



# Petitions Committee

24 April 2015

**Time** 10.00 am      **Public Meeting?** YES      **Type of meeting** n/a

**Venue** Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Val Evans (Lab)  
**Vice-chair** Cllr Arun Photay (Con)

### Labour

Cllr Judith Rowley  
Cllr Alan Bolshaw  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Daniel Warren

### Conservative

Quorum for this meeting is two Councillors.

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

**Contact** Laura Gilyead  
**Tel/Email** 01902 553219 or [laura.gilyead@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:laura.gilyead@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Address** Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

# Agenda

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 1            **Apologies for absence**
- 2            **Declarations of interest**
- 3            **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 6)  
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.]
- 4            **Matters arising**  
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes.]
- 5            **Schedule of Petitions** (Pages 7 - 12)  
[To review the outstanding petitions.]

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 6            **Fencing off Woodcross open space** (Pages 13 - 28)  
[To consider the issues raised in the petition and support the decision not to extend the fencing.]
- 7            **Various issues from Householders Lanesfield mainly Mount Road** (Pages 29 - 38)  
[To consider the issues raised in the petition and to endorse the proposed action.]
- 8            **Remove the Park from the Dukes Park Estate** (Pages 39 - 50)  
[To consider the issues raised in the petition and support the work to address them.]
- 9            **Update on Prosser Street** (Pages 51 - 54)  
[To note the outcome of the investigations in Prosser Street.]



# Petitions Committee

## Minutes - 13 March 2015

### Attendance

#### Members of the Petitions Committee

Cllr Val Evans (Chair)  
Cllr Alan Bolshaw  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Arun Photay (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Daniel Warren

#### Councillors in attendance

Cllr Peter Bilson

#### Employees

Laura Gilyead  
Sangita Kular  
Jane Trethewey

Graduate Management Trainee  
Housing Strategy/Development Officer  
Section Leader

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## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

- 1        **Apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Councillor Judith Rowley.
- 2        **Declarations of interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3        **Minutes of previous meeting**  
Resolved:  
          To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2015 as a true record.
- 4        **Matters arising**  
There were no matters arising.
- 5        **Schedule of outstanding petitions**  
Resolved:  
          To receive the update.
- 6        **Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town**  
Lead petitioner, Fortune Sibanda, explained that the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street had been used by Heath Town Football Club (HTFC) for a couple of years and contributed immensely to the development and wellbeing of children in Heath Town. He explained that he went to the Heath Town Regeneration Project consultation on 6 December 2014 to explain that the land is used by the football club.

The lead petitioner explained that the land was not included in the original plans for the area. He explained that the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was discussed at the meeting however this was not suitable for football as the hard surface has resulted in injury to players. Local residents would like the MUGA to remain but also for the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street to be developed, with better lighting and drainage, so that it could be used in winter. The coach of HTFC explained that if the club were to train elsewhere, it would cost a lot of money. The lead petitioner explained that HTFC would be willing to take over the land to develop it for the team and the community to use.

Jane Trethewey, Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development, explained that the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street was not part of the original proposals but was added to ensure there was enough volume of development for the project to be viable. She explained that the Council had spoken with the Heath Town Tenant and Resident Association prior to including this land in the proposals, however they were not aware of the football club using the land until the lead petitioner attended the consultation on 6 December 2014 and so the designs were drawn up. The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that the state of the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street and the cost of development will be assessed before a final decision can be taken to take the project further.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that the Council had undertaken a lot of consultation with residents of Heath Town and had received far more support than objection to the proposals. After reviewing the petition, the Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development noted that only 63 signatures were from the Heath Town estate itself.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that the MUGA did deserve further development if a decision to build on ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street is taken, and discussions had taken place around finding a solution to improve the area and to address prevention of potential injury. She explained that a CCTV camera at the MUGA showed the area was well used, mostly by footballers.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development acknowledged the work of HTFC but did not want to rule out the possibility of the development of the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street immediately. She explained that the Housing Strategy and Development team would like to continue consulting and developing proposals for the estate.

Cllr Bilson commented that the recommendation of the report reflects the importance of on-going discussions with residents and shows there is a commitment to provide adequate facilities for young people on the estate.

The lead petitioner commented that the regeneration of Heath Town is an overdevelopment of the area, and services in Heath Town will suffer because of it. He explained that the initial consultation suggested that 60 houses would be built however there were plans now for 300 new houses. This would bring more people into the area simultaneously reducing the space for children to play. He explained that residents of Heath Town felt ignored and want the Council to consider the services being reduced in the area.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that the project cannot guarantee but fully intended to install a play area and green gym equipment next to the MUGA regardless of the plans for the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street. She explained that at this relatively early stage, the plans are very simplistic and do not contain detailed proposals. The Council intended to set the principle and strategy of the project before consulting with residents around the detail.

The lead petitioner commented that residents were concerned that the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street would be taken away. He explained that there were no discussions around the development of the MUGA at the initial consultation but there were objections to the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street being developed for houses.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that discussions took place with the petitioner around other options for open ground users in the area, and that improvement of the MUGA arose from this exchange. She said it was highlighted that the MUGA does not suit all residents and the Council always look at objections and suggestions after consultation takes place.

Cllr Gakhal asked the lead petitioner how many community events had taken place on the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street. The lead petitioner explained there had been quite a lot, more than ten.

Cllr Gakhal commented that Heath Town is quite fortunate to have other open spaces in the area. The coach of HTFC explained that the club could use another area however it would cost more to use this space and there may not be time available for the training of the club.

Cllr Photay noted that regeneration is important for Wolverhampton but it is also important to protect green spaces in the City. He commented that the development of the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street would create an income of £400,000 and so asked if there were any other spaces available that would generate a similar income.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that all other available areas on the Heath Town estate had been investigated. She explained that the regeneration of the Heath Town estate would be expensive as it would include re-routing district heating piping and electricity supplies but this would be beneficial in the future through the addition of new homes and a better appearance for the Heath Town estate.

Cllr Photay recommended that the development of the MUGA was included in the project with a focus on retaining green spaces and facilities for children.

Cllr Warren noted that, if it was affordable, the MUGA should be improved.

Cllr Bolshaw enquired about the site survey of the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street. The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that the land has never been developed and so the Council would undertake a survey of the area to ensure development is viable.

The lead petitioner asked about the result of the Cabinet report, Heath Town Regeneration, on 11 March 2015. Cllr Bilson explained that Cabinet deferred authority of the development of the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street to the Petitions Committee and so a decision about this space has not yet been made.

Cllr Bolshaw asked what level HTFC played at. The coach of HTFC explained that the team were in the Bilston league.

The lead petitioner noted that the local primary school also used the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street.

The Service Lead for Housing Strategy and Development explained that there had been a lot of change in the area over past years which did not connect to the proposals.

Resolved:

1. That on-going discussion regarding improvements to the existing Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Heath Town estate be supported.
2. That the inclusion of the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street for redevelopment in support of the Heath Town Regeneration Project, subject to the outcome of site surveys and further consultation, be supported.
3. That the proposed work planned to upgrade the MUGA by working with residents be noted.
4. That further consultation with residents on play facilities for the estate will take place.
5. That a further report be submitted to the Petitions Committee in September 2015 or earlier, after the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street has been surveyed and financial viability has been assessed.

