

## Minutes of Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Tuesday 23 March 2022 at 5:00pm  
in the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Crompton (Chair);  
Councillors Ahmed and Padda.

**In attendance:** Councillor Randhawa

**Also present:** Robin Weare (Service Manager – Highways), Rushpal Dhaliwal (Senior Neighbourhood Office Manager), Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Connor Robinson (Democratic Services Officer).

05/22      **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Millard.

06/22      **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

07/22      **Minutes**

**Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

08/22      **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 5.08pm

## Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Residents St Marks Road requesting the extension of their car park.</p>	<p>Residents from 10 – 32 St Marks Road, Tipton had requested that the existing carparking area be extended to facilitate further vehicle parking capacity to the existing carpark.</p> <p>The land in question was owned and managed by housing services, there were 12 properties including 8 houses and the 4 flats. The tenure was mixed with only 4 properties (33%) in council ownership, the remaining properties were privately owned.</p> <p>The properties enjoyed a communal green space between the main highway and the properties, the greenspace included a carpark that facilitated 12 vehicles. However, there was on street parking available with no parking restrictions.</p> <p>Consultation had taken place with Highway Services and the approximate cost to increasing the parking facilities, by 8 extra parking bays, would be £26,400. This cost excluded 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.</p> <p>The project was classed as an In Your Neighbourhood (IYN) improvement and Tipton had an annual budget of £10,000 for IYN projects. However, this request could not be facilitated from this budget due to the costs involved in delivering the project. Furthermore, extending carparking was not seen as a standalone</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>priority as the focus was the continued investment into council owned dwellings for tenants.</p> <p>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 the project.</p> <p>Updated proposals for the scheme had been communicated to residents through the invitation letter. The Committee noted correspondence from the head petitioner requesting to withdraw the petition. The residents wished to pursue the purchase of the land from the Council.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed to close the petition.</p>
<p>2. Residents of Maple Rise requesting the fixture of faulty security lights, dangerous old TV aerial and guttering that is not fit for purpose.</p>	<p>The Committee received the petition and an update would be given at the next meeting.</p>
<p>3. Residents of Middlemore Road – requests for enforcement due to parked cars obstructing the footpath and yellow lines being ignored by motorists</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that the double yellow lines already in place along Middlemore Road were enforceable up to the back of the footway. Therefore, any motorist parking would be potentially liable with a Penalty Charge Notice.</p> <p>It had been observed that the double yellow lines at the location had faded and arrangements had been made for them to be renewed. In addition, parking enforcement would be undertaken in the area to help alleviate some of the parking problems and the installation of bollards should not therefore be required.</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>In respect of concerns raised regarding speeding motorists, the Council had no powers in relation to speed enforcement as this matter was a Police enforcement matter.</p> <p>The Council had a statutory duty to investigate and reduce injury collisions on the highway network. The injury collisions for the whole of the Borough were being analysed and the areas with the most treatable injury collisions would be considered for the 2022/2023 road safety scheme. It was noted that Middlemore Road would be analysed and assessed whether it met the criteria.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed for petition to be closed.</p>
<p>4. Residents of Bilston Road requesting average speed cameras instillation due to speeding.</p>	<p>Having considered the issues raised by the ward members, the Committee heard that West Midlands Police had powers relating to traffic enforcement and had been informed of the petition. Officers would undertake speed surveys and historical data to identify the extent and distribution of the problem to assist the Police with their investigation.</p> <p>Officers would communicate with Councillor Williams on the specific times speed surveys would be undertaken to ensure it reflected the residents' concerns.</p> <p>An update was provided to the Committee detailing that a seven day traffic survey had been ordered for Bilston Road and if any speeding concerns were identified, these would be shared with the Police. The assessment criteria for the installation of average speed cameras had been</p>

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>undertaken on Bilston Road. However, the road was not eligible for funding.</p> <p>A further update would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>5. Residents of Tividale opposing the proposed one-way system for Hawfield Road.</p>	<p>The Committee noted that a consultation had been undertaken with the residents along Hawfield Road and adjoining roads, regarding the implementation of a one-way scheme.</p> <p>The results from both the consultation exercises and the petition shows that 97 residents out of 172 were not in favour of the implementation of a one-way scheme.</p> <p>As a result, Highway Services had resolved not to implement this scheme. The residents and local ward members have been notified of the results.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed to close the petition.</p>
<p>6. Shelter with the support of Sandwell residents request the Council Leader to show support by writing to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove to implement the National Landlord Register as part of their upcoming Renters' Reform Bill.</p>	<p>The Committee received the petition and an update would be brought to a future meeting.</p>

