

Chairs Announcement

Good afternoon and welcome to everyone, before we start the meeting I need to inform you that we are not expecting a fire drill so in the event of the fire alarm sounding please leave the building by your nearest fire exit, as quickly as possible, in an orderly manner and assemble at the Cenotaph in the main square, outside of Sainsbury's.

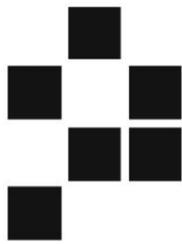
Welcome to the Cabinet Petitions Committee. Could I introduce the members of the committee, I am Councillor Maria Crompton, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment and I am accompanied by

Please listen for the petition/report you are interested in as I call it out.

If there is more than one of you here for a petition then you must appoint one person to speak on behalf of all of you. You must make ALL relevant points known at this stage, as you will not be allowed to speak again unless asked a question.

Once the petition has been considered, you may leave or stay for the rest of the proceedings, but if you decide to leave, please do so quietly, so that you do not disrupt the proceedings.

Please note that members of the public and the press are now allowed by law to film, audio record, take photographs, blog or tweet at this meeting. I would ask at this point if anyone is intending to film the meeting? I would ask anyone who is recording to avoid any disruption of the meeting and to avoid filming members of the public. If you do film members of the public there is the potential for civil action against you by anyone who has not given their permission to be filmed.



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Cabinet Petitions Committee

**Wednesday 18 May, 2016 at 4.30pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Agenda

(Open to Public and Press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest in matters to be discussed.
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February, 2016.
4. Progress Update.

J Britton
Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillors Crompton, Y Davies, Eling, Hackett, Khatun and Moore.

**Agenda prepared by Trisha Newton
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This document is available in large print on request to the above telephone number. The document is also available electronically on the Committee Management Information System which can be accessed from the Council's web site on www.sandwell.gov.uk

Please note that this meeting may be filmed by members of the public and press, and may be filmed by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website.

Apologies

To receive any apologies from members

Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

Cabinet Petitions Committee

24th February, 2016 at 4.30pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillors Crompton (Chair), Y Davies, Eling and Khatun.

Observers: Councillors Costigan, Gavan, Hackett, P Hughes and O Jones.

3/16 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January, 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/16 **Progress Report**

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

With regard to the concerns relating to parking at Amber Drive, Langley Village, the Committee requested that officers liaise further with residents in an attempt to resolve the issues with non-resident parking, including a letter to the factory in the vicinity asking employees to refrain from parking in the residents' parking area. Officers were also instructed to inspect the parking area and arrange for any necessary repairs to potholes. The Committee also requested that the highways team arrange for a white H bar marking to be installed across the entrance to the car park.

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

(Meeting ended at 5.06pm)

Contact Officer: Trisha Newton
Democratic Services Unit
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[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents/parents in the vicinity of Old Park Road/Woden Road North, Wednesbury requesting a review of the traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Old Park Primary School.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
2. Residents of Wimberger House, St Clement's House and St Mary's House, Hallam Street, West Bromwich concerning proposed change to the lettings policy.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
3. Residents in the vicinity of Park Lane/Franchise Street, Wednesbury requesting parking restrictions to prevent overnight parking/noise nuisance from heavy goods vehicles.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
4. Residents of View Point, Tividale requesting an increase in the height in fencing and lockable gate.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
5. Residents in the vicinity of Greenway-Laybourne Park, Richards Road, Tipton objecting to the Council's proposal to dispose of land which was a bequest to the children of Princes End.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
6. Residents of Speakers Close, Tividale requesting closure or gating of gulley from Speakers Close to the greenbelt land at the rear of houses.	The gulley referred to was not in Council ownership. Residents had been consulted in Speakers Close and View Point with regard to their views on a way forward. Of the 250 residents that were consulted, 65 responses were received. Of the 65, 10 residents wanted the accessway gated and permanently closed, 45 wanted the accessway gated and locked at night and 10 residents wanted the accessway to be kept open and not gated. The results had been forwarded to the landowners, Bellway and Greenbelt, for consideration. The head petitioner had been informed.
7. Residents of Trinity Street, West Bromwich requesting CCTV.	The Cabinet Petitions Committee had been advised that the Neighbourhood Officer had liaised further with the Police. The Police advised that regular patrols were carried out in this area. Where issues were raised, officers were working with residents. A door knocking exercise took place on 11 th November 2015 to survey residents and to give reassurance. Feedback indicated that anti-social behaviour had reduced as there had been changes in occupants. Following further representations from the head petitioner and the suggestion that residents could install CCTV/contribute to costs, officers were asked to investigate the feasibility of this and to report back to a future meeting.