**Schedule of Petitions**

Agenda Item No: **5**

<b>Date Petition received</b>	<b>Issue Raised</b>		<b>Petition No.</b>
15 July 2013	Prohibit Parking of Caravans and Large Vans on Broome Road and Hawksford Crescent		121-13
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Area of City (Ward)</b>	<b>Councillors notified</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Education and Enterprise	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Councillors Bilson, Findlay, O'Neill and Sweet	Andy Jervis, 01902 551261
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>			
<p>The Service Group has been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>The Lead Petitioner attended the Committee on 18 October 2013.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to adjourn consideration of the petition in order for consideration to be given to the wider issues raised including anti-social behaviour and enforcement of tenancy conditions.</p> <p>The Committee revisited the petition at their next meeting on 22 November 2013 when both representatives from the Police and Wolverhampton Homes were in attendance to try to resolve the problems encountered.</p> <p>21.03.14 The Committee supported the actions proposed for Wolverhampton Homes, the Police and the City Council in consultation with the Legal Officer to work together to draw up a protocol about encroachment of the highway and enforcement actions to be taken to address this with report back to the Committee on progress in September 2014.</p> <p>12.12.14 The Committee was informed about a Public Space Protection Order which will be put in place on Broome Road.</p> <p>A further report will be presented once the Order is in place in June 2015.</p>			

<b>Date Petition received</b>	<b>Issue Raised</b>		<b>Petition No.</b>
25 October 2012	Blockage of Turning Circle at Dunkley Street		107-12
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Area of City (Ward)</b>	<b>Councillors notified</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Education and Enterprise	St Peter's	Councillors Bilson, NA Patten, Lawrence, Shah, T Singh	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>			
<p>The Service Group has been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>The Lead Petitioner attended the Committee on 15 February 2013.</p> <p>The Committee supported the actions proposed to provide a No Waiting at Any Time</p>			

Restriction at Dunkley Street. The proposal would be considered by the Transportation and Highways Management Board and if approved the restrictions would be formally advertised.

The proposed "No Waiting at any Time" restrictions were approved for statutory consultation on 19 March 2012 and consultation was currently programmed to commence on 27 June 2013.

Following the consultation period objections had been received from the shopkeepers to the proposed lines. A meeting would be held with the Refuse Vehicle Operatives to talk through the turning heads.

12.12.13 Meeting with refuse collection vehicle to be undertaken early January.

18.03.14 Further consultation required with both the refuse collectors and the shop owners in the vicinity. Exploring the possible reduction of parking to allow for easier access to the site.

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
30 September 2014	Safety Barrier on Wobaston Road			133-14
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Education and Enterprise	Bushbury North	Councillors Bilson, Angus, Warren and Dehar	Ian Hipkiss, 01902 554241	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
The lead petitioner attended the committee meeting on 24 October 2014.				
24.10.14 The committee supported the design of a bund at Wobaston Road. It was noted that the junction with Patshull Avenue would be controlled by signal controlled crossing.				
An update report will be presented in 12 months' time				

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
8 October 2014	Prosser Street Cul-de-Sac Parking			134-14
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Education and Enterprise	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Councillors Bilson, O'Neill and Sweet	Gwyn James, 01902 555755	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
The lead petitioner attended the committee meeting on 30 January 2015.				



30.01.15 The Committee supported the consideration of a parking scheme within Prosser Street for inclusion in future works programmes, should funding for this type of facility be identified.

A report after investigations into access to the back of properties in Prosser Street has been completed will be presented on 24 April 2015.

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
17 October 2014	Opposing Increase in Standard Number at Manor Primary School			135-14
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Education and Enterprise	Spring Vale	Councillors Page, Gwinnett, Heap and Whitehouse	Tom Knott, 01902 551469	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
12.12.14 The Committee supported the undertaking of identified actions to mitigate the impact of the expansion on Manor Primary School and the local community.				
An update report will be presented once work has progressed in July 2015.				

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
23 October 2014	Pedestrian Crossing on Rushall Road			136-14
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Education and Enterprise	Bushbury North	Councillors Bilson, Angus, Warren and Dehar	Gwyn James, 01902 555755	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
12.12.14 The Committee supported the inclusion of a new pedestrian crossing facility in Rushall Road in future works programmes, should this type of facility be shown to be justified in accordance with the approved criteria.				
An update report will be presented once a further count has taken place.				

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
4 November 2014	Lollipop Person on Ettingshall Road			E14 – 14-15A
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Education and Enterprise	Spring Vale	Councillors Bilson, Gwinnett, Heap and	Denise Eccleston, 01902 550301	

	Whitehouse	
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>		
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>12.12.14 The Committee supported the action taken in regard to the School Crossing on Etingshall Road at Foster Avenue.</p> <p>An update report will be presented after the annual priority level assessments in January.</p>		

Date Petition received	Issue Raised	Petition No.	
25 November 2014	Closure of Old Tree Nursery for Adults with Learning Disabilities	137-14	
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Community	n/a	Councillor S Evans	Kathy Roper, 01902 550975
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>			
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>The lead petitioner attended the committee meeting on 30 January 2015.</p> <p>The Committee approved the proposal to proceed with further discussion with Heantun Housing Association/The Accord Group in relation to their expression of interest of Old Tree Nursery.</p>			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised	Petition No.	
9 December 2014	Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town	138-14	
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Education and Enterprise	Heath Town	Councillors Bilson, J Jaspal, M Jaspal, Siarkiewicz	Sangita Kaur, 01902 553362
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>			
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>The lead petitioner attended the committee meeting on 13 March 2015.</p> <p>13.03.15 The committee supported the on-going discussions regarding the improvements to the existing Multi Use Games Area on the Heath Town estate. They supported the inclusion of the ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street for redevelopment in the Heath Town Regeneration Project subject to the outcome of site surveys and further consultation.</p> <p>An update report will be presented in September 2015.</p>			

Date Petition	Issue Raised	Petition
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<b>received</b>				<b>No.</b>
12 December 2014	Various Issues from Householders Lanesfield mainly Mount Road			139-14
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Area of City (Ward)</b>	<b>Councillors notified</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	
Education and Enterprise	Spring Vale	Councillors Bilson, Gwinnett, Heap and Whitehouse	Gwyn James, 01902 555755	
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
A report will be presented on 24 April 2015.				

<b>Date Petition received</b>	<b>Issue Raised</b>			<b>Petition No.</b>
30 January 2015	Remove the Park from Dukes Park Estate			140-15
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Area of City (Ward)</b>	<b>Councillors notified</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	
Place	Bilston East	Councillors Mattu, Gibson, Simpkins and Turner	Karen Samuels, 01902 551341	
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
A report will be presented on 24 April 2015.				

<b>Date Petition received</b>	<b>Issue Raised</b>			<b>Petition No.</b>
3 February 2015	Woodcross Park Extension of Railings			141-15
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Area of City (Ward)</b>	<b>Councillors notified</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	
Place	Spring Vale	Councillors Reynolds, Mattu, Gwinnett, Heap and Whitehouse	Steve Woodward, 01902 554260	
<b>Action Taken/Outcomes</b>				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
A report will be presented on 24 April 2015.				

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# Petitions Committee

24 April 2015

<b>Report title</b>	Fencing off Woodcross open space	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds Resources	
	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Springvale	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Nick Alderman, City Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Public Realm	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Steve Woodward	Head of Service
	Tel	01902 554260
	Email	<a href="mailto:Steve.woodward@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Steve.woodward@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended:

1. To consider the issues raised in the petition in respect of fencing off Woodcross open space.
2. To support the decision not to extend the fencing around the perimeter of Woodcross open space.
3. Advise concerned residents that they make contact with the Police and Wolverhampton's Anti-social Behaviour Team to report any issues raised or identified on Woodcross open space and, if appropriate, the Police and Wolverhampton's Anti-social Behaviour Team to exercise their powers to obtain identities of and disperse groups of individuals that are causing nuisance or offending behaviour.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the petition received regarding the request to fence off the perimeter of Woodcross open space.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 13 January 2014, Mr Tom Stokes contacted City Direct and raised concerns about vandalism, including health and safety concerns of the public relating to vehicles on Woodcross open space. The request was to fence off the perimeter of Woodcross open space which came through City Direct to Public Realm.
- 2.2 It was communicated to Mr Stokes by a representative from Public Realm on 14 January 2014, that fencing could not be provided to Woodcross open space (see appendix 1) for the following reasons:-
- Wolverhampton City Council does not fence off many of its open spaces only some of the formal parks in the City;
  - Wolverhampton City Council does not have the available financial resources to be able to fence off such large open space areas. This includes Woodcross open space.
- 2.3 Woodcross open space is approximately 4.5 hectares with the perimeter being around 655 linear meters of which the majority is accessible from the roadside. The open space is maintained by the Council (Public Realm) and services provided include grass cutting, litter picking, playground inspections and waste bin emptying.
- 2.4 Play provision on Woodcross open space includes a trim trail, natural play area, traditional play area and green space for ball games.
- 2.5 There is currently some barrier type fencing on the open space that was fitted many years ago as part of a Parks and Open Spaces initiative to deter vehicle access. The sites identified were deemed the most vulnerable and funding was then available.
- 2.6 Joanne Mason, Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASB) Manager, has confirmed that there are no reports (either recent or historic) to the ASB Team about Woodcross open space. Similarly, Lisa Parmar, Neighbourhood Safety Co-ordinator, has confirmed that the last complaint raised about the open space was at a Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting a number of years ago. The issue raised was regarding young people gathering in the park. There have been no reports since then either at PACT, through Tasking or from the Neighbourhood Wardens. Consequently, there has been no liaison with the Police on this matter.
- 2.7 The ASB Team Manager has corresponded to Sergeant Simon Bott, who is the neighbourhood Sergeant for the Woodcross area regarding reports to the Police about ASB. No feedback has been received.