<p>7. Residents of Friar Park request the installation of a crossing on Oxford Street near the primary school.</p>	<p>Having considered the issues raised by the head petitioner. It was confirmed that arrangements would 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 the location met the national criteria, then funding would be identified for the implementation of a crossing facility.</p> <p>Officers reported that a number of attempts had been made to appoint a new school crossing patrol at Oxford Street in the vicinity of Mesty Croft School, however, recruitment attempts had been unsuccessful.</p> <p>An updated was provided to the Committee and it was noted that arrangements had been made for a traffic survey and a pedestrian count to be undertaken along Oxford Road. Once finalised, the results would be used to check the suitability of the location for a crossing facility.</p> <p>It was resolved that an update would be presented to a future Committee.</p>
<p>8. Residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, request for traffic calming measures</p>	<p>Having considered the issues raised by the head petitioner, the Committee requested that Highway Services undertake a traffic survey, once traffic patterns had normalised. Officers confirmed that a traffic calming scheme was proposed for Lightwoods Hill and a consultation process with residents would be conducted during October 2021.</p> <p>Letters had been sent out to local residents for comments on Thursday 11 November 2021.</p>

	<p>It was confirmed that a consultation had been undertaken with local residents regarding the implementation of a road safety scheme along Lightwoods Hill. A number of objections had been raised regarding the proposed scheme and a review had commenced. Comments from the consultation process would be considered to see if any adjustments could be made to the scheme's proposal within the available budget.</p> <p>It was noted by officers that a number of objections had been received from residents regarding the original proposed road safety scheme for Lightwoods Hill. Following objections, alternative options would be explored to identify the suitability of alternative measures.</p> <p>It was resolved that an update would be presented to a future Committee.</p>
<p>9. Residents of Church Road request for permit holder parking on Church Road</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that the grass verge along Church Road was Council owned and maintained by the Council's Housing Management directorate. The grass verge opposite property numbers 51-63 accommodated three utility boxes and had apparatus beneath the verge. Therefore, it was not possible to construct parking bays along this section due to the condition of the area.</p> <p>The utility boxes and apparatus would need to be relocated by the utility company thus incurring substantial costs to the Council. In addition, alternative locations to accommodate the utility boxes would need to be identified. There were also level differences between the grass verge and the footpath that would need to be addressed before the installation of</p>

	<p>parking bays. This would require retaining walls to support the land incurring further substantial costs. The grass verge opposite property numbers 1-49 also accommodated a utility box that required removal.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the area was 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 was estimated to be in excess of £230,000. The Council's Housing directorate confirmed that removing grass verges and local trees to create parking bays would not support the Council's commitment to encourage sustainable methods of travel and protect green spaces.</p> <p>Following further representations made the head petitioner, the Committee requested that the Council's Highways directorate investigate whether it was feasible to convert part of the grass verge to accommodate a maximum of 7 parking spaces, as opposed to 40 spaces. 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 was likely to be additional costs for utility diversions.</p>
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	<p>These costs would be obtained from the relevant utility companies. The grassed verge area was maintained by the housing directorate and funding would therefore need to be identified by the service.</p> <p>An update will be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>10. Residents of West Park Road concerns regarding the new entrance and exit for West Smethwick Park</p>	<p>Significant consultation had been undertaken prior to the project commencing. Officers from the Council's Highways Directorate were consulted, and no concerns were raised. However, discussions were taking place to address the concerns highlighted by the residents.</p> <p>The issues highlighted were addressed as part of the local town forum to identify appropriate measures 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. In addition, new litter bins would be installed as part of the restoration project and fly tipping and littering issues would be dealt with as and when required. Officers confirmed that work on the new entrance had commenced.</p> <p>It was agreed for officers to undertake an assessment on the impact of traffic calming from other roads as soon as the work had been completed and a further update be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.</p>

11. Various road users/ residents request for traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury

The Committee noted that funding for road safety schemes, were prioritised in accordance with traffic incident data. A five-year injury accident analysis showed there had been three recorded injury accidents during this period which was low when compared to other locations that were being considered for major traffic calming schemes.

Although this junction did 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 would be undertaken, which would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction.

The Committee requested that the junction be monitored to ensure that the traffic calming measures made a difference. Arrangements had been made for a further traffic survey to be undertaken along Park Lane. A seven-day traffic survey had been undertaken around the junction of Park Lane / Manor House Road. It showed that 85% of motorists had been travelling at 29.7mph or less.

Officers reported that Council Policy required funding for road safety improvements to be prioritised in areas of high injury rates. As a result, the junction of Park Lane and Manor House Road did not meet the criteria for a road safety improvement scheme.

	<p>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 as soon as practical to determine if any low cost alternatives could be identified.</p> <p>An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
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