

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

23 March 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	15 - Residents St Marks Rd	Residents Car Park Extension	Officers having undertaken initial investigations reported that the residents from 10 – 32 St Marks Road, Tipton are requesting that the existing carparking area be extended to facilitate further vehicle parking capacity to the existing carpark. The land in question it was confirmed was owned and managed by Housing Services, there are 12 properties of which 8 are houses and the remaining 4 properties are flats. The tenure is mixed with only 4 properties (33%) in council ownership, the remaining properties are privately owned. The properties enjoy a communal green space between the main highway and the properties, the greenspace includes a carpark that can facilitate 12 vehicles. There was



on street parking available with no parking restrictions. Consultation had taken place with Highways and the approximate cost to increasing the parking facility, by 8 extra parking bays, would be £26,400. This cost excludes the extra work that would be required to create a sustainable drainage system as a part of extending the carpark, the proposal would be subject to planning permission. Were this request to be considered then it would be classified as an In Your Neighbourhood (IYN) improvement, Tipton has an annual budget of £10,000 for IYN projects. This request could not be facilitated from this budget due to the costs involved in delivering the project. Furthermore extending carparking is not seen as a standalone priority for investment, the focus is the continued investment into our council owned dwellings for our tenants. Based on the costs involved to increase the size of the current carpark and the availability of on street parking the service was unable to deliver this project.



5.2	10 – Residents of Maple Rise	Faulty security lights, dangerous old TV aerial and guttering that is not fit for purpose.	Under investigation by Officers, response to be provided at future Committee.
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5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 48 - Bilston Rd (Princes End)	Average Speed Cameras Installation requested from the residents of Bilston Rd due to speeding.	<p>Following representation from Cllr Williams officers confirmed that while the police are responsible for speed enforcement, Officers will undertake speed surveys to identify the extent and distribution of the problem on Bilston Road and share with them any data and information around accidents to assist the Police with enforcement. Officers will communicate with Cllr Williams to determine what date and time to undertake the speed survey to ensure it reflects the time at which residents have made their concerns.</p> <p>Officers confirmed that a seven day traffic survey had been ordered for Bilston Road and if any speeding concerns are identified, these will be shared with the Police.</p> <p>The assessment criteria for the installation of Average Speed Cameras takes into consideration the number and severity of the injury collisions along a given road.</p>



The funding for the installation of average speed cameras is determined at a Black Country level by the Black Country Average Speed Enforcement Board and is targeted at sites where collisions resulting in fatalities and serious injuries are occurring regularly.

After being assessed for the installation of average speed cameras, Bilston Road does not currently meet that criteria.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

5.2.2 12 – Residents of Sandwell

National Landlord Register - Asking the Council Leader to show support by writing to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove implement the register as part of their upcoming Renters' Reform Bill

Under consideration by cabinet.

5.2.3 92 – Various local residents (Friar Park)

Request for the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street near No.93

Officers have reported that a number of attempts have been made to appoint a new School Crossing Patrol at Oxford Street in the vicinity of Mesty Croft School, however, so far there hasn't been any applicants. Arrangements will be made for pedestrian counts and traffic



surveys to be undertaken to check if the location meets the national criteria for the implementation of a formal crossing facility.

If this location meets the national criteria, then funding will need to be identified for the implementation of a crossing facility.

Officers confirmed that arrangements had been made for a traffic survey and a pedestrian count to be undertaken along Oxford Road. Once the results have been received these will be used to check if the location meets the criteria for a crossing facility.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

5.2.4 128 – Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey)

Request for traffic calming measures

Following representations from the head petitioner at the previous meeting, the Committee requested that Highways undertake a traffic survey. A proposal to implement a traffic calming scheme along Lightwoods Hill was to be made. A Road Safety Improvement Scheme has been designed for Lightwoods Hill and a consultation is underway with local residents. Letters have been sent out to local residents for comments on Thursday 11th



November 2021. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

Officers confirmed that the consultation has been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. A number of objections have been raised regarding the proposed scheme, which is now currently being reviewed. Suggestions and comments from the consultation process are being considered to see if any adjustments can be made to the scheme proposal within the available budget.

Officers submitted an update noting that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill. Consequently, options are being explored if alternative measures are appropriate and any changes will be presented to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Community Safety, for their consideration. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.