- 2.8 Historically, open spaces such as at Woodcross Lane are not considered for fencing because they are open spaces and not formal parks areas. There are many open spaces across the City that do not have fences around them.
- 2.9 There is no dedicated budget set aside each year to be able to deal with large scale improvements such as fencing and gating. In addition the revenue resources for maintaining the Council's parks and open spaces are constantly under pressure with increases in repairs and maintenance to land holdings (including open spaces) demands on the service. The cost attributed to the fitting of fencing, including on-going maintenance liabilities (repair/painting), cannot be accommodated within Public Realm's current revenue budgets which are used for repairs and maintenance of parks and open spaces.
- 2.10 Therefore any capital works and associated revenue implications for improvements to these sites would need to be fully thought through and additional funds secured. The cost of fencing off an additional 559 linear meters using the same type of barrier system that is partly in place on the open space is estimated to be in region of £35,000.
- 2.11 Should any Section 106 public open space contributions derived from future developments in the area become available this could provide for some fencing of Woodcross open space together with improvements to the open space itself which would have added value for local people. In this instance the Council would engage with the local community on how best to use externally funded monies as part of formal consultation.

### **3.0 Details of the petition**

- 3.1 On 3 February 2015, a 132 signature petition was received from local residents requesting the installation of fencing around Woodcross Park to prevent vehicle access.

### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 Due to the Council's current financial position and the amount of savings required within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the provision of additional fencing around Woodcross Open Space cannot be met from existing revenue budgets. [CH/27032015/C]

### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [TS/250132015/P]

### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report

### **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 There would be environmental implications to consider with the erection of any type of fencing around the open space therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment would need to be undertaken should fencing be erected around this site in future.

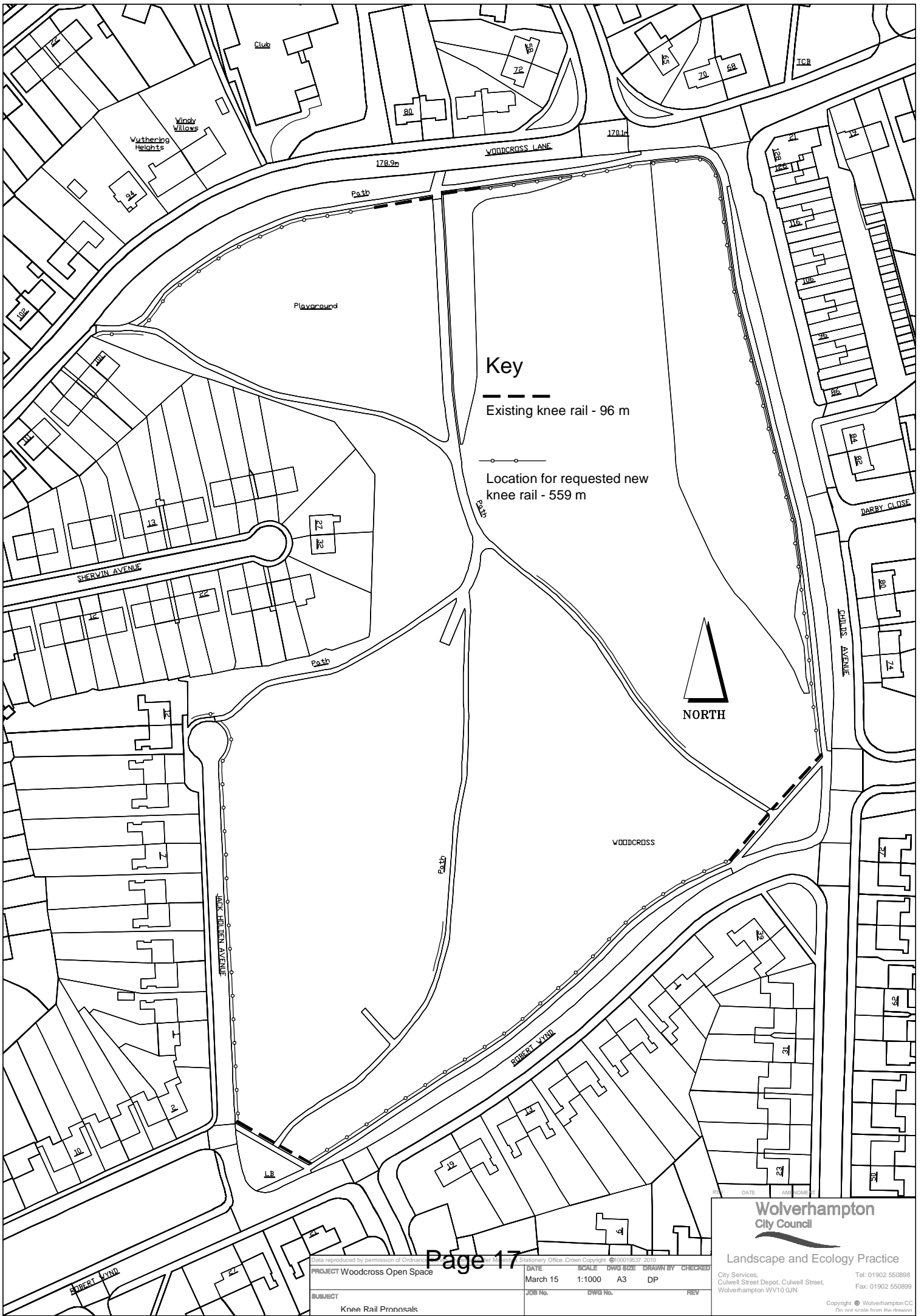
## **8.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 8.1 As stated above open spaces such as Woodcross Lane have not historically been considered for fencing programmes due to the extent and financial cost of fencing and gating required on large open space areas.
- 8.2 In the event of an incident, residents to be advised to make contact with the Police and Wolverhampton's ASB Team.

## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

None





**Key**

--- Existing knee rail - 96 m

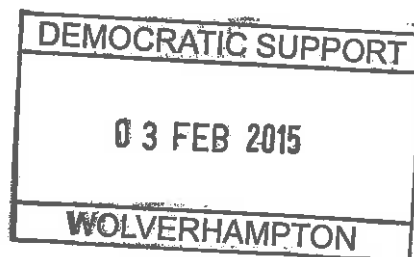
○—○ Location for requested new knee rail - 559 m



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<b>PROJECT</b> Woodcross Open Space	
<b>DATE</b> March 15	<b>SCALE</b> 1:1000
<b>DWG SIZE</b> A3	<b>DRAWN BY</b> DP
<b>SUBJECT</b> Knee Rail Proposals	<b>REV</b>

**Wolverhampton City Council**  
 City Services,  
 Culwell Street Depot, Culwell Street,  
 Wolverhampton WV10 0JN  
 Tel: 01902 550898  
 Fax: 01902 550899  
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**PUBLIC PETITION**

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	141 - 15
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Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee please refer to the guidance leaflet Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme and the Guidance Notes at the back of this form.

