



Petitions Committee

13 March 2015

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

Venue Committee Room 2 - 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
Address Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 2nd 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 - 8)
[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 outstanding petitions** (Pages 9 - 14)
[To review the outstanding petitions.]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 6 **Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town** (Pages 15 - 22)
[To support on-going discussions regarding improvements to the Heath Town estate and inclusion of the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street in the Heath Town Regeneration Project.]



Petitions Committee

Minutes - 30 January 2015

Attendance

Members of the Petitions Committee

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

Councillors in attendance

Cllr Steve Evans

Employees

Laura Gilyead
Gwyn James
Kathy Roper
Martyn Sargeant

Graduate Management Trainee
Service Manager Strategy
Head of Young Adults Commissioning
Head of Democratic Services

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
There were no apologies for absence.

- 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 12 December 2014 as a true record.

- 4 **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.

- 5 **Schedule of outstanding petitions**
Resolved:
 That the Street Trading in Piper's Row petition be closed.

- 6 **Revised Petitions Scheme**
Laura Gilyead, Graduate Management Trainee, explained that the Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme is available for all residents on the Council website and is sent out to all lead petitioners on receipt of a petition. She outlined changes made to simplify

the wording and structure of the scheme making it easier for residents to understand how to submit a petition and how the Council would deal with it.

Cllr Val Evans noted that Wolverhampton Homes had a petition committee and asked that the contact details be included in appendix one of the document.

Resolved:

To approve the revised Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme.

7 **Prosser Street cul-de-sac parking**

Lead petitioners, Mrs Vera Beddows and Mrs Audrey Yates explained that many problems had arisen where the curb had been dropped in the cul-de-sac to allow for garages and access to gardens. They explained that there were multiple cars per house in the cul-de-sac which made parking difficult. Residents had been advised to park at the end of Prosser Street but they explained this was not appropriate when it was dark as it was a long way to walk. It was explained that former garages in the cul-de-sac were fenced off to be replaced by bungalows. The lead petitioners explained that many cars had been parked on the grass verges under residents' windows.

Gwyn James, Transportation Manager, advised that employees had visited the site since receiving the petition and were aware of parking issues. He explained there was limited space in the cul-de-sac to provide extra parking and that three or four additional spaces could be provided but pipes and cables under the footpath would need to be altered to enable this. This would be expensive and was not included in the existing budget. He explained that this location would be put on a schedule of priority locations for future programmes.

The lead petitioner asked if residents can park in front of another resident's dropped kerb. The Transportation Manager explained that the Police could take action if a car is parked over another resident's dropped kerb.

The Transportation Manager explained that residents are encouraged to provide their own off-road parking however considerations should be made if a property had off-road parking at the front and was also given access at the back. He explained that he would make employees aware of this situation and would check if additional accesses had been approved. He noted that if access had not been granted to a property, the Council could take legal action.

Cllr Bolshaw asked the lead petitioners if additional parking would solve the issues raised. The lead petitioner commented that the problem would never be solved due to visitors and new building work but additional spaces would help.

Cllr Rowley suggested introducing a residents' permit scheme allowing each property one permit. The Transportation Manager explained that a consultation had taken place with a view to introducing a similar system in a different area however residents did not agree to the scheme as it would cost approximately £40 per year per permit to cover issuing costs.

Cllr Gakhal asked if the lead petitioners had any other solutions to the problem. The lead petitioners explained that there was a car park but this was too far away to park and walk.

Cllr Warren asked how many properties had off-street parking. It was reported that no properties in the cul-de-sac had off-road parking.

Cllr Warren asked how many schemes the Council had similar to this. The Transportation Manager commented that there were approximately 100 to 200 similar schemes on the schedule that had been reported. It was noted that before April 2014 there had been a budget for these issues of £40,000 however there was currently no budget.

Resolved:

1. That the consideration of a parking scheme within Prosser Street for inclusion in future works programmes be supported should funding for this type of facility be identified.
2. That a further report be submitted to the Petitions Committee after investigations into access to the back of properties in Prosser Street had been completed.