5.2.5 26 - Residents of Church Road (Soho and Victoria) Request for permit holder parking on Church Road

Officers have confirmed that the grass verge along Church Road is Council owned and maintained by housing management. The grass verge opposite property numbers 51-63 accommodates three utility boxes and also has apparatus present underneath the verge. The utility boxes and apparatus would have to be moved by the utility company which would incur substantial costs to the Council. In addition, alternative locations suitable to accommodate the utility boxes would need to be identified. There are also level differences between the grass verge and the footpath that would need to be addressed before parking bays could be constructed. This would require retaining walls to support the land which would incur further substantial costs. The grass verge opposite property numbers 1-49 also accommodated a utility box that would need to be removed and relocated. This section was also lined with mature trees, 6 of which would need to be removed before parking bays could be constructed. The removal of trees and green spaces was usually met with objection, although if this was agreed, they would need to be



replaced with 12 new trees in the local vicinity in accordance with Council policy. Approximately 40 additional parking spaces could be achieved at this location, although the costs to undertake the work will be substantial as outlined above. It was estimated the work would be in excess of £230,000 for which housing would need to identify a budget. At a previous meeting, officers confirmed the implementation of 40 parking spaces would result in a number of healthy trees being removed which would not support the council's commitment to protect and expand the borough's trees and green spaces. Housing do not have available funding for the implementation of additional parking bays as alleviating parking issues is not one of the priorities set for estate and housing improvements. At the last petitions meeting, the Committee requested for Highways officers to investigate whether the grass verge could be converted to accommodate a maximum of 7 parking spaces, as opposed to 40. It was confirmed that a reduced number of parking bays could be accommodated within the grassed verge along Church



Road, the parking bays cost approximately £3,000 to construct and there is likely to be additional costs for utility diversions as there are some utility apparatus present in the verge area. These costs will need to be obtained from the relevant utility companies. The grassed verge area is housing maintained and funding would therefore need to be identified by them. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

(Received 10/06/21)

5.2.6 63 – Residents of West Park Road (St Paul’s)

Concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park

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 are now in place to address the concerns highlighted by the residents. 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 flytipping 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. An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee. (Received 29/04/2021)

5.2.7 413 – 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

The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals is prioritised where injury accidents are occurring. A five-year injury accident analysis shows there have been 3 recorded injury accidents during this period. This is low when compared to other locations that are 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 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. Arrangements have been made for a further traffic survey to be undertaken along Park Lane. The data will 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 shows that 85% of motorists are travelling at 29.7mph or less (figure includes both directions). 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 are occurring. The junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road does not currently meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme, this is because there



are 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 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. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

Officers confirmed that a meeting with local ward members, Cabinet Member for Highways and Highways officers has been scheduled for 14th February at 3pm.

An online meeting was attended by Local Ward Members and the Highways Service Manager, however, the cabinet member could not attend and consequently the meeting needs to be re-scheduled.

An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions



5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 24 - Middlemore Road – and neighbouring street residents	Middlemore Road – Parked cars obstructing the footpath, yellow lines being ignored by motorists	<p>Officers confirmed that there are double yellow lines already in place along Middlemore Road and are enforceable up to the back of the footway. Therefore, any motorist parking wholly on the footway can be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.</p> <p>It has been observed that the parking restrictions at this location have faded and arrangements have been made for them to be renewed. In addition to this, parking enforcement will be undertaken in the area to help alleviate some of the parking problems and the installation of bollards should not therefore be required.</p> <p>In respect of concerns raised regarding speeding motorists, the council do not hold any powers to enforce the speed limit, this can only be undertaken by the Police.</p> <p>The council do have a statutory duty to investigate and reduce injury collisions on the highway network. The injury collisions for the whole of the borough are currently being analysed and the areas with the most treatable injury collisions will be considered for the implementation of a road safety</p>



5.3.2 15 - Residents St Marks Rd Residents Car Park Extension

scheme on next year's work programme. Middlemore Road will be included in this analysis to check if it meets the criteria.

Officers having undertaken initial investigations reported that the residents from 10 – 32 St Marks Road, Tipton are requesting that the existing carparking area be extended to facilitate further vehicle parking capacity to the existing carpark. The land in question it was confirmed was owned and managed by Housing Services, there are 12 properties of which 8 are houses and the remaining 4 properties are flats. The tenure is mixed with only 4 properties (33%) in council ownership, the remaining properties are privately owned. The properties enjoy a communal green space between the main highway and the properties, the greenspace includes a carpark that can facilitate 12 vehicles. There was on street parking available with no parking restrictions. Consultation had taken place with Highways and the approximate cost to increasing the parking facility, by 8 extra parking bays, would be £26,400. This cost excludes the extra work that would be required to create a sustainable



drainage system as a part of extending the carpark, the proposal would be subject to planning permission. Were this request to be considered then it would be classified as an In Your Neighbourhood (IYN) improvement, Tipton has an annual budget of £10,000 for IYN projects. This request could not be facilitated from this budget due to the costs involved in delivering the project. Furthermore extending carparking is not seen as a standalone priority for investment, the focus is the continued investment into our council owned dwellings for our tenants.

Based on the costs involved to increase the size of the current carpark and the availability of on street parking the service was unable to deliver this project.

Officers confirmed that a consultation had been undertaken with the residents along Hawfield Road and adjoining roads, regarding the implementation of a one-way scheme.

The results from both the consultation exercise and the petition showed that 97 residents out of 172 are not in

5.3.3 135 – Residents of Tividale No - to the proposed One-Way System for Hawfield Road.



favour of the implementation of a one-way scheme.

Highways would not be making any recommendations to implement this scheme. The residents and local ward members have been notified of the results.

6 Source Documents

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

