

**Cabinet Petitions Committee**

**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at 5.00pm  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillors D Hosell (Chair), Gavan and Khatun.

21/18 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

22/18 **Progress Report**

Details were submitted of petitions received and of the action taken or proposed in each case, as detailed in the Appendix.

**Resolved** that the action taken or proposed, as detailed in the second column of the Appendix, be approved.

(Meeting ended at 5.51pm)

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### Appendix

<b>Petition Received From</b>	<b>Action Taken/Proposed</b>
1. Residents in the vicinity of Devey Road, Smethwick, regarding the increase in anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, drug/alcohol concerns, littering, fireworks, dog mess, motorcycles on footpath and parking issues.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
2. Residents of Darbys Hill Road, Tividale concerning the rerouting of the 12A bus route.	This matter had been referred to Transport for West Midlands and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
3. Residents of Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury requesting back doors for all ground floor maisonettes and balconies for floor 1 maisonettes in Crankhall Lane to enable emergency access and access to communal areas.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
4. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick regarding nuisance caused by local businesses including parking on the pavement, difficulty crossing the road, noise nuisance from car engines running, littering, erratic opening times, congestion and difficulties with resident parking.	The introduction of waiting restrictions on Queens Road would have a detrimental impact on parking for residents and the operation of the businesses. The restrictions would displace parking in front of the other residential properties and reduce the amount of on street parking space available. The issue relating to parking around the junction of Wall Close/Queens Road could be addressed with double yellow lines if the residents of Wall Close expressed a concern. Parking on the footway, causing obstruction, should be reported to the Police.

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<p>5. Residents of Soho House and Park House, Soho Close, Smethwick, requesting soft play area and equipment.</p>	<p>Officers had established that residents requested astro-turf over the concrete area and swings. Officers were in the process of gathering costings and exploring funding options available to finance the project. A further update would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>6. Residents in the vicinity of Bearwood Road requesting bus service along Bearwood Road.</p>	<p>Transport for West Midlands had advised that they were unable to justify the use of public funds to subsidise an additional direct bus service for residents along Bearwood Road as the connecting service 89 remained within access standards. The Chair had requested that a letter be sent to the Mayor of the West Midlands requesting additional public funds to subsidise the requested route. A further update would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>7. Residents in the vicinity of Newhall Street, West Bromwich, regarding the dumping, storing and parking of vehicles in Mount Pleasant Street and Pleasant Street, West Bromwich.</p>	<p>The residents had voted in favour of a residents parking permit scheme. The Traffic Regulation Order for the permit scheme would be advertised at the end of August 2018.</p>
<p>8. Residents in the vicinity of Joseph Turner Primary School requesting a car park in the vicinity of Joseph Turner Primary School, Tipton due to increase in traffic.</p>	<p>The land adjacent to the school was managed by Parks and Countryside Services and had a football pitch on site. Sports England had been contacted to ascertain their views. A further update would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>

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<p>9. Residents of the Broadway, West Bromwich requesting the gating of the Wallface, Hilltop.</p>	<p>A door knocking exercise had been conducted to seek views and assess support for gating of Wallface. Of 61 visits, 21 responses were received. 13 were not in favour of gating, 4 were in favour of gating and 3 were unclear. A site meeting had been held with members. The Public Right of Way Officer had been consulted and advised that sufficient evidence existed to manage Wallface as a public right of way. Any objection to gating the route could result in the Council having to maintain public access to Wallface. It was recommended that the request for gating should not be supported. It was also recommended that the following actions would be considered and contact with the head petitioner would be maintained as the options were explored further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Review access points to the park</li> <li>· Improve the walkway in the park</li> <li>· Review bollards so that some vehicular access might be restricted</li> <li>· Take action to reduce and discourage drinking on Wallface</li> <li>· Replace signage</li> <li>· Improve lighting</li> <li>· Consider installation of bins</li> <li>· Patrol the Wallface regularly</li> <li>· Make use of the adjacent facilities in Hill Top Park to prevent ASB and to engage young people.</li> </ul> <p>With regard to CCTV, the Police had only received two logs in relation to issues, however, they continued to patrol the area. Over the last year, the local police had issued warning letters to individuals causing any ASB issues.</p>

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	<p>Youth Services would continue to visit the area during the days the youth club was taking place at Hill Top Community Centre and Highways had been approached with a view to replacing old signs. Arrangements were being made for park fences to be replaced as part of the ongoing project. Litter picks had been undertaken in the walkway and park. Following representations from the head petitioner, the Chair requested that a further site visit be arranged with the relevant Director and local ward members. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>10. Residents of Legge Street, West Bromwich, requesting a residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>Questionnaires had been sent out to the 45 residents of Legge Street and 27 questionnaires had been returned. 18 respondents were in favour of the residents parking scheme and 9 were against the scheme. As the majority of respondents were in favour of the scheme, a proposal would be made for the implementation of a residents permit scheme. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>11. Residents of Grange Road, Smethwick, requesting residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>Questionnaires had been sent out to the 48 residents of Grange Road and 29 questionnaires had been returned. 17 respondents were in favour of the residents parking scheme and 12 were against the scheme. As the majority of respondents were in favour of the scheme, a proposal would now be made for the implementation of a residents permit scheme. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