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
	<p>With regard to the issues raised regarding speeding, an accident analysis had been carried out for Trinity Street which showed there had been no recorded injury accidents relating to speeding in the last five years. The limited funding made available for the implementation of traffic calming measures was targeted in areas where injury accidents were occurring. Following representations from the head petitioner, officers were asked to investigate the speeding concerns further and to report back to a future meeting.</p>
<p>8. Residents of Amber Drive, Langley Village requesting a residents' parking scheme</p>	<p>The residents' car park at Amber Drive was not public highway and was currently the responsibility of housing. There were no legal powers at the present time to enforce parking and the introduction of a residents parking scheme could not therefore be implemented. Should an obstruction occur, residents had been asked to supply details of the vehicle to the Neighbourhood Officer who was responsible for dealing with any concerns in relation to obstructive parking on housing sites, as far as possible. Officers were reliant on the information received from residents to assist them to target issues directly. As a result of representations received at the meeting, the Committee requested further action be taken (see Minute No. 4/16 above).</p>

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
9. Residents of Gospel Oak Road, Tipton requesting a residents parking scheme.	On 1 st December 2015, 38 questionnaires were delivered to households, together with a pre-paid envelope, with a return date of 1 st January 2016. Due to the low return, visits were made door to door by officers to try and collect the outstanding questionnaires. The results of the ballot were; of the 38 questionnaires issued, 21 questionnaires were returned of which eleven households were in favour of a residents' parking scheme and ten households voted against a residents' parking scheme. In view of the outcome, the criteria for the installation of a residents' parking scheme had not been met and, therefore, no further action would be taken. The head petitioner had been informed.
10. Residents of Lodge Road, West Bromwich requesting a residents' parking scheme.	On 4 th November 2015, 48 questionnaires were delivered to households, with a pre-paid return envelope, with a return date of 18 th November 2015. Due to the low number of questionnaires returned, visits were made door to door by officers to try and collect the outstanding questionnaires. The results of the ballot were; of the 48 questionnaires issued, 24 were returned with eleven households in favour of a residents' parking scheme and thirteen against a residents' parking scheme. In view of the results, the criteria for a residents' parking scheme had not been met and, therefore, no further action would be taken. The head petitioner had been informed.

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
11. Residents of Claremont Road, Smethwick requesting a residents' parking scheme.	On 3 rd December 2015, 73 questionnaires were issued to households, with a pre-paid envelope, with a return date of 8 th January 2016. Due to the low number of questionnaires returned, visits were made door to door by officers to try and collect the outstanding questionnaires. The results of the ballot were; of the 73 questionnaires issued, 47 were returned, of which 39 households voted in favour of a residents' parking scheme and eight voted against a residents' parking scheme. The majority of returned questionnaires voted in favour of a residents' parking scheme and the scheme would be advertised as part of the Traffic Regulation Order process. Claremont Road had been added to the list of sites to be included in a future parking review. The head petitioner had been informed.
12. Visitors to Sandwell Valley Country Park, objecting to proposed parking charges.	A report outlining the objections to the parking charges at Sandwell Valley Country Park was submitted to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment at the decision making session on 28 th January, 2016. The Cabinet Member recommended to Cabinet that Lloyd Street car park be removed from the Parking Places Order and also recommended that the hours for which the remaining parking charges would apply should be amended to 9am to 3pm between October and March.

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
13. Residents of Hallam Street, West Bromwich requesting an additional bus stop.	Approval had been given by Centro to the installation of an additional bus stop and consultation had taken place. Arrangements would be made for the works to be carried out by the end of February. The head petitioner had been informed.
14. Residents of Freeman Road, Wednesbury requesting removal of bollards and replacement with traffic calming.	The traffic calming scheme along Freeman Road consisted of central refuges to create pinch points to help reduce speeds. An accident analysis had been carried out which showed that there had been no recorded injury accidents in the last five years. Concerns had been raised by local residents and ward members regarding obstructions created around the centre refuges. Vehicles parking in the vicinity of the refuges created obstructions for buses and large vehicles. The problem increased around the church when events/services were taking place. The location did not meet the criteria to upgrade the existing traffic calming scheme, however, arrangements would be made for the two centre refuges closest to the church along Freeman Road to be removed to improve traffic flow. The head petitioner had been informed. Officers were also requested by the Committee to notify residents directly affected by the works.

