

Cabinet Petitions Committee

**27th September, 2018 at 5.00pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillors D Hosell (Chair), Hackett and Trow.

16/18 Declaration of Interest

In relation to Minute No. 18/18 below (Progress Report) Councillor Trow declared an interest on the basis that his relative resided in The Broadway, West Bromwich.

17/18 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th August, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

18/18 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 5.07pm)

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Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. 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.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>2. Residents of Oval Road and Stella Road, Tipton requesting the walkway between Oval Road and Stella Road, Tipton be reopened.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>3. 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>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>4. Residents of Legge Street, West Bromwich, requesting a residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>5. Residents of Soho House and Park House, Soho Close, Smethwick, requesting soft play area and equipment.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>6. Residents of Goldby Drive, Wednesbury, concerning noise nuisance from premises on Kings Hill Industrial Estate.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>7. Residents of Grange Road, Smethwick, requesting residents parking scheme.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>

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<p>8. Users/residents in the vicinity of Tipton and Tividale Islamic Community Centre, Tipton, regarding green land adjacent to premises.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>
<p>9. 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 remains 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>10. 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>11. 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>
<p>12. Residents / patrons in the vicinity of Hartlebury Road, Oldbury regarding parking problems in Hartlebury Road, Oldbury.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.</p>

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<p>13. 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 that 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. There were currently no plans for the Council to change the layout or usage of the care park at Ridding Lane at this time. However, the Chair requested that further investigation be undertaken into the use of the car park. 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 the 101 line. An update on the use of the car park would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>14. Residents of Lancaster House, Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, requesting closure of community room.</p>	<p>The community room was under-utilised and due to low demand had attracted anti-social behaviour issues. The room had been locked for the last two months and residents could no longer access. Officers were investigating options to develop plans to remodel the space into residential accommodation. There was a smaller room on the ground floor that could be utilised for smaller community or resident engagement if this was required in the future. Consultation with residents would be undertaken as appropriate.</p>

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<p>15. Residents in the vicinity of Andrew Road, Tipton Requesting action against Wednesbury Oak Academy to maintain the school grounds that back onto Andrew Road, Tipton.</p>	<p>The Site Manager at Wednesbury Oak Academy had reviewed the trees and hedging along the boundary. There were a couple of trees which were high and these would be pruned once the new year budget had been allocated. Over the past year some trees had been pruned to a reduced height.</p>
<p>16. Residents of the Broadway, West Bromwich requesting the gating off 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. There was a view from ten respondents that gating could be detrimental to, or impractical for, residents. A series of problems were reported that required attention from the Council/other agencies. An on-site meeting was held with a number of Cabinet Members and local Members. The Council's Public Right of Way Officer had been consulted and his clear advice was 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. The Council would also require a formal legal basis on which to gate off the public right of way and could not simply erect gates which would otherwise be unlawful. No vehicular rights existed for public use along Wallface and only pedestrians had a right of use along the route. The exception being residents who may have had vehicular rights to their garages that fronted onto Wallface but this would be done by exercising private rights associated with ownership of their properties. It was therefore recommended that the request for gating</p>

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should not be supported. It was also recommended that the following actions should be considered. The Council would review these options and take any confirmed actions via the Town Tasking Process. Contact with the head petitioner would be maintained as the options were explored further.

- Review access points to the park
- Improve the walkway in the park itself
- Review bollards so that some vehicular access might be restricted, e.g. motorbikes
- Take action to reduce and discourage drinking on Wallface
- Replace signage
- Improve lighting
- Consider installation of bins where there was serious littering
- Patrol the Wallface regularly
- Make use of the adjacent facilities in Hill Top Park to prevent ASB and to engage young people.

With regard to CCTV, the Police had only received two logs in relation to issues, however, continued to patrol the area. Over the last year, the local police had issued warning letters to individuals causing any ASB issues. 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. The Committee sought further clarification from officers and requested that the matter be reported back to the next Cabinet Petitions Committee meeting.