<b>1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER</b> (If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)
TOM STOKES
<b>2. PETITION TITLE</b>
WOODCROSS PARK-EXTENSION OF RAILINGS
<b>3. PETITION TEXT</b>
TO EXTEND THE CURRENT RAILINGS AROUND WOODCROSS PARK TO COVER WHOLE BOUNDARY TO PREVENT VEHICLE ACCESS.
<b>4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION</b>
HIGH LIGHTED ISSUE SEVERAL TIMES WITH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM BUT AS ACTIVITY IS AT NIGHT THERE ARE NO VEHICLE DETAILS AVAILABLE.
<b>5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS SHOWING DAMAGE MADE TO FOOTBALL FIELD ON WOODCROSS PARK.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	TOM STOKES
Address	15 ARD HOUNN GROVE MUNMORE URANIE WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 6DZ
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile:
E-mail address	
No. of petition signatures	132
<b>STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE:</b> Should the Committee consider it necessary, in order to broaden its understanding of the petition, it may invite a petitioner to appear before and give an oral presentation and answer question. Would you wish, if invited, to appear?	
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER:</b> When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme, the principal petitioner should sign and date below.	
Signature .....	
Date ..... 31/1/2015 .....	
Completed forms should be returned to— Democratic Support Governance Services Delivery Directorate Wolverhampton City Council St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1SH  Email: democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902 550181	

Liberal Democrat Office  
Wolverhampton City Council  
3rd Floor  
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St Peter's Square  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1RL

27<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Wolverhampton City Council  
Petitions Committee  
C/O Democratic Support  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Civic Centre  
St Peter' Square  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1SH

Dear Petitions Committee Members,

I write in support of my constituents who are petitioning the City Council to install fencing around Woodcross Park. This, I believe, is the only park not fenced off in the City. Residents are constantly suffering from "joy riders" on both motorcycles and in cars using the park at night and sometimes in daylight hours; as their personal playground. Regardless of the obvious noise nuisance and the damage to the park it may not be long until there is a serious accident!

Residents do appreciate that funds are at a premium but I believe this would be classed as capital expenditure and moreover, City Council Officers could seek external funding for such a scheme. Again, on behalf of my residents, I give the petition my fullest support.

Yours truly,

Cllr. R.F. Whitehouse  
Member Springvale Ward  
Wolverhampton City Council







# CURRENT RAILINGS





Jack Holden Ave  
Boston, England  
Street View - Oct 2012





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# Petitions Committee

24 April 2015

<b>Report title</b>	Mount Road, Lanesfield – various issues	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Springvale	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
<b>Originating service</b>	Transportation	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Gwyn James	Transportation Manager
	Tel	01902 555755
	Email	Gwyn.james@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to endorse the proposed action to investigate the need for a possible road safety scheme in the Mount Road area.

## Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note

1. The comments provided in response to the various issues raised by the petitioners.
2. The actions taken since receipt of the petition.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To report the receipt of a petition raising a number of issues relating to Mount Road, Lanesfield, as detailed below.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In December 2014, a 50 signature petition was submitted to Wolverhampton City Council setting out various issues including, the number of MP's and Councillors representing Wolverhampton, a request to introduce traffic signals at the junction of Mount Road and Birmingham New Road, introduction of additional parking restrictions to reduce on-street parking, speed reduction measures, gulley cleansing and tree pruning in Mount Road.

## **3.0 Details of the petition**

- 3.1 The key points of concern within the petition are:

1. the number of Councillors/MP's representing Wolverhampton
2. the increase in Council Tax,
3. speeding on Mount Road,
4. parking measures on Mount Road,
5. traffic lights on Mount Road,
6. drains to be cleaned,
7. trimming trees,
8. Police officers on duty at Police stations.

- 3.2 Following receipt of the petition, officers from relevant sections of the Council have investigated the key points raised and their findings/actions are reported as follows:

1. With regard to the issue raised about the number of Councillors and MPs in Wolverhampton, the Council can decide that it wants to reduce the number of councillors. This has been proposed as a saving in the past. The boundary commission then have to consult on the proposal which is a process which takes a couple of years.
2. As a result of a huge reduction in the level of grant support received from central government, the Council is faced with having to reduce its annual spend by £134 million by 2018/19. The Council has identified savings valued of £88 million with another £46 million to find. The Council has kept the 2015/16 Council Tax increase to the absolute minimum needed to balance its budget for the year. This is only the second time in the last five years that the Council has voted to increase its annual Council Tax levels.

In 2015/16, the Council plans to spend almost £700 million providing day to day public services, of which £81 million (11%) is funded through monies raised by Council Tax. The 1.99% increase in 2015/16 will enable the Council to invest a further £4.4 million in essential services such as looking after vulnerable children and older

people. Without this extra resource, the Council would be faced with cutting or stopping vital services at a time when demand for many of those services is increasing year on year.

3. The Traffic and Road Safety team has commissioned speed surveys at two locations on Mount Road. The team will analyse the speed data when available and will then investigate the need for possible speed reduction measures depending on the results of the surveys.
4. There are “No Waiting at Any Time” parking restrictions in the vicinity of the junction of Mount Road and Birmingham New Road, designed to protect visibility for vehicles manoeuvring at the junction and to ensure the free flow of traffic. Current parking conditions and any need to introduce additional restrictions will be considered in conjunction with measures considered necessary to control speed on Mount Road.
5. The Traffic and Road Safety team are currently investigating accident and junction movement data and will investigate whether any improvements could be made at the junction of Mount Road and Birmingham New Road.
6. Road drains in Mount Road are cleansed on an annual basis in January. Further to this enquiry the Public Realm team arranged for the drains in Mount Road to be cleaned ahead of schedule in December 2014.
7. There are no highway trees on Mount Road. There would appear to be some trees at the southern end of the road that are on housing land (managed by Wolverhampton Homes) and a number of private hedges; however none of these would fall under the responsibility of the Council to maintain.
8. With regard to the issue raised about the number of policemen on duty in police stations in Wolverhampton, this is out of the control of Wolverhampton City Council. Petitioners are advised to contact the West Midlands Police Authority should they wish to pursue this issue.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications to this report. Any possible highway improvements would need to be included in the Transportation Capital Programme for future years, subject to Cabinet approval. [MF/10042015/B]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 To reduce the number of councillors, a legal process would need to be followed with the Boundary Commission. The Council, as a local traffic authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004, has general duties to manage the road network. There are no other direct legal implications arising from this report. [EB/14042015/J]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no specific equality implications associated with this report. However if any requirement for highway improvements is identified and appropriate funding is identified, then a full equality analysis will be undertaken.

## **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 This initial report has no environmental implications.

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no human resources issues.

## **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

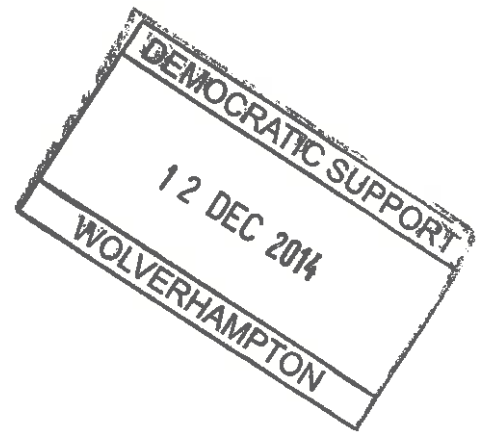
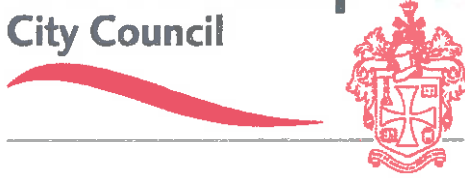
9.1 There are no corporate landlord issues.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 None



# Wolverhampton City Council



## PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	139-14
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Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee please refer to the guidance leaflet **Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme and the Guidance Notes at the back of this form.**