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
15. Residents of Margaret Street, West Bromwich regarding irresponsible parking, speeding, weeds, drain covers, fly tipping and litter.	<p>A seven day traffic survey had been carried out along Margaret Street which showed that 85% of vehicles were travelling at 16.63mph or less. In addition to this there had been no recorded injury accidents in the last five years. Traffic calming schemes were designed to reduce injury accidents and vehicle speeds to around 20mph. As there were no recorded injury accidents and speeds were well below 20mph there were no plans to implement a traffic calming scheme at this location.</p> <p>With regard to weeds on the pavements, arrangements had been made for these to be treated.</p> <p>In relation to fly-tipping, if specific incidents were reported to Environmental Health they could be investigated. Items abandoned within gardens of properties from which items had originated were not classed as fly-tipping, however, officers would speak to residents to remove items if they were likely to harbour rodents. Margaret Street was scheduled to be litter picked every 2.5 weeks and mechanically swept every five weeks. With regard to the areas around drain covers, the area been inspected and arrangements made for any areas which met the criteria for repair to be undertaken. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>

Cabinet Petitions Committee – 24th February, 2016

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
16. Residents requesting a zebra crossing at the junction of Perry Hill Road, Bleakhouse Road and Brennand Road together with Castle Road West/Holly Road.	The request for crossing points around the junction of Perry Hill Road/Bleakhouse Road could not be facilitated due to the current layout of the junction. However, it had been identified that there was a need to improve the junction layout and make it user friendly for all highway users, including pedestrians. A scheme would therefore be considered during the next financial year, if viable. The head petitioner had been informed.

Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

18 May 2016

Progress Report

1. Summary Statement

- 1.1 To advise the Cabinet Committee of petitions received and of the action which has been taken or proposed.

Further details are attached for your information.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the action taken or proposed as detailed in the third column below be approved.

Neeraj Sharma
Director - Governance

Contact Officer
Trisha Newton
Democratic Services Unit
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Petitions

3. Strategic Resource Implications

3.1 There are no direct strategic resource implications arising from this report.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

4.1 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, and to provide a facility for making petitions in electronic form 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. The Petition Scheme was approved at Annual Council at its meeting on 11 June 2014 and subsequently amended at its meeting on 2 September 2014 following establishment of a Cabinet Petitions Committee.

5. Implications for the Council's Scorecard Priorities

5.1 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 Scorecard Priorities: Great People, Great Prospects, Great Place, Great Performance. Petitions alert members and officers to current local issues and ensure that services are being targeted appropriately in delivering the Council's priorities.

6. Background Details

6.1 Petitions received since last reporting period

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
6.1.1 Residents/visitors to parks and open spaces in Sandwell (Boroughwide)	Objection to culling of Canadian geese.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 15/2/2016)
6.1.2 Residents/Parents of children attending Glebefields Primary School, Sandgate Road, Tipton (Princes End)	Request for safe route for children and alternative parking at Glebefields Primary School.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 8/3/2016)

6.1.3	Trades unions on behalf of residents and employees of Sandwell Leisure Trust (Boroughwide)	Save Sandwell Leisure Trust.	The number of signatures contained within the petition triggers a debate at a Council meeting and the matter will therefore be reported to Council in July 2016. (Received 9/3/2016)
6.1.4	Residents of Bury Hill Estate, Tividale (Tividale)	Concern regarding lack of adequate drainage on Bury Hill Estate.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 18/3/2016)
6.1.5	Residents in the vicinity of the Halfords Lane area, Smethwick (St Pauls)	Request for reinstatement of no. 50 bus on Halfords Lane.	This matter has been referred to Centro for investigation and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 18/3/2016)
6.1.6	Residents of Victoria Avenue, Smethwick (Soho and Victoria)	Request for return of wheelie bins in Victoria Avenue.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 18/3/2016)
6.1.7	Residents of Victoria Avenue, Smethwick (Soho and Victoria)	Objection to removal of wall at entrance to Victoria Avenue and widening the entrance of Victoria Avenue.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 18/3/2016)
6.1.8	Residents of Edgbaston Road, Smethwick (Soho and Victoria)	Request for residents' parking scheme and one way system.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 13/4/2016)

