

Petitions Committee

6 November 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 Greg Brackenridge (Lab)

Vice-chair Cllr Val Evans (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal

Cllr Judith Rowley

Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Arun Photay

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:

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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 - 10)
[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 11 - 16)
[To review the outstanding petitions.]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 6 **Stanley Road, Bushbury - Parking Issues** (Pages 17 - 28)
[To endorse the proposed action and note the actions taken since receipt of the petition.]
- 7 **Wobaston Road Corridor Improvements - Safety Barrier Request** (Pages 29 - 34)
[To note the action taken and endorse the proposal.]
- 8 **Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town** (Pages 35 - 42)
[To note the actions taken and support the on-going discussions.]
- 9 **Petition seeking the removal of the children's play equipment at Duke's Park**
(Pages 43 - 56)
[To note the actions taken and agree the recommendation.]

Petitions Committee

Minutes - 11 September 2015

Attendance

Members of the Petitions Committee

Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Chair)
Cllr Val Evans (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Arun Photay
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Daniel Warren

Councillors in attendance

Cllr Stephen Simkins

Employees

Nick Broomhall
Andrew Bryant
Alison Dennett
Laura Gilyead
Ian Holliday
Karen Samuels

Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety
Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Interim Democratic Support Manager
Graduate Management Trainee
Section Leader, Planning
Head of Community Safety

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Gakhal.
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
Cllr Warren expressed a non-pecuniary interest in the Pedestrian Crossing on Rushall Road petition as he had signed the petition.
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting**
Cllrs Rowley and Photay indicated that their apologies for the meeting on 26 June 2015 had not been noted.

Resolved:
 1. That the apologies of Cllrs Rowley and Photay be included in the minutes.
 2. That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2015 be approved as a true record.
- 4 **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 5 **Schedule of petitions**
Resolved:

That the Woodcross Park Extension of Railings petition be closed.

6 **Curzon Street, Blakenhall - parking issues**

Mr Singh, lead petitioner, explained that the petition was submitted as the residents were experiencing parking problems in Curzon Street. He noted that the road was very crowded and there were no parking spaces available for households because of shops at the end of the road.

Nick Broomhall, Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, presented the report. He explained that the petition expressed difficulty of residents to park outside their houses because of Blakenhall Shopping Centre, Pure Gym Fitness Centre and a dental surgery located at the corner of Curzon Street and Dudley Road. He explained that, in 2012, 19 streets in Wolverhampton were consulted about resident parking schemes. It was agreed at Cabinet (Resources) Panel that these would need to be cost neutral and so an annual permit would cost residents £40. It was agreed that, after a full consultation process, a minimum of 60% of the residents of the streets directly affected should have responded with 85% of those being in favour of the scheme. The Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, reported that none of the streets consulted met the criteria agreed. Because of the costs implications, it was resolved that no one street alone could implement a residents parking scheme and that no further consultation should take place. The Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, noted that Council employees have recorded that the car park at Pure Gym is well used however the Shopping Centre car park is not well used. It was proposed that shoppers and visitors to the Blakenhall Shopping Centre should be encouraged to use the car park and so more signage to the park should be implemented at the site.

Cllr Rowley explained that parking issues in Blakenhall had been brought to the Council's attention many times in the past. She explained that when the houses and roads were first designed, there were fewer cars on the roads. She noted that the Council did not want to pave over green spaces as they were vibrantly used. She noted that she had been aware of someone with disability in Goldthorn Park who had a white line painted on the highway in front of their house to reserve a parking space and asked if this was something that could be accommodated.

The Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, explained that this was possible for residents who were blue badge holders and met certain criteria. He noted that this would provide an on street disabled bay which could be used by any blue badge holder. He explained that there was a cost implication for the blue badge holder.

Resolved:

That a review of signage to the shoppers' car parks in the Blakenhall area be endorsed.

7 **Malins Road, Parkfield - parking issues**

Mr Mehmi, lead petitioner, explained that Malins Road was a very narrow cul-de-sac and that residents believed that non-residents should not use the road. He noted that parking should have been included in the original plans of St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy so that it did not interfere with residents. He explained that residents were told that Malins Road would have been a temporary entrance to the school and that access in the future would be to the rear of the school. He informed

the committee that he had been advised that the value of properties in the road had been reduced by a minimum of 10%. He explained that there was no signage to the school at the end of the road. He noted that emergency vehicles could not gain access to buildings in the road if necessary. He explained that there was unused ground to the rear of the school which could be converted to a car park. He noted that staff at the school park in the road as there was insufficient parking spaces on the school's site. He explained that parking restrictions in the road would only move the issues into the surrounding roads which would make crossing for pedestrians difficult and dangerous. The petitioner explained that cars parked in Malins Road meant that cars drive slowly reducing potential accidents.