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<p>12. Residents in the vicinity of Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, requesting CCTV, an increase in neighbourhood police, traffic calming and consideration as to the future use of the car park.</p>	<p>The funding made available for traffic calming schemes was targeted in areas where injury accidents were occurring. The injury accidents had been analysed for the whole of the borough and Ridding Lane did not meet the criteria for the implementation of a traffic calming scheme at this time. Ridding Lane had two injury accidents recorded during the last five years and the locations being chosen for the implementation of traffic calming schemes this financial year had fourteen recorded injury accidents. Monitoring of the car park on Ridding Lane was undertaken for two weeks and the car park appeared to be used moderately during the daytime and less frequently during the evening. At the request of the residents, a proposal would be made to implement a residents parking permit scheme along Ridding Lane. If the parking permit scheme went ahead, the car park was likely to be used more frequently by workers and visitors to Wednesbury. With regard to provision of a camera in Ridding Lane, there were currently already three requests for other locations awaiting authorisation (and only two cameras). Residents were advised to report any issues/incidents to 101 line.</p>
<p>13. Residents of Goldby Drive, Wednesbury, concerning noise nuisance from premises on Kings Hill Industrial Estate.</p>	<p>The business arranged for the loading and unloading of vehicles to be carried out inside the premises and this improved the situation, however, complaints were again received at the end of 2017.</p>

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	<p>Actions that had been implemented included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- installation of automated roller shutter door with vehicle sensors which was closed when not in use;</li> <li>- change of refuse collection contractor with instructions not to collect waste outside reasonable hours;</li> <li>- installation of a bailer to compact cardboard resulting in less collections;</li> <li>- implementation of procedures for suppliers to follow to reduce noise;</li> <li>- cessation of night time trunk vehicle deliveries (articulated lorries).</li> </ul> <p>These had been implemented and the company had created an outside area at the side of the warehouse for employees to take a break and fitted pallet trucks with rubber wheels to reduce the noise of the vehicles travelling over the concrete yard. Officers visited the premises on 23 October, at the time of visit the company confirmed it was intending to dispense with the early morning 18 tonne refrigerated lorry deliveries in the New Year. Officers had asked the company whether they could bring forward this action. Monitoring was carried out in the summer this year, the results did not support the service of an abatement notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Investigations were on-going and further monitoring would be undertaken. Residents provided additional updates on activities that were taking place. It was agreed that officers would meet with the residents to look at evidence and agree a way forward. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>

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<p>14. Residents of Oval Road and Stella Road, Tipton requesting the walkway between Oval Road and Stella Road, Tipton be reopened.</p>	<p>The alleyway was not adopted highway or registered as a public right of way. The pathway connected to a network of unrecorded towpaths and ownership sat with two Council areas - the gated section was controlled by housing. There had been complaints since 2012 at Neighbourhood Forums, regarding asb, littering/fly tipping. The asb included criminal damage to vehicles in Stella Road car park, inappropriate use by motorbikes and loitering/ drinking alcohol/ drug misuse, with paraphernalia thrown into gardens. The issues had been raised at the Tipton Town Partnership meetings and outcomes included increased patrols and discussions with residents to identify perpetrators and raise awareness on reporting concerns. Officers were asked to identify measures to prevent/reduce incidents including internal funding being used to replace existing fencing to prevent litter/drug paraphernalia being discarded into gardens - this proved unsuccessful as items were thrown over the fence, barriers to prevent motorbikes using the alleyway, however misuse continued and motorbikes were lifted over barriers, the alleyway was cleared on a number of occasions and opening the alleyway would require the service to arrange a maintenance schedule. Whilst issues reduced when there was an effort to patrol the area a longer-term solution had been difficult to find. CCTV was not an option due to costs and need to demonstrate proportionality of response to issues and the option of closing the alleyway being available. The matter was raised by members at a Tipton Green Partnership meeting and it was agreed that gates be installed. A Grot Spot application was approved.</p>

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	<p>A local resident was prepared to lock/unlock the gates but they could not give assurances to do so throughout the year. Environmental Protection were asked to add to the list of sites to lock/unlock gates, however they no longer provided the service. The only remaining option was to permanently restrict access and this was recommended as there was an alternative route. The closure resulted in residents walking via Robert Road/Pheonix Road which took 5 minutes, no longer than the route through the alleyway in question.</p>
<p>15. Residents of Slade Close, West Bromwich objecting to a letter received from the Council in relation to use of own gardens/communal area.</p>	<p>Mediation had taken place and an agreement had been made between the residents in regard to the issues they had with each other. From a housing point of view there was not a problem with the gardens/communal areas being used by residents in the summer months as long as they were respectful of their neighbours and were not breaching any tenancy conditions. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>16. Residents of Oldbury Ward regarding various issues.</p>	<p>This matter had been referred to the Police.</p>