<b>1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER</b> (If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)
KENNETH JOHN CLIBERY
<b>2. PETITION TITLE</b>
HOUSE HOLDERS LANEFIELD MAINLY MOUNT RD
<b>3. PETITION TEXT</b>
<b>4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION</b>
COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS CONTACTED ABOUT MOST OF PROBLEMS NOTHING DONE IS DANGEROUS PARKING BY POSTOFFICE, RUBBISH IN MOUNT RD, CERTAIN HOUSES USED AS WORKSHOPS DISTURBING OTHERS IS BLOCKING PAVEMENTS & ROADS PHOTOS TAKEN AND SENT TO COUNCIL NOTHING DONE LITTER INROAD LEFT LIKE A TIP AT TIMES
<b>5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>

4 CONTINUED DRAINS & MANHOLES NOT CLEANED OUT CAUSING MINOR FLOODING AT TIMES IN HEAVY RAIN  
 TRAFFIC SPEEDING DANGEROUS CAUSED BY TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT NARD GROVE AND NEXT ROAD BY STAFFORDSHIRE KNUT  
 PEOPLE SEEING LIGHTS ON RED SHOOT UP MOUNT RD TO MISS LIGHTS THEN TRY TO MAKE UP TIME

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	KENNETH JOHN CLIBERY
Address	26 MOUNT RD LANESFIELD WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 6NE
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile:
E-mail address	
No. of petition signatures	46
<b>STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE:</b> Should the Committee consider it necessary, in order to broaden its understanding of the petition, it may invite a petitioner to appear before and give an oral presentation and answer question. Would you wish, if invited, to appear?	
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER:</b> When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme, the principal petitioner should sign and date below.	
Signature .....	
Date ..... 12/12/2014	
Completed forms should be returned to— Democratic Support Section Delivery Directorate Wolverhampton City Council St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1SH  Email: democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902 550181	

4 CONT IF  
LOTS OF US THINK THAT IF WE LIVED ON EFFINGSHAR  
PARK FARM ESTATE WE WOULD NOT HAVE THE PROBLEMS  
THEY WOULD BE QUICKLY SOLVED! THEY SEEM TO  
GET EVERYTHING.  
NOISEY NEIGHBOUR. NO 24 ALL NIGHT PARTIES FRI + SAT NIGHTS  
INVOLVING YOUTHS BOOZE + PES DRUGS NO PROOF OF DRUGS  
SPILLING OUT INTO MOUNT RD EARLY MORNINGS THROWING  
BOTTLES BROKEN GLASS IN ROAD AND PEOPLES GARDENS  
URINATING ON TOP PEOPLES WALLS + GARDENS SINGING  
+ SHOUTING IN STREET AND STANDING ON VIRGIN CABLE  
BOXES DISTURBING LOCAL NEIGHBOURS REPORTED TO  
COUNCIL + POLICE NOTHING DONE,  
SORTED THIS ONE OURSELVES OKAY NOW

## PUBLIC PETITION

(NOTE: In accordance with the Petitions Scheme, the petition will be published on the City Council's Website. Names and addresses will be included, but signatures will be removed)

### PETITION TEXT

(Please state clearly and concisely what action you want the Council to take. Submit additional sheets as required)

STOP SPEEDING WE WANT THE SAME MEASURES TO STOP SPEEDING THAT LETTING SHALL PARK BOT, DANGEROUS PARKING PUT A STOP TO IT BEFORE SOME ONE GETS KILLED DRAINS KEEP THE CLEANED WORKING AT HOME SHOULD NOT SPILL OUT ONTO ROAD BLOCKING PAVEMENTS AND CAUSING ONE LANE TRAFFIC ARE THESE PEOPLE WHO REPAIR AND SELL CARS PAYING BOUNCH RATES LITTER EITHER STOP IT OR GET IT CLEANED UP TRAFFIC LIGHTS MOUNT RD PUT ON TIMER 400. REPOSED ON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING YOU REPOSED US TRAFFIC LIGHTS YET YOU ALLOW TWO AT WARD CAUSE POLICE MAN POLICE STATIONS AGAIN MORE POLICE ON PATROL TRIM TREES IT WAS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY LAST TIME

4 CONT. DROBS WERE BEING PASSED ON BY A YOUTH BY LANERFIELD PARK. BETTOM OF MOUNT ROAD BY LANE ROAD AND IN BRYNMAWR ROAD FOR A CONSIDORABLE TIME EARLY IN YEAR REPORTE TO POLICE WHO ALL READY NEW ONE HOUSE HOLDE WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR TO POST OFFICE HAD LOUD MUSIC AND SEEDY GOINGS ON OUTSIDE HIS HOUSE LATE AT NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING REPORTED TO POLICE. HE TELL A NUMBER OF TIMES TOLD BY POLICE LITTLE THEY COULD DO ON ONE OCCASION IN DESPERATION HE AND HIS WIFE VISITED POLICE STATION TO COMPLAIN BECAUSE HIS WIFE WAS PUT ON MEDICATION BY DOCTOR FOR ALL THE NORIES THEY WERE HAVING ONLY TO BE TOLD BY A CIVILIAN WORKING AT STATION (HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF MOVING

HOUSE) N° 24 MOUNT RD AS CONTACTED COUNCIL NUMEROUS TIMES, AND SENT PHOTO EVIDENCE BUT NOTHING DONE TREES AT BACK OF 28+30 MOUNT RD AND IN GARDENS OF HILL AVENUE MOORES DANGEROUS TO HIGH LAST TRIMMED BY COUNCIL REPORTED FORBAED OF BY COUNCIL WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN PROPERTIES ARE DAMAGED OR SOMEONE GETS HURT. THERE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS FOR OUR POSITION THAT WERE IN PROGRESS WHEN I WAS INVITED TO ATTEND MR PAT McFADDENS M.P. A MEETING

We the undersigned find it more than appalling that you, the *elected* Councillors have the balls and audacity to raise our Council Tax by 1.99%, when other local councils - some with a larger population than Wolverhampton - have not put any increase on their Council Taxes. You may ask why and we can give you the answer. Over the past number of years, they have not wasted or thrown money away on stupid projects that have come to nothing. Nor have they overspent their budget by creating a load of "non-jobs" that we, the rate payer, are having to pay for.

How many of these "non-jobs" have you kept on whilst our Libraries, Youth Clubs and Pensioners Community Halls have been closed down. You cut back on the money you give to Age Concern yet still pay at least 8 personnel on your payroll of approx. £1,000,000 per annum, £125,000, whilst most of us who have to pay for those outlandish wages are on a fixed income of a Government Pension, minimum wage or get less than £14,000 per year.

You tell us part of our Council Tax is for:-

- Policing - What Policing?
- Libraries - they have disappeared
- Community Halls and Youth Club Centres - Where?
- Pot Holes - Yes, millions of them!
- Salt & Grit in bad weather - Yes, in some "preferred" areas
- Cleaning out of drains to stop flooding - Joke!!!

You also allow people to sell cars from their front gardens or do repair work that they charge for and make money from (and probably not pay their Council Tax on time!), keep scrap vehicles in front gardens and do absolutely nothing about youths roaming the streets selling and buying drugs! Yet you have the audacity to tell us you are raising OUR Council Tax after YOU have lowered the tone of our community!

One further suggestion. Do we really need 60 paid Councillors? Cutting them by half would save a lot of money, or better still, pay Councillors expenses only, then perhaps we could save more money and get the right decisions made by the right people, remember how it used to be years ago?

LAURA GILYHEAD  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL



accuracy  
with virtue

Mr K J Clibery Esq  
26 Mount Road  
Lanesfield  
Wolverhampton  
WV4 6NE

Dear Madam,

① With regards to how many M.P.s and Councillors we should have in our area and in the rest of the Country we think that we the rate payer and tax payer have to pay out of our small incomes too much to keep so many of them in large wage positions. Now for <sup>EG</sup> example if the councillors did not receive payments for meetings they attend or committees they are on and only received small amounts for travel, then it would not matter how many of them we have, ~~but~~ like it used to be voluntary. but that is not so. To save money we think that we have too many councillors in Wolverhampton, so for eg. in our area Spring Vale make it one Councillor instead of three. If this was the same all over our area we could cut the number of Councillors by two thirds saving us the <sup>council</sup> tax payer a massive amount of money.

for eg 20 councillors instead of 60

③, With regards to our M.P.S. again we have to pay in this Country some 600 or so in very large wages.