8 **The Future of Old Tree Nursery**

Lead petitioner, Nick Kelleher, explained that the main concern of the petition was the provision for workers' jobs. He commented that many of the workers at Old Tree Nursery (OTN) had been working there for 28 years. He explained that when he had requested the business plan for OTN, it had not been presented to him and that the results of the consultation had been ignored. He commented that the consultation results were restricted on the Council website. He explained that in previous few years, orders of new stock had not been made and so the nursery had been losing customers.

Workers from OTN, Joe, David and Junior, explained that their work at the nursery meant a lot to them. They enjoyed their work and had transformed the site.

The lead petitioner explained that Joe had been on a placement with Street Scene however this had not resulted in a job. He noted that many of the workers had not yet been given the opportunity to trial a new placement.

Cllr Steve Evans and Kathy Roper, Commissioning Team Manager, presented the report in response to the petition.

Cllr Steve Evans thanked the workers for attending and speaking about their concerns. He commented that he had visited OTN to meet the staff and explain that the need for change was due to funding cuts. He explained that OTN makes £15,000 per year however running costs are approximately £275,000. Previously, a grant had been received from government for £79,500 but this had ceased. Cllr Steve Evans was keen to remind petitioners that the original proposal was to close OTN in October 2014 but this had not happened and the Council was looking to avoid closure in the future. He noted that he had received letters from members of staff at OTN outlining other possible outcomes. These had been taken into consideration along with the responses to the consultation.

The Commissioning Team Manager explained that two workers had undertaken work placements with Street Scene and three jobs had, so far, been identified with learning disability provision. She explained that one to one discussions had taken place with each of the workers about their futures.

Cllr Steve Evans explained that the Council had a legal duty to deliver a balanced budget. Grants to the Council had been dramatically reduced. By 2018, the Council would have lost 52% of its funding and so could not continue to work the same as in previous years. He commented that it would have been easier for the Council to close OTN but employees had worked tirelessly to look for alternative solutions.

The Commissioning Team Manager explained a market warming exercise had been initiated to investigate potential possibilities. She explained that OTN was not a service and so the Council had not been looking for an organisation to replicate the current workings but had been looking for other potential uses of the site. Heantun Housing Association/The Accord Group (Heantun/Accord) presented the best options as they proposed to use the site and promote workers with learning difficulties as part of their broader business. Permission had been granted by Cabinet to carry out further discussions with Heantun/Accord.

The Commissioning Team Manager explained that the report to Cabinet on the outcome of consultation on the future of OTN was currently exempt as advised by Legal Services. She commented that publicising the report would be investigated.

The lead petitioner commented that one of the workers had been on a placement as a handy person but had been advised by his line manager at OTN to keep going even though a position would not be made available.

Cllr Steve Evans noted that jobs had been offered as a result of placements and he would not advise a worker to take up a placement if there would be no vacancy at the end. He explained that as part of on-going discussions, interested parties had been asked to consider taking on the remainder of workers.

The lead petitioner expressed concern as section 5.1 of the report suggested that the remaining workforce would be transferred to new management. The Commissioning Team Manager explained that discussions with potential new management would be for like for like jobs. This would be included in their business cases.

The lead petitioner commented that OTN workers currently represent 5-10% of the Council's learning difficulties workforce. He also asked about the future of OTN's support worker. The Commissioning Team Manager explained that they were looking to move the support worker to broader learning disabilities services.

OTN worker, Joe, asked about the future of OTN. Cllr Steve Evans acknowledged the stress and worry this proposal has caused to staff at OTN. He explained that the Council could not give any definite answers at the time as no agreements had been signed and discussions were on-going however these would be directed towards keeping the nursery open and providing alternatives. The Commissioning Team Manager explained that employees would be meeting with Heantun/Accord in two weeks to hear their business case. This would include exactly what would happen to

the site and the workforce. She explained that plans would be clearer at the end of February 2015. She noted that, with advice from HR, the Council would be able to advise how the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 ("TUPE") would apply. The lead petitioner asked about the situation if not all staff at OTN are kept on under TUPE. Cllr Steve Evans commented that not all trials are successful but the Council would continue to find alternatives for all of the workers.

Cllr Bolshaw asked if all of OTN employees had learning disabilities. It was explained that nine employees had learning disabilities and one had a physical disability. There were two managers who did not have learning disabilities.