Nick Broomhall, Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, presented the report. He explained that he would only be able to answer questions relating to Transportation but had consulted with colleagues in Education in drawing together the report. He explained that the school had become an academy and so decisions regarding the school were out of the Council's control. He noted that the proposal to close the school would not be welcomed as there were limited school places in the City. He explained that the suggested revised access to the rear of St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy would be through the playground of the former Parkfield High School site, which has recently been leased to a newly established Free School, and so would not be welcomed.

The petitioner noted that residents had been told that access through Malins Road would not be permanent and asked what alternative plans had been discussed.

The Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, noted that he was not able to give advice on this matter but noted that St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy had been open for a long time.

The petitioner noted that there were a lot of vulnerable people living in Malins Road who receive abuse from parents parking in the road. He explained that there was unused Council space available to the rear of the school which would be a simple solution to the problem. He understood that there would be cost implications to the proposal but noted that this would be a one-off cost.

The Chair explained that land to the rear of the school had been leased. He noted that the cost to transform the area to a car park would be a significant amount.

Cllr Rowley noted that this was a road safety issue. She explained that the head teacher at St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy was also concerned. She noted that when the school was built, access would have been deemed suitable as there were fewer cars taking children to school.

Cllr Warren noted that some form of parking restrictions were needed and that the Council and Police should take action in stopping people parking there.

The petitioner noted that problems occurred at the beginning and end of school day. Parking restrictions are not required during the day, overnight, at weekends and during school holidays.

The Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, noted that proposed restrictions of single yellow lines would be in force during school travel times (8:00-9:30am and 2:30-4:30pm). He explained that it may be possible to restrict these to either term time only or to exclude bank holidays.

Cllr Photay asked if property prices are anticipated to be affected by parking restrictions.

The Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, explained that the effect of parking restrictions on house prices is subjective as some buyers would welcome restrictions whereas others would not. He noted that all properties in Malins Road have off-street parking.

Cllr Rowley suggested that St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy be encouraged to emphasise 'walk to school' and 'park and walk' campaigns.

Resolved:

1. That St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy be encouraged to emphasise 'walk to school' campaigns.
2. That the proposed action to proceed to formal advertising of parking restrictions in Malins Road be endorsed.
3. That the feasibility of the restricting the proposed parking restrictions to term time only or excluding Bank Holidays, be investigated.
4. That the proposed parking restrictions be enforced as a priority.
5. That the proposed action to review the access arrangements for St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy if and when the former Parkfield High School site becomes available for disposal.
6. That a further report be presented to the Petitions Committee in six months' time.

8 **Composite update report of various petitions**

Andrew Bryant, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team Leader, presented the update on the Prohibit Parking of Caravans and Large Vans on Broome Road and Hawksford Crescent petition and reported that the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was in place. He noted that the ASB team, Environmental Health and Police were working together to enforce the PSPO.

Mrs Kenny, lead petitioner, thanked all of the agencies for the work they have done to put the PSPO in place.

Laura Gilyead, Graduate Management Trainee, presented the updates on the Opposing Increase in Standard Number at Manor Primary School petition and the Lollipop Person on Ettingshall Road petition. The Committee noted the action taken regarding these petitions.

Nick Broomhall, Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety, presented the update on the Pedestrian Crossing on Rushall Road petition. He noted that the results of the traffic and pedestrian surveys have fallen significantly short (by a factor of ten) of the Department for Transport's requirements to install a zebra or puffin crossing. He explained that the Council would investigate other options to assist residents in crossing Rushall Road.

Mrs Redmond, lead petitioner, explained that vans parked on the road block the view of pedestrians.

Cllr Warren explained that this had been a long running issue. He expressed his gratitude to the Transportation team for their work in the area.

Resolved:

That the actions taken regarding the following petitions be noted and any proposals be endorsed.