So again we cut the number for eg Walsworthampton as ~~there~~ m.p. instead of two or three and if this was repeated all over the Country we again could cut the number to 200 instead of 600 again saving the tax payer a very large amount of money we know ~~that~~ that you can do nothing about the M.P.S. situation that's up to the government who may have a change of mind after the next election results.

You could make a start by introducing our proposal in Walsworthampton and leading the rest of the Country to follow in when they see how successful this would be.

With Regards  
Yours Sincerely  
John S. S. S.

P.S.  
Councillor but backs  
could probably save some  
Council employees' jobs  
next year.



# Petitions Committee

24 April 2015

<b>Report title</b>	Petition – Removal of Park from Dukes Park Estate	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Bilston East	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Ros Jervis, Wellbeing	
<b>Originating service</b>	Community Safety	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Karen Samuels	Head of Community Safety
	Tel	01902 551341
	Email	Karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	n/a	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the potential outcomes outlined.
2. Support the work of employees in addressing the issues raised.

## Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note the issues raised in the petition requesting removal of the play area at Dukes Park Estate.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the petition received requesting removal of the play area at Dukes Park estate located in the Bilston East ward.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 A petition was received by the Council on 30 January 2015, containing 85 signatures from residents of the Duke Park estate and the surrounding area seeking removal of the play area housed within the centre of the estate. The geographic location of the park in relation to the estate is attached at appendix A. The request was centred on a history of anti-social behaviour (ASB) experienced by residents since the construction of the park early in 2014.
- 2.2 The park was constructed as part of the Barratt Homes housing development and was included as a condition of planning requirements. The park remains in Barratt Homes ownership, however, as part of the S106 agreement, an arrangement is in place for Public Realm to undertake maintenance of the site following the Council's adoption of the location (usually involving the highway, lighting and open spaces) which is expected in the summer 2016. The Council has received a financial sum to contribute towards park inspections, maintenance and repairs covering the ten year period following adoption. This payment is referred to as a 'commuted sum'. Beyond this period, the Council will be expected to absorb any ongoing maintenance and repair costs to the park.
- 2.3 The petition states that at the time of purchasing their properties, residents were informed by sales representatives of Barratt Homes that the play area would consist of toddler play equipment and that plans showing the content and layout of the park were not readily accessible or known to residents.
- 2.4 The petition highlights repeated acts of criminality and ASB suffered by local residents who believe this is fuelled by large numbers of youths congregating on the park. Details regarding recorded incidents of crime/ASB are detailed in section 3.2 of this report.
- 2.5 Multi-agency efforts to address the nuisance complaints are summarised below, however, both the petition and subsequent conversations with the lead petitioner have stressed a level of frustration in resolving this issue satisfactorily due to ongoing disagreements about ownership and responsibility.

## **3.0 Outcome of Enquiries**

- 3.1 Following receipt of the petition, a number of enquiries have been made with key partners who have had involvement with the park's development including Planning, Public Realm and Barrett Homes and with West Midlands Police, the ASB team and Neighbourhood Safety Coordinator, who have responsibility for addressing crime and community safety concerns. Ward councillors are also aware of the concerns and have had involvement in trying to resolve these locally.



- 3.2 Incidents of crime/ASB – Following submission of a Safer Estates request by the ASB team to West Midlands Police, details of all calls for service made to the Police from January 2014 to the end February 2015 have been provided. These are summarised below:
- A total of 58 Police logs were received covering the period.
  - The reports were consistent in their content, with offenders reported as being groups of young people; behaviour included shouting, use of abusive and racist language, vandalism, arson (including a burnt out vehicle), racing of motor vehicles, graffiti, fighting and intimidation.
  - The nuisance was regular and sometimes continued late into the night/early morning.
  - Police resources were deployed on receipt of complaints; it's understood that one arrest has been made.
- 3.3 The issue was raised at Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings in November 2014, following which, a multi-agency response was planned at Neighbourhood Tasking, consisting of the following:
- Police patrol strategy put in place involving a mixture of foot and mobile patrols including use of the ASB van; there has been an increased Police presence in the vicinity.
  - Contact made with Barrett Homes seeking removal of the large swing which seemed a particular attraction for the youths.
  - A domehawk camera has been deployed to the area to provide a deterrent to ASB and to aid the identification of youths who may be involved.
  - Consideration of a Section 35 dispersal order.
  - Youths in the local area are being signposted to the weekly Kicks session held in Bilston on a Wednesday evening.
  - Contact made with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council as it is believed some of the offenders live within their boundary.
  - Barratt Homes have dug trenches and created raised areas to prevent vehicles driving over the grassed areas.
- 3.4 A letter was sent to the lead petitioner, Mr Williams on 9 March 2015 outlining the enquiries being made and inviting his input. Mr Williams phoned and expressed relief that this was now being looked into. He maintained that the ASB was continuing and that residents were seeking complete removal of the park, not modification of the play equipment.
- 3.5 The issue was raised again at Bilston East PACT meeting on 9 March 2015. Improvements to the site were noted, namely, removal of the swing, replaced fencing on the pathway towards Bradley Lane, and a heightened Police presence. There were no concerns raised by Police at the Tasking meeting on 24 March 2015.

- 3.6 Contact has been made with Barratt Homes informing them of the petition process, inviting their input and to have a representative in attendance at the Petitions Committee meeting. Their position regarding the play area has still to be clarified.
- 3.7 The play equipment and public open space is currently owned by Barrett's but will eventually be adopted by the Council (and maintained by Public Realm services).
- 3.8 One ward councillor has outlined his objections to removal of the play equipment given the levels of need and deprivation in the ward. There was a strong feeling that more multi-agency working should be undertaken to address the ASB before any decision is made to remove the play equipment.

#### **4.0 Possible Outcomes for Consideration:**

- 4.1 Outcome 1 - The play equipment is retained in its current state and any reports of crime or ASB are responded to and managed via PACT. This would retain the play area for local use within the community.

Implications:

- There is a risk that the park will continue to be a draw for local youths from Dukes Park and neighbouring estates with residents continuing to experience ASB.
- Targeted Police and partner resources to respond to the associated problems may not be sustainable over the medium/long term.
- If ASB continues, the park may not be well used by families due to the nuisance associated with it.
- There may be longer-term maintenance and repair costs to the Council beyond the ten year use of the commuted sum if ASB continues.
- Petitioners have indicated they would be dissatisfied with this outcome.

- 4.2 Outcome 2 – Barratt Homes to be asked to remove large play equipment, which is replaced with toddler equipment to encourage family use and make it less appealing for youths to gather. This would retain the play area for local use within the community.

Implications:

- There is the risk that the park will continue to attract nuisance youths even if smaller-age play equipment is installed.
- Targeted Police and partner resources to respond to the associated problems may not be sustainable over the medium/long term.
- If ASB continues, the park may not be well used by families due to the nuisance associated with it.
- There may be longer-term maintenance and repair costs to the Council beyond the ten year use of the commuted sum if ASB continues.
- Petitioners have indicated they would be dissatisfied with this outcome.

- 4.3 Outcome 3 – Barratt Homes to be asked to remove park equipment and undertake remedial works to grass the area. A green open space will be retained for community use.

