

Cabinet Petitions Committee

**28th February 2019 at 5.30pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillors D Hosell (Chair), Carmichael and Costigan.

Observer: Councillor Gavan.

3/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/19 **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 6.17pm)

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Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
1. Residents of Barker Street, Oldbury requesting residents parking scheme.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
2. Residents in the vicinity of Londonderry Playing Fields asking the Council to save Londonderry Playing Fields.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
3. Supporters of Britannia Park, Rowley Regis, requesting CCTV and lighting in the park.	<p>Following representations from the head petitioner, the Chair requested a site visit to include himself, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Commonwealth Games, local ward members and officers. The Committee also recommended:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forming of a friends of the park group in order that funding could be accessed; • officers contact the head petitioner to discuss how a friends of the park group could be constituted; • officers contact the Police with regard to the crime logs and the possibility of temporary CCTV; • that this was an issue in parks across the borough and asked that officers looked at perception and feeling of safety at parks as a whole project.
4. Parents of children at Moat Farm School requesting a review of parking restrictions around school.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.
5. Residents of Avenue Road, Blackheath, requesting a residents parking scheme.	This matter was being investigated by officers and would be reported back to the Cabinet Petitions Committee at a future meeting.

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<p>6. 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>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, which was causing obstruction, should be reported to the Police. Planning would intervene if the hours of operation were being breached and breaches could be reported to the Enforcement Team for investigation.</p>
<p>7. 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>8. 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 written to the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority 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>

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<p>9. Residents in the vicinity of Joseph Turner Primary School requesting a car park in the vicinity of the school 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>10. 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">· Review access points to the park· Improve the walkway in the park· Review bollards so that some vehicular access might be restricted· Take action to reduce and discourage drinking on Wallface· Replace signage· Improve lighting· Consider installation of bins· Patrol the Wallface regularly· Make use of the adjacent facilities in Hill Top Park to prevent ASB and to engage young people.

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	<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. 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.</p> <p>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>
11. Residents of Goldby Drive, Wednesbury, concerning noise nuisance from premises on Kings Hill Industrial Estate.	<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. Actions that had been implemented included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- installation of automated roller shutter door with vehicle sensors which was closed when not in use;- change of refuse collection contractor with instructions not to collect waste outside reasonable hours;- installation of a bailer to compact cardboard resulting in less collections;- implementation of procedures for suppliers to follow to reduce noise;- cessation of night time trunk vehicle deliveries (articulated lorries).

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	<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>
<p>12. Residents of Darbys Hill Road, Tividale concerning the rerouting of the 12A bus route.</p>	<p>Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) had advised that Service 12A was introduced as part of a number of changes introduced following National Express' Sandwell and Dudley review. The routing of the services differ around the Oakham/ Tividale area with service 12 operating via Oakham Road and City Road and service 12A operating via Darbys Hill Road and Tower Road. Service 12A was introduced to operate the entire length of Darbys Hill Road.</p>

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The western section of Darbys Hill Road was not served by a local bus service before this service revision. Prior to the network changes, service 121 previously operated via Wheatsheaf Road. Wheatsheaf Road was a relatively narrow road and due to parked cars it was becoming difficult to operate buses along this section. In addition, as part of the network changes, service 12/12A were allocated to be operated by double deck vehicles to meet demand. Therefore, National Express opted to operate service 12A via Darbys Hill Road instead of Wheatsheaf Road. The routing via Darbys Hill Road was deemed suitable for local bus operation. National Express requested TfWM to install three additional bus stops on Darbys Hill Road to support the introduction of the service. Working with National Express and highways colleagues from Sandwell Council, three locations for bus stops were identified. Letters of intent were distributed to residents ahead of the proposed installation of the new stops. Temporary stops were put in the proposed locations to enable passengers to use the service in the interim period. Following the issue of the letter of intent the petition was submitted. Unfortunately the temporary bus stop placed on Darbys Hill Road for use on journeys towards Oldbury was removed unlawfully. TfWM did not consider that the highway was unduly narrow and did not suffer from indiscriminate car parking as the properties had sufficient off street parking.

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	<p>It was agreed to seek to install a new permanent bus stop in the proximity of location number 1 to provide access for residents on the eastern section of both Darbys Hill Road and Wheatsheaf Road for journeys towards Oldbury. However it is proposed not to install bus stops in locations 2 or 3. If a bus stop was installed in the vicinity of location 1, all residents on Darbys Hill Road would remain in distance access standards due to the availability of bus stops at either side of Darbys Hill Road. TfWM would seek to work to agree a location for the bus stop on Darbys Hill Road which would ensure residents of both Darbys Hill Road and Wheatsheaf Road had access to the local bus network. Following representations at the meeting, TfWM would be contacted as the residents advised that there had been no consultation, there were concerns regarding the temporary bus stop left and noise/pollution issues. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
13 Residents in the vicinity of St Lukes Road, Wednesbury, requesting CCTV.	<p>This matter had been discussed at the Wednesbury Tasking meeting, where professionals and agencies working in Wednesbury discussed crime and safety issues. Should this area experience an increase in crime, the police could apply for a moveable, temporary CCTV camera to be installed. At the moment, the number of incidents in St Lukes Road did not justify the installation of one of the cameras. Residents should report issues as and when they occurred in order for the police to make an accurate judgement about where to place the limited number of temporary cameras available.</p>

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	<p>The police had recommended other preventative measures, such as increased lighting and signage, which may increase security. Officers would also be working with the police and Anti-Social Behaviour team to undertake activities to reassure residents. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>14 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.</p>	<p>The local policing team and ASB team arranged a residents meeting following receipt of the petition from residents of the brewery estate, mainly those in Devey Road and Crown Street. The meeting was well attended with roughly 30 residents who expressed a strong desire to create a local street watch. The Police had been supporting the initiative and providing guidance. It was believed there were a further 100 residents who were actively involved in a Whatsapp group set up by the residents of the brewery estate, all keen to get involved and make their community a safer place to live. The Police were in the process of organising a World Café event whereby residents would be invited to discuss their concerns and plan a way forward to work with partners in resolving some of their issues. Officers would continue to update the residents of the action taken to date.</p>
<p>15. 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 and the Traffic Regulation Order was now in place. Officers were in the process of issuing permits to residents. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>