Cllr Rowley commented that from the evidence given, the Council was looking for the best possible outcome for all parties involved. She noted that the Council was a listening Council, pursuing moral obligations but also working within the law.

Resolved:

That the proposal to proceed with further discussion with Heantun Housing Association/The Accord Group in relation to their expression of interest for Old Tree Nursery be supported.

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Schedule of Petitions

Agenda Item No: **5**

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
15 July 2013	Prohibit Parking of Caravans and Large Vans on Broome Road and Hawksford Crescent		121-13
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Education and Enterprise	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Councillors Bilson, Findlay, O'Neill and Sweet	Andy Jervis, 01902 551261
Action Taken/Outcomes			
<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>			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
25 October 2012	Blockage of Turning Circle at Dunkley Street		107-12
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Education and Enterprise	St Peter's	Councillors Bilson, NA Patten, Lawrence, Shah, T Singh	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Action Taken/Outcomes			
<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 Reynolds, O'Neill, Bilson 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				
<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 undertaking of identified actions to mitigate the impact of the expansion on Manor Primary School and the local community.</p> <p>An update report will be presented once work has progressed in July 2015.</p>				

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				
<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 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.</p> <p>An update report will be presented on 24 April 2015.</p>				

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 Whitehouse	Denise Eccleston, 01902 550301	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
<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 Ettingshall Road at Foster Avenue.</p> <p>An update report will be presented after the annual priority level assessments have taken place.</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	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
<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	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>A report will be presented on 13 March 2015.</p>				

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

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

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
3 February 2015	Woodcross Park Extension of Railings			141-15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Place	Spring Vale	Councillors Mattu, Gwinnett, Heap and Whitehouse	Steve Woodward, 01902 554260	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
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

13 March 2015

Report title	Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
Wards affected	Heath Town	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
Originating service	Housing	
Accountable employee(s)	Jane Trethewey	Section Leader – Housing Development Tel 01902 555583 Email Jane.trethewey@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Sangita Kular	Housing Strategy & Development Officer Tel 01902 553362 Email Sangita.kular@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	n/a	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Support on-going discussions regarding improvements to the existing Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Heath Town Estate.
2. Support the inclusion of the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street for re-development in support of the Heath Town Regeneration Project, subject to the outcome of site surveys and further consultation.

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The proposed work planned to upgrade the MUGA by working with residents.
2. That further consultation with residents on play facilities for the estate will take place.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the issues raised in the petition against the re-development of open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, for new housing as part of the Heath Town regeneration proposals, to support the financial viability of that project.
- 1.2 The petition states that this field is used by Heath Town Football Club for training sessions during the summer. Petitioners would like to see this area retained and upgraded for sporting activities to be used by local young people.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The petition states that local residents do not wish to see this open ground developed for housing and would like it to remain for use by community and youth groups for football and other sporting activities. As part of the Heath Town regeneration project, consideration is being given to upgrade the existing MUGA situated on the Heath Town Estate for use by Heath Town Football Club, and by existing and new residents. The upgrade and improvements are expected to be delivered through the section 106 developer contributions. The potential for funding from Sport England to support this upgrade is also being explored.
- 2.2 The Heath Town Masterplan has been developed and consulted on over an 18 month period with several revisions taking place along the way through resident feedback and comments from employees on the Heath Town Project Team. Following initial soundings with the Heath Town Tenant and Resident Association (TRA), and a written consultation with properties neighbouring the site, the open ground at the rear of Inkerman Street was considered for inclusion in the overall masterplan boundary, to support the financial viability of the Heath Town regeneration project. This forms part of the report to Cabinet on 11 March 2015, with a recommendation to include this site in the development proposals.
- 2.3 The latest update of the overall Heath Town regeneration scheme includes a number of additional sites that have been brought in to the scheme. This is on the basis that there is a need to increase the overall quantity of development land for the Heath Town regeneration to support the financial viability of the project. These sites, including the open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, have previously been declared surplus for individual disposal. However by consolidating these sites, there is an opportunity to kick start the project and progress development on some of the cleared sites.
- 2.4 Initial consultation with the Heath Town TRA and immediate neighbours of the site did not reveal objections to this site being re-developed. On this basis, this area was included as part of the regeneration proposals to support the viability of the overall project.
- 2.5 A number of site surveys have been commissioned across the proposed development area including the open ground rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street. The results of these surveys will influence the final decision on what can be delivered on this and others sites.

The proposals across the estate will be reviewed once more detail is available on ground conditions. Survey results are expected in eight to ten weeks.

- 2.6 The site was initially identified as it was not used well, as evidenced by its current condition and resident concerns about fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. Subsequent discussions with the Police Secure By Design Officer support these concerns about the site location and lack of natural surveillance. It was during the last consultation exercise held on 4 December 2014 that it was brought to the Heath Town Project Team's attention that the area was in fact being used by a local football team and a petition was formally lodged to the Council later that month.
- 2.7 Although it is not marked out for any specific sport at present, the Council has been advised that currently the open ground is used in good weather by Heath Town Football Club which runs two teams led by a volunteer. There is an under 8's (9 players) and under 17's (20 players) team. There is an ambition of the club to start recruiting for an under 12's and under 14's team which they hope to do in the near future.
- 2.8 The club believes there is an established and growing community use for this facility for which they have identified no local alternative readily available. Some local residents see this as a positive contribution for the local community that helps to prevent anti-social behaviour and combat local youth gang culture.

3.0 Details of the petition

- 3.1 In December 2014, a 315 signature petition was submitted to Wolverhampton City Council by a member of the Heath Town TRA. The petition is against the re-development of this area and proposes that the open ground is retained for use by local youth for sporting activities.
- 3.2 The open ground is not marked out for any specific sport, is currently unlit and is undrained, causing it to be water-logged in wet weather, particularly in the winter months. The area would require further investigation before it is upgraded to establish if it is suitable for sporting activity. Depending on the results of any investigatory works, work to remediate and upgrade the ground may require significant funds.
- 3.3 There is an existing MUGA on the Heath Town estate which is laid out for basketball, tennis and football. Historically the football club had organised training sessions on this games area but ceased to do so as they experienced a number of injuries to younger children on the existing hard surface. The football club organisers initially proposed that an investment in the MUGA to improve the surface might provide a compromise solution allowing them to make better use of it as an alternative to use of the grassed site.
- 3.4 As part of the Heath Town Regeneration Project, the upgrade of the MUGA is being considered together with consolidating existing play provision into one area and installing a new Green Gym facility. Recent resident consultation has been very positive regarding the option of bringing together different outdoor play and fitness equipment into one main area which can be managed and maintained more effectively. Residents living in the

immediate vicinity of the existing MUGA will be consulted further on the option of improving this facility and adding further play and exercise equipment in this area. More targeted consultation with MUGA users will also be organised to establish that this facility meets the needs of the existing community and if not, how it can be improved.

- 3.5 Recent meetings with colleagues from Parks and Communities have looked at a range of options to upgrade the existing MUGA surface. Discussions have also taken place to look at examples of new play areas for small children and outdoor green gym equipment which have been installed in areas across Wolverhampton. Employees will work closely with the Heath Town TRA and residents of the wider Heath Town estate to ensure that any new equipment that is installed meets estate requirements.
- 3.6 In order to progress this element of the project, employees will meet to discuss specifications and commission detailed drawings to see what facilities can be accommodated in the space surrounding the existing MUGA. Once a design specification has been drafted, this will then be used to consult residents.
- 3.7 Employees attended the Heath Town TRA meeting on 19 February 2015 along with the petition organiser, to update members on information that had been received so far from meetings with Parks and Communities colleagues. Issues raised by the petition were discussed. There is concern about the planned proposals for the green space area and further consideration is required to progress this element of the project. Whilst members expressed a desire to support positive estate regeneration proposals, the TRA voted to retain this open ground for local use.
- 3.8 The Heath Town TRA were also concerned with over development in the current proposals. Officers explained that the current regeneration proposal still has potential for minor amendment before it is finally fixed for procurement, given that survey work is still in progress, and consultation will continue up to this point. There are also potentially areas where currently proposed housing may be taken out of the plans, due to site level issues, and the unresolved issues around the MUGA where additional play equipment is being considered.
- 3.9 Further work is required to review alternative options for improving sports, fitness and play provision on the estate. Employees will be consulting with residents to further test opinion around the best use of this open ground, taking into account all the resident concerns outlined above, as well as the overall financial viability of the Heath Town regeneration proposals.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.2 Costs for the surface upgrade of the existing MUGA surface have not been finalised. A specification and design for the addition of a small play area and green gym will also need to be confirmed once consultation has taken place and this has been agreed with residents. It is expected that this work will form part of the section 106 agreement with the developer delivering new housing across the estate.

4.3 The existing MUGA is managed and maintained by Wolverhampton Homes. Discussions will need to take place regarding the additional revenue resources that will be required for any new equipment that is proposed for installation. Opportunities to secure funds from a development partner for use in covering revenue costs for maintenance of the MUGA will be explored. [CF/27022015/L]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are potential health and safety issues that may arise if the equipment is not maintained to a sufficient standard. An arrangement will be put in place whereby regular checks are taking place to ensure safety of the equipment. [RB/02032015/K]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 An equalities analysis has been developed for the Heath Town Regeneration Project. This will be updated as the project progresses through the different phases of the scheme. It is anticipated that any upgrade to the MUGA is likely to be delivered in Phase two or three of the project. Resident consultation will assess local needs and how these can be accommodated within the refurbishment of this area.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 It is anticipated that the upgrading of the MUGA will attract more users to this area of the estate and this will require better management of the equipment and potentially look at restricting opening times to reduce disruption to neighbouring residents.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 This work will be managed within existing departments and teams.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 The open ground at the rear of Inkerman Street has been included in the re-development proposals for the Heath Town Project. If this does not go ahead and the site is excluded, this will have implications on the capital receipt for the Housing Revenue Account.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

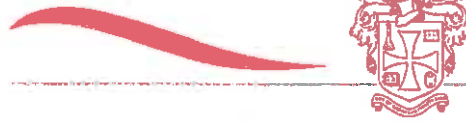
10.1 Heath Town Regeneration – 26 March 2014, 11 March 2015 – Cabinet

Seeking authority to declare property surplus to requirements and approval of the disposal strategies – 9 September 2014 – Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Seeking approval to progress the disposal programme including the approach to public open space – 9 December 2014 – Cabinet (Resources) Panel

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Wolverhampton
City Council



DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT

09 DEC 2014

WOLVERHAMPTON

PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only)
PUBLIC PETITION NO.

138-14

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.**

1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER Fortune Sibanda
2. PETITION TITLE OPEN GROUND REAR OF 36-62 INKERMAN STREET, HEATH TOWN
3. PETITION TEXT We, the undersigned, call on Wolverhampton City Council to commission work to secure the open space to the rear of Nos. 36 to 62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town, for the purpose for use by community and youth groups for football and other sporting activities, by means of some form of fencing or gating, marking out of pitches, installation of goal posts and lighting, as part of the regeneration of the wider area, and to reject any proposal which would turn the site over for development as housing.
4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION Heath Town regeneration is currently in the consultation process.
5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground currently being used by The Heath Town Football Club (Heath Town FC);• Heath Town FC have 2 teams under 8'S(9 players) & under 17'S (20 players). Next year they hope to have an under 12's team (not yet started to recruit) and under 14's team (13 players);• The teams use the field on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for their practice session, weather permitting;

- Heath Town FC is managed by a volunteer who played in the second tier of the Ghanaian Football league he is a qualified to level 2 of Youth Module
- Four additional volunteers currently working with Heath Town FC will qualify with an FA level One Coaching Badge in January 2015
- There is therefore an established and growing community use for the facility, for which there is no local alternative readily available. This is a positive contribution to the local community that helps to prevent anti-social behaviour, to combat local youth gang culture.
- This is a valuable community asset in an area of high regeneration need, which should be preserved and improved.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	Fortune Sibanda
Address	107 Inkerman Street Heath Town, WV10 0ER
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile:
E-mail address	
No. of petition signatures	- 315
STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE: 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	
SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER: 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 22/11/2014.....	
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	