Implications:

- There remains a risk that ASB will continue, although this risk is reduced if there is no seating area included in any remedial works.
- Police and partner responses to tackle ASB in the vicinity can still be accessed, but the site would no longer need to be addressed as a hotspot location.
- If Barratt Homes remove the equipment the commuted sum paid to the Council would be returned to Barratt Homes.
- There would be a reduced longer-term cost to the Council of maintaining the grassed area.
- Petitioners would be satisfied with this outcome.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 The children's play area was a requirement for the estate being granted planning consent. Concern has been raised about the loss of the equipment by a local Councillor. It is not known to what extent the equipment is played on by young children during the day. The multi-agency response to address ASB has been proportionate. It is recommended that:

1. Data is sourced to clarify level usage of the play equipment during the day.
2. All households on the new estate and local ward councillors are asked by letter to state their preference for one of the three outcomes above.
3. Public Health is consulted on the possible outcomes detailed in this report.
4. Neighbourhood Tasking are asked to consider any additional action that can be taken to identify perpetrators of ASB to ensure all options for multi-agency enforcement action have been exhausted.
5. A further report is prepared for Petitions Committee in three months to inform the outcomes detailed in section 4 of this report.
6. Adoption of the play area does not take place until the above has been clarified.

## **6.0 Financial implications**

6.1 A financial payment has been paid to the Council by Barratt Homes as part of the S106 planning requirement and £71,494 remains unspent. This funding has been set aside to be drawn down following the Council's adoption of the location to cover a ten year period of costs associated with repairing and maintaining the play area. Following this period, ongoing repair and maintenance costs would be absorbed by the Council.  
[MF/15042015/U]

## **7.0 Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. Further consideration may need to be given to variation of the S106 agreement as part of any decision on the future of the site. [RB/15042015/Y]

## **8.0 Equalities Implications**

8.1 Removal of the play equipment would have implications for children living in the area. The policy that enabled provision of play equipment is in Wolverhampton's Development Plan which was subject to a full equality analysis.

## **9.0 Environmental implications**

9.1 The proposals contained in this report would remove local play facilities installed as part of the residential development; however the open space housing the park would be retained for the benefit of local residents in Bilston East.

## **10.0 Human resources implications**

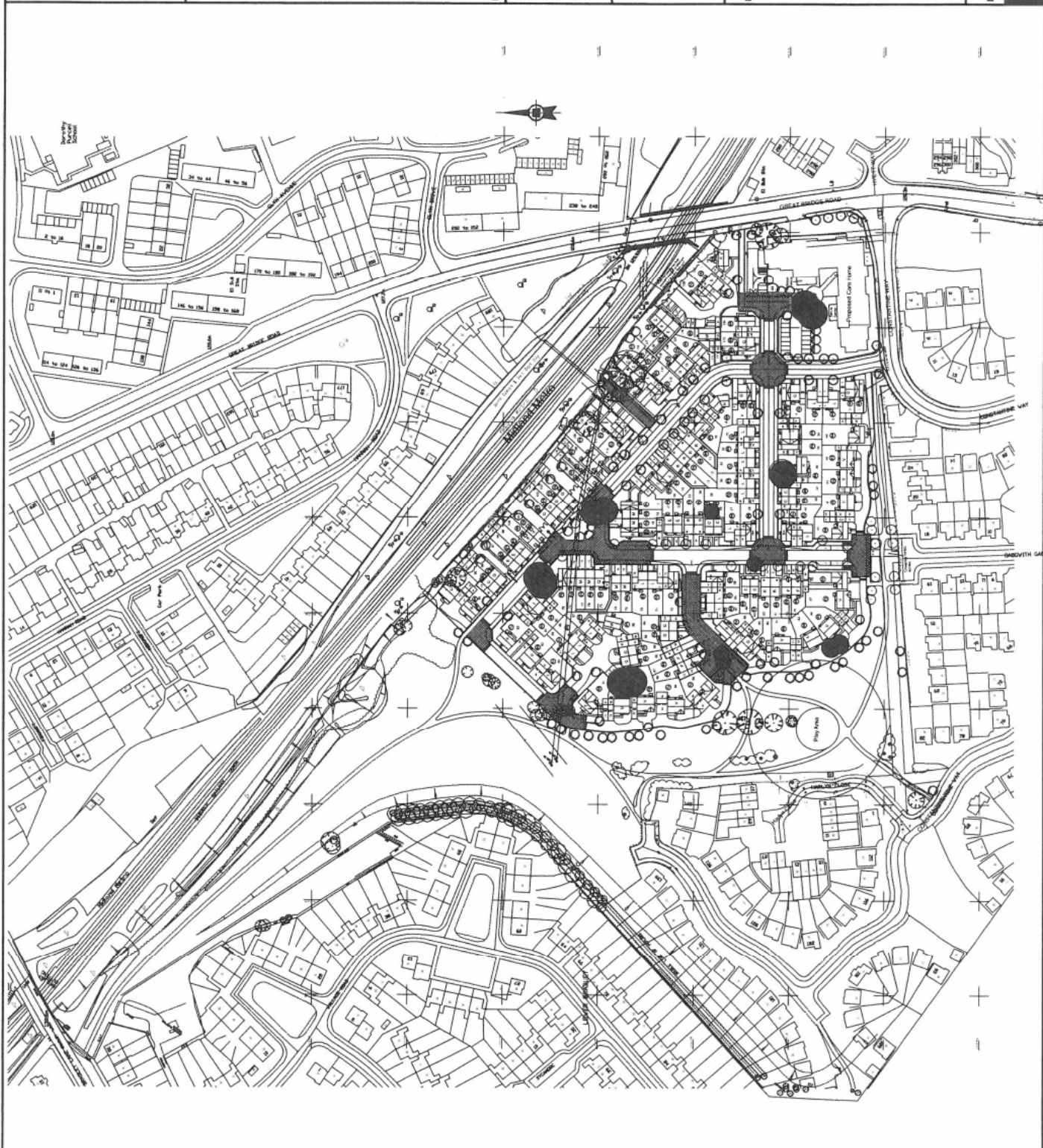
10.1 There are no human resource implications relating to this report.

## **11.0 Corporate landlord implications**

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications relating to this report.

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

None



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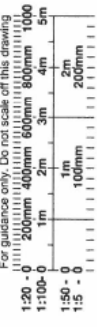
The Contractor is to check and verify all building and site dimensions, levels and lower level levels of construction, including any structural elements, and to report any variations to the Contractor. The Contractor is to ensure that all construction is in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications, and to ensure that all construction is in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications.

The drawings are not intended to show details of foundations, ground conditions or ground contaminants. Such details shall be determined by appropriate investigations, and the Contractor is to provide details of such investigations to the Contractor. A suitable method of foundation is to be provided to accommodate the proposed structure and its foundations. A suitable method of foundation is to be provided to accommodate the proposed structure and its foundations.

These drawings are not intended to be used as a guide for the Contractor to construct the works. The Contractor is to ensure that all construction is in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications, and to ensure that all construction is in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications.

Notes:

REVISIONS:



RPS Planning & Development Ltd  
 1st Floor, 125  
 T 01882 711331 F 01882 421514 E [enquiries@rpsrps.com](mailto:enquiries@rpsrps.com) W [www.rpsrps.com](http://www.rpsrps.com)

**Client: BARRATT WEST MIDLANDS**

**Project: Great Bridge Road,  
 Bilton.**

**Title: Care Home Replan  
 Location Plan**

**Status:**  
**Drawn: JE**  
**Date: Nov 2011**  
**Scale: 1:2000**  
**Checked:**  
**Scale: 1:2000**

**Job No: AAH4871** Dwg No: **138** Rev:

Architects  
 Landscape Architects  
 Engineers  
 Surveyors  
 Services Consultants

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**PUBLIC PETITION**

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	140-15
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Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee please refer to the guidance leaflet Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme and the Guidance Notes at the back of this form.