6.1.9	Residents in the vicinity of A34 Birmingham Road, Great Barr (Great Barr with Yew Tree)	Request for traffic calming/safety measures on A34 Birmingham Road	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. Received 18/4/2016)
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6.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
6.2.1 Residents/parents in the vicinity of Old Park Road/Woden Road North, Wednesbury (Wednesbury North)	Request for a review of the traffic calming measures on Old Park Road/Woden Road North in the vicinity of Old Park Primary School.	Arrangements have been made for a traffic survey to be carried out. An update will be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 6/1/2016)
6.2.2 Residents of View Point, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for increased height in fencing and lockable gate	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 13/10/2015)
6.2.3 Residents in the vicinity of Greenway-Laybourne Park, Richards Road, Tipton (Princes End)	Objection to the Council's proposal to dispose of land which was a bequest to the children of Princes End.	This matter is being investigated by officers and will be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting. (Received 26/8/2015)
6.2.4 Residents of Speakers Close, Tividale (Tividale)	Request for closure or gating of gully from Speakers Close to the greenbelt land at the rear of houses.	The gully is not in Council ownership. Residents have been consulted in Speakers Close/View Point with regard to a way forward. Of the 250 residents that were consulted, 65 responses were received. Of the 65, 10 residents want the accessway gated/permanently closed, 45 want the accessway gated/locked at night and 10 residents want the accessway to be kept open and not gated.

The results have been forwarded to the landowners, Bellway and Greenbelt, for consideration. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 4/9/2014)

6.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
6.3.1 Residents in the vicinity of Park Lane/Franchise Street, Wednesbury (Wednesbury North)	Request for parking restrictions to prevent overnight parking/ noise nuisance from HGVs.	Park Lane (opposite the junction of Franchise Street) has been included on the list of areas to be considered for the implementation of parking restrictions. The proposal has been included in a future parking review and will be the subject of a legal and democratic process that allows others to object, the outcome of such proposals cannot therefore be guaranteed. The head petitioner will be notified of the outcome in due course. (Received 11/2/2016)
6.3.2 Residents of Trinity Street, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Request for CCTV.	Further to updates at previous meetings and following representations from the head petitioner, officers were asked to investigate the feasibility of residents installing their own CCTV. If residents were to install their own CCTV it could only be situated on their own properties and, whilst there are no laws that currently govern the use of CCTV on private properties, they would have to have due regard to the Human Rights Act.

Normally it would be advisable for individuals installing CCTV to ensure that it only monitors their own property and does not stray beyond those boundaries. If CCTV monitored an area beyond the bounds of their property the residents will be subject to the Data Protection Act. Privately owned cameras covering public areas may be open to challenge via civil courts. It is not recommended for residents to install their own CCTV if it is going to be used to monitor public spaces and could be breaking the law. Officers will investigate to see if Trinity Street can be prioritised for a dome-hawk camera. These cameras are deployable and are moved around priority areas. With regard to speeding concerns, a 7 day traffic survey has been carried out which shows there are on average 771 vehicles travelling in both directions each day. 85% of vehicles are travelling at 25.5mph or less. As the majority of vehicles are travelling below the 30mph speed limit, there are currently no plans to implement traffic calming measures along Trinity Street. The head petitioner has been informed of the above.
(Received 14/9/2015)

6.3.3	Residents of Wimberger House, St Clement's House and St Mary's House, Hallam Street, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Concern regarding change to the lettings policy to reduce the age restriction from over 40 years to over 35 years.	West Bromwich Local have had difficulties for a number of months letting vacant flats in the local area due to the current age restriction of 40 years or over. This has led to an increase in turnaround times and resulted in a significant rent loss to the Authority. Officers have consulted with local ward members on the proposed changes and evidence clearly shows that an increasing proportion of the Council's flatted accommodation is being affected by low demand, in particular one and two bedroom flatted units. Plans have been put in place to undertake increased checks with potential new tenants of the block to ensure their suitability and minimise any potential disruption to existing tenants, thereby reducing complaints of noise and nuisance. These blocks will remain 'no child' blocks and the procedure to help re-house families into more suitable accommodation will remain as it is currently and every effort made to ensure early re-housing for any families affected. (Received 5/2/2016)
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Source Documents

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