

Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 5:30pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Hackett (Chair);
Councillors Khatun and Padda.

Observing: Councillors Kalebe-Nyamongo and Williams.

In attendance: Robin Weare (Assistant Director - Highways); Alex Oxley (Capital Projects Manager); Trisha Newton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager) and John Swann (Democratic Services Officer).

17/23 **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Millard.

18/23 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

19/23 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023 be received as a correct record.

20/23

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 6.39pm

Appendix 1

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents requesting the protection of the Albright Mural located at Langley Baths.</p>	<p>Following representations from petitioners, officers were asked to explore options to safeguard the Albright Mural and residents also undertook to follow up leads they had around moving the mosaic in the limited timescale available. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>2. Residents in and around Gospel Oak Road, Tipton, requesting the creation of a car park on Gospel Oak Road.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>3. 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 had submitted a report to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. An update would be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>4. 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>5. 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.</p>

	<p>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>6. 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>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. Residents of Dartmouth Street. West Bromwich, requesting a parking permit scheme.</p>	<p>Following further discussions with petitioners, it was agreed that the Council's Highways department would begin work to consider the introduction of a resident parking scheme for Dartmouth Street. Time limits in relation to free parking on the street would also be reviewed. An update would be provided to a future meeting.</p>
<p>9. Residents in and around Wolverhampton Road regarding concerns around road safety.</p>	<p>A study and outline business case was being developed for the corridor along the length of the A4123 by Transport for West Midlands. The study would consider improvements relating to road safety, walking, cycling and bus movement along the route and would be implemented in phases over a number of years. The junction of the Wolverhampton Road and Queensway would be considered as part of the route improvement scheme. There was capital funding available each year for the implementation of road safety improvements. These road safety improvement schemes were identified through casualty analysis, which was undertaken each year for the whole of the borough. The locations where treatable injury collisions were occurring, which had resulted in the most casualties, were prioritised for road safety intervention. The junction of Wolverhampton Road and Queensway was placed sixth on the list of priorities and had not met the criteria for major funding during this financial year. However, the area would be considered for a road safety scheme to enhance the signage and painted lines along the Wolverhampton Road on the approaches to the junction with Queensway to offer additional advance warning to motorists.</p>

	<p>Options for blocking the junction on account of safety along Wolverhampton Road would also be considered.</p>
<p>10. Residents in support of Warley Baptist Church, Old Warley, requesting double yellow lines on Castle Road East, Oldbury.</p>	<p>Officers had made site visits and there were no issues with parking that had been identified. Observations were made of four traffic cones having been placed on the two entrances to the Church, thus trying to prevent vehicles parking. This in turn displaced vehicles onto the opposite side of the road with some vehicles parking partly on the footway. Officers' vehicles were parked on the bend approaching the Church from Wolverhampton Road and buses had no difficulty in passing the vehicle. The petition stated that people often only parked for short periods, to drop off or pick up passengers and double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) would not prevent people from loading or unloading passengers so the restriction would not have any direct impact on those who park for this reason, which are the majority of the visitors to the Church itself. It was approved that the petition be closed. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

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