<b>1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER</b> (If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)
<i>Dukes Park Neighbourhood Watch.</i>
<b>2. PETITION TITLE</b>
<i>Remove The Park from the Dukes Park Estate.</i>
<b>3. PETITION TEXT</b>
<i>The above mentioned wish for the council to remove the park from the Dukes Park Estate, Bilston due to it being a hot spot for Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Activity.</i>
<b>4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION</b>
<i>Residents have worked with Police, numerous Non Crime ASB numbers have been given. however the problem is still ongoing. Residents have raised with both Salfords and Wolverhampton Council however neither party will take responsibility.</i>
<b>5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>

<b>6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<i>Matthew Williams</i>
<b>Address</b>	<i>11 Cranbeck Gardens Bilston WV14 8GL</i>
<b>Telephone nos.</b>	<b>Home:</b> <b>Mobile:</b>
<b>E-mail address</b>	
<b>No. of petition signatures</b>	85
<b>STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE:</b> Should the Committee consider it necessary, in order to broaden its understanding of the petition, it may invite a petitioner to appear before and give an oral presentation and answer question. Would you wish, if invited, to appear?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="radio"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER:</b> When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme, the principal petitioner should sign and date below.	
Signature .....	
Date <i>19/11/2014</i> .....	
Completed forms should be returned to— Democratic Support Governance Services Delivery Directorate Wolverhampton City Council St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1SH  Email: <a href="mailto:democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk">democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01902 550181	



## 5. Petition Background Information

The factual background and information as to why the removal of the park is necessary is as follows:

The park in question was constructed early in 2014. Since before it was made open to the public and whilst still surrounded by Harris fencing it became an area which attracted antisocial behaviour and acts of criminality, namely extensive damage to the fencing surrounding the park. These matters were all reported to the police, however the incidents of antisocial behaviour and criminality increased throughout the year both in frequency and severity.

Throughout the year residents of Dukes Park have had to endure the following:

- 1) Criminal damage caused to the park, this has included the protective flooring being ripped up and having to be replaced, youths smashing play equipment with a golf club, extensive graffiti and most disturbingly sexual imagery drawn over the play equipment and fencing. This is still to be removed even though it has been reported to police. All these matters have been reported to the police and have been constant throughout the year. Photographic evidence available.
- 2) Arson, youths have been reported setting fire to trees on the walkway by the park. Also the bin on the play area has been set on fire on several occasions.
- 3) Further criminal damage to signage which have been ripped from the ground and was found next to the park. Also criminal damage to the benches that have recently been fitted.
- 4) Pornographic imagery in the form of drawings on the pathway leading to the park. Residents went out and cleaned this away due to its nature.
- 5) Theft, a sales sign was stolen from a property. Youths were then encountered with said sign over the park after been observed by residents hitting each other with it.
- 6) The park has become a meeting ground for large groups which causes harassment, alarm and distress to residents due to the screaming, swearing and behaviour of these youths. This constitutes a criminal offence under the public order act. The youths have also been on the park as late as 02.30 am, taking into consideration that family housing is only a few metres away from the park makes this completely unacceptable.
- 7) Public place violence, groups of youths have been reported fighting over the park.
- 8) Public place underage drinking, the park has become a meeting ground for youths drinking alcohol. Smashed alcohol bottles along with empty cider and vodka bottles and empty beer cans have all been found in and around the play area.
- 9) The park has also become a meeting ground for youths on scrambler and quad bikes, these have been observed by residents racing around the park area when young children and toddlers were using the park, again this matter was reported to police. Photographs of these offenders have been posted on the neighbourhood watch Facebook page.
- 10) A number of cars and mopeds have driven onto the park to deposit friends at the play area. Recently a moped has driven onto the park with no lights almost knocking over one of the residents and their daughter.
- 11) A car has been driven onto the park area and set on fire. Details have been provided to the police and council as yet this car has not been removed. Youths have since been spotted jumping up and down on the burnt out vehicle.

Other issues of note are as follows:

- 1) Numerous residents both of Dukes Park and the neighbouring estate will state that they were informed by sales representatives of Barratt homes that there would only be one or

two pieces of toddler only equipment. Most notably were told there would be "one or two springy chickens....." This was a lie.

- 2) Plans were not made readily available to residents. Therefore residents were not given an opportunity to make any lawful objections to the structure and its site, therefore leaving residents to question the legality of the process.
- 3) The park has equipment in it which has actively attracted youths gathering, swearing and acting in antisocial manner. Most notably a large bucket swing, residents have regularly reported to the police, large groups all on this piece of equipment screaming and swearing loudly. This piece of equipment has already been damaged and broken once, instead of replacing it with an actual piece of toddler equipment a new bucket swing was fitted in spite of residents making both Wolverhampton council and Barratt homes aware of the issues and its distressing effect on residents.
- 4) On liaising with residents on the neighbouring estate, we have been informed that a play area had to be removed from their estate due to antisocial behaviour. It is therefore baffling as to why a park was built on Dukes Park.
- 5) Residents have made numerous attempts and pleas with both Wolverhampton council and Barratt homes regarding the issue of the park and have received no assistance. Wolverhampton council's response has always been that it is unadopted land and not their responsibility. However, Barratt homes have stated that the park was built on Wolverhampton council's insistence and that planning permission approval depended on the park being built. If this is true then the council must take responsibility for the distress caused to residents.

The facts of the matter are simply the park has attracted criminality and antisocial behaviour which were not present prior to its construction.

The park is noted to be for toddlers however the simple fact is it is not used by toddlers as residents are too intimidated to take young children over there. It is controlled by youths, a group of whom commit criminal and antisocial acts which is evidenced through photographs and will be attested to by residents.

Residents have liaised with the local Neighbourhood Police who have now installed a dome hawk CCTV camera however this has not acted as a deterrent to the youths and a number of the incidents noted above have occurred since the camera was fitted. Unfortunately we have also been informed that the quality of picture from the dome hawk camera is poor therefore it has not assisted in identifying the people who are involved in the incidents. The police do not have sufficient resources to patrol the park constantly.

The only relief residents have is when the weather deters these groups from congregating.

Due to the above the 85 residents who have signed the attached petition demand the park is removed with immediate effect. There is, in our opinion no justification for the council to insist it remain after all the harassment it has caused.



# Petitions Committee

24 April 2015

<b>Report title</b>	Prosser Street cul-de-sac parking	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Bushbury South and Low Hill	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
<b>Originating service</b>	Transportation	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Gwyn James	Transportation Manager
	Tel	01902 555755
	Email	Gwyn.james@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	n/a	

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## Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note the outcome of the investigation into footway crossovers in Prosser Street.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To report to the Petitions Committee on any footway crossing applications recently permitted in Prosser Street, as requested by Petitions Committee on 30 January 2015.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Concerns have been raised regarding the lack of available on-street parking in Prosser Street at the cul-de-sac end of the road.
- 2.2 In October 2014, a 30 signature petition was submitted to Wolverhampton City Council regarding residents' concerns over difficulties in parking in the cul-de-sac end of Prosser Street, and the resulting damage to grass verges and obstruction of the footway.
- 2.3 At the meeting of Petitions Committee on 30 January 2015, residents commented that vehicle accesses from Prosser Street to the back of properties in Swinford Road were making the problem worse by reducing the amount of available parking in Prosser Street. Concern was expressed that the Council may have allowed footway crossovers ('drop kerbs') to be constructed despite the fact that these properties already have vehicle access at the front, in Swinford Road.
- 2.4 The Committee requested that officers should investigate this issue and report back.

## **3.0 Investigation**

- 3.1 The Council's records of footway crossover applications go back to January 2011. According to the records there have been no applications or permissions given in this time for any footway crossovers to the rear of properties in Swinford Road accessed from Prosser Street.
- 3.2 A site visit has been made to inspect the footway crossovers at this location. All the crossovers currently in place appear to have been installed many years ago given their mainly concrete construction.
- 3.3 The conclusion is that no approvals have been given for new vehicle crossovers in Prosser Street for many years.
- 3.4 The approach of the Council when considering applications for new footway crossovers is to balance the benefit of creating additional off-road parking against the potential loss of parking on the highway, particularly in situations where an applicant already has vehicle access and is applying for an additional crossover. If we were to receive any new applications for footway crossovers in Prosser Street they would be considered in this light.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. [CF/17042015/W]

**5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [EB/07042015/G]

**6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no specific equality implications associated with this report.

**7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 This report has no environmental implications.

**8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no human resources issues.

**9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

9.1 There are no corporate landlord issues.

**10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 Petitions Committee, 30 January 2015, Prosser Street cul-de-sac parking

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