representations by Shaun Bailey MP in support of the residents proposing that a collaborative approach would be the way forward, the Committee requested that officers undertake further investigation into the matter considering all options available and respond to all of the issues raised in the correspondence that had been submitted over a period of time. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>

<p>2. Residents in and around Farran Way, Great Barr, requesting pruning of trees and removal of leaves.</p>	<p>Cabinet had approved a Trees Strategy in March 2023 which included a commitment to complete a full inspection of all Council owned trees in red risk areas within the next 18 months. Farran Way was scheduled for inspection in July 2023, and any remedial works identified from this inspection would be scheduled to take place after bird nesting season. Following representations by the local ward member regarding the area and in particular the square at the rear, officers undertook to check this area in particular but also confirmed that pruning had now taken place at this location.</p>
<p>3. Residents in the vicinity of Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich, requesting maintenance of trees.</p>	<p>Cabinet had approved a Trees Strategy in March 2023 which included a commitment to complete a full inspection of all Council owned trees in red risk areas within the next 18 months. Charlemont Avenue was scheduled for inspection in July 2023, and any remedial works identified from this inspection will be scheduled to take place after bird nesting season. Following representations by the local ward member, officers confirmed that pruning had now taken place at this location.</p>
<p>4. Residents of Park Lane West, Tipton, requesting residents parking outside nos. 173-184.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>5. Residents of Field Road, Tipton, requesting speed bumps.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>6. Residents requesting double yellow or red lines on Castle Road East, Oldbury.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>

<p>7. Residents of Yew Tree and Charlemont Estates concerning the withdrawal of the no. 45 bus service.</p>	<p>Transport for West Midlands had advised that it was now funding the 45 bus service which would continue to be operated by Diamond Bus and remained unchanged. However, the Committee understood that this proposal was for a six month period and therefore requested clarification be sought from TfWM as to future provision. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>8. Convenience store customers in Toll End Road, Smethwick, requesting a ramp outside the store to enable easy access for customers.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>9. Residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich, concerning the proposed cycle lane.</p>	<p>Following representations made by the petitioners in relation to their concerns around the consultation process and the cycle route proposals, officers would submit a report to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>10. Residents in and around Wellington Road requesting the easing of traffic problems.</p>	<p>Petitioners had raised concerns regarding parking problems in the area. A request to utilise a nearby pot of land in the area to ease parking had been made. An update will be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>11. Residents in and around Wolverhampton Road regarding concerns around road safety.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>12. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, requesting traffic calming measures.</p>	<p>In December 2022 a report was submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment to consider how to progress the proposals for Lightwoods Hill. The report highlighted the findings from the two previous consultations Highways had carried out with affected residents on the two different proposals for Lightwoods Hill.</p>

	<p>Subsequently, petitioners had created and presented a report to Highways. A response had been submitted to the petitioners in relation to their report. A further updated briefing session was held with the Cabinet Member which contained the additional details of the findings from the petitioner's report. After considering all the information presented, the Cabinet Member concluded that the correct course of action would be to approve the extension of the Bearwood 20mph zone and the installation of Digital Vehicle Activated Speed signs on Lightwoods Hill, to help satisfy some of the community concern raised over perceived excessive speed in the area. Following representations at the meeting, officers undertook to confirm the estimated timescales for completion of the works and the Chair, as the new Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, would meet with residents to respond to any outstanding issues.</p>
<p>13. Residents of Hales Crescent, Smethwick, requesting the removal of a large portion of grassed area and for further parking bays to be identified, including designated disabled spaces.</p>	<p>APCOA had reviewed all of the Penalty Charge Notices issued to ensure they had been issued correctly. Officers had delivered letters in January to all households within the Crescent, inviting them to meet to see if there was interest in pursuing a community-led solution, possibly a local responsible parking charter. Unfortunately, only two responses were received. Officers did not believe that there was enough community buy-in to take things forward. Following representations at the meeting by the local ward member, officers undertook to investigate further and look at options. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>

<p>14. Users of Carnegie Building, Tipton, requesting community usage of the building.</p>	<p>Tipton Carnegie building currently formed part of a Council plan around locally based Council services which were subject to the outcomes of the ongoing customer strategy review. The Carnegie building was being considered for use as a library. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>15. Residents regarding the introduction of garden waste collection charges and the surrounding communications.</p>	<p>A petition regarding the introduction of charges was received and a response provided to the Committee at its meeting on 18 January 2023 (Minute No. 4.23 refers). With regard to communications, the Council had access to suppliers that could translate communication in various languages upon request. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

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