- Prohibit Parking of Caravans and Large Vans on Broome Road and Hawksford Crescent petition
- Opposing Increase in Standard Number at Manor Primary School petition
- Lollipop Person on Ettingshall Road petition
- Pedestrian Crossing on Rushall Road petition

9 **Petition for Removal of Park from Dukes Park Estate - Progress Update**

Cllr Simkins explained that this petition arose due to issues at the park on Dukes Park Estate because of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Karen Samuels, Head of Community Safety, presented the update report. She explained that six young people had been identified as causing issues on the estate and had been issued with warnings. She explained that the Council had been working with the Police and other local partners to divert young people to other activities taking place over the summer period and respond to issues on the site, though this continued level of resource input was not sustainable over the medium term. She noted that the wider area (which includes the play area) was under Barratt Homes ownership and so any resolutions would need to be implemented through liaison with Barratt Homes.

Mr Williams, lead petitioner, explained that the play equipment was put in place without consultation with residents. He explained that after contacting Barratt Homes, he was informed that there would be 'springy chickens' not play equipment. He explained that the Council had told residents and police that this was not Council property so the Council could not deal with the issues. He identified that the majority of residents wanted the park to be removed. He noted that as it was not a physical activity park, it would not affect childhood obesity. He indicated that an open space would be more beneficial to reducing childhood obesity as they could run around. The petitioner noted that the Police had logged a further ten incidents at the park since April 2015. He also noted that since the last meeting of the Petitions Committee, the play area's flooring had been ripped up and thrown around by youths. He explained that families on the estate have young children and do not want the park particularly as it is on a mound and so noise can be heard from resident's bedrooms.

The Head of Community Safety explained that she had contacted the lead petitioner to discuss his request for a historic review looking into who had provided him with false information; however, as this fell significantly outside of the scope of the petition, she advised him to pursue through the Council's formal complaints process and provided details of how this could be progressed.

Cllr Rowley explained that planning files were public documents. She enquired as to clarity of the plans presented to the Planning Committee and requested that Planning Officers report to the Petitions Committee on the case.

Mr Coles, a representative from Barratt Homes, explained that the park specification detail would have been provided under a discharge condition. He agreed to look back over sales reservation sheets to clarify what information was provided to residents about the park's construction.

Cllr Rowley requested to see the original set of plans for the site.

The petitioner explained that residents had been told that no plans were available when they had bought their house and were then told that it was not known what equipment would be put in place. They explained that they had been told that plans would be sent through post to residents.

Cllr Warren noted that there was a clear indication that residents want complete removal of the park. He noted that the Committee would need to look at planning issues before making any further decisions. He also requested to see crime statistics for the area.

Cllr Photay expressed a need to not spend too long in making any decisions.

The Chair explained that the Committee want to deal with this matter as soon as possible but in full view of all information on the issue.

The petitioner noted that there were criminal offences taking place in the area not just ASB.

Ian Holliday, Section Leader, Planning, explained that permission was given to Barratt Homes, at the site, several years ago and so was not available at the time of the Petitions Committee meeting but could be presented for a further report. He indicated that he was unaware whether finer detail of the plans had been submitted from Barratt Homes. He noted that it would not be usual practice for the Planning Committee to consider the detail of play equipment.

Cllr Simkins noted that Planning Committee protocols should be scrutinised as the finer detail should be agreed.

Cllr Rowley confirmed that Planning Committee would not normally consider the detail of play equipment. However, she considered that something had gone wrong in Planning and requested that the matter be deferred until a full investigation had been undertaken.

The petitioner explained that a bench on the raised ground looked into her children's bedroom window. She explained that upon consultation with a youth worker, they were shocked that park was raised so high. She noted that offenders are able to see the Police approaching the park and could get away easily.

Resolved:

1. That the decisions be deferred until an investigation of the planning processes has taken place.
2. That a report be presented at the next meeting of the Petitions Committee.

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Schedule of Petitions

Agenda Item No: **5**

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, Lawrence, Moran, 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 meeting on 15 February 2013.</p> <p>The Committee supported the actions proposed to provide a No Waiting at Any Time 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>12.12.13 Meeting with refuse collection vehicle to be undertaken early January.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An update report will be presented on 8 January 2016.</p>			

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 Samuels, Bilson, O'Neill and Sweet	Jo Mason, 01902 552950
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 meeting 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>			

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.

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.

12.12.14 The Committee was informed about a Public Space Protection Order which will be put in place on Broome Road.

11.09.15 The Committee noted the actions that had been undertaken to put a Public Space Protection Order in place in the area.

It is recommended that this petition be closed.

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				
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>The lead petitioner attended the meeting on 24 October 2014.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An update report will be presented on 6 November 2015.</p>				

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 Darke, Gwinnett, Kaur 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</p>				

expansion on Manor Primary School and the local community.

11.09.15 The Committee noted actions taken since the previous meeting.

It is recommended that this petition be closed.

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>The lead petitioner attended the meeting on 12 December 2014</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>11.09.15 The Committee noted actions taken since the previous meeting to survey the road again.</p> <p>It is recommended that this petition be closed.</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, Kaur 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>11.09.15 The Committee noted actions taken since the previous meeting.</p> <p>It is recommended that this petition be closed.</p>				

Date Petition	Issue Raised	Petition
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received				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>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 on 6 November 2015.</p>				

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 Bilson, Samuels, Gibson, Simkins and Turner	Karen Samuels, 01902 551341 Stephen Alexander, 01902 555610	
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 meeting on 24 April 2015.</p> <p>24.04.15 The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and asked that test purchasing be carried out at the local off-licences. They asked that the park be cleaned including removal of graffiti and a plan be developed for a multi-agency working group with residents.</p> <p>11.09.15 The Committee received a report on the actions taken since the previous meeting and deferred the matter until an investigation of the planning processes had taken place.</p> <p>An update report will be presented on 6 November 2015.</p>				

Date Petition received	Issue Raised			Petition No.
27 March 2015	Fair Stall Rents 2015			143-15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer	
Place	n/a	Councillor Reynolds	Chris Huddart, 01902 556788	
Action Taken/Outcomes				
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary</p>				

investigations.

The lead petitioner has requested that this petition be put on hold.

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
31 March 2015	Curzon Street Parking Issues		144-15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Place	Blakenhall	Councillors Bilson, John Rowley, Judith Rowley and Bagri	Nick Broomhall, 01902 555723
Action Taken/Outcomes			
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>11.09.15 The committee endorsed a review of signage to the shoppers' car parks in the Blakenhall area.</p> <p>It is recommended that this petition be closed.</p>			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
31 March 2015	Parking restrictions relating to Malins Road and Greenly Road		145-15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Place	Blakenhall	Councillors Bilson, John Rowley, Judith Rowley and Bagri	Nick Broomhall, 01902 555723
Action Taken/Outcomes			
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.</p> <p>11.09.15 The Committee endorsed the proposed action to proceed to formal advertising of parking restrictions in Malins Road. They supported the restrictions to term time only and enforcement of the restrictions as a priority case by the Police. The Committee encouraged the emphasis of 'walk to school' campaigns at St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy and supported the proposed action to review the access arrangements for St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy if and when the former Parkfield High School site becomes available for disposal.</p> <p>A report will be presented on 8 April 2016.</p>			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
16 June 2015	Removal of Gym and Benches on Lincoln Green Island		146-15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Place	Bushbury North	Councillors Bilson, Angus, Warren and Dehar	Dave Millington, 01902 556104
Action Taken/Outcomes			
<p>The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary</p>			

investigations.

A report will be presented on 8 January 2016.

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
25 June 2015	Parking in Stanley Road Bushbury		147-15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Place	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Councillors Bilson, O'Neill and Sweet	Nick Broomhall, 01902 555723
Action Taken/Outcomes			
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.			
A report will be presented on 6 November 2015.			

Petitions Committee

6 November 2015

Report title	Stanley Road, Bushbury – Parking Issues	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson, City Assets	
Wards affected	Bushbury South and Low Hill	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee(s)	Nick Broomhall	Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety 01902 555753
	Tel	
	Email	Nick.Broomhall@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to

1. Endorse the proposed action to proceed to formal advertising of parking restrictions and amended parking arrangements in Stanley Road.

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 concerns regarding parking and access issues in Stanley Road, Bushbury, in relation to Heantun Group Children's Resource Centre and Children's Nursery, as detailed below.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Planning approval was granted for change of use from 'residential' to 'community facility' pertaining to the property numbers 86 to 90 Stanley Road in April 2004. Planning approval for the construction of a children's nursery on land adjacent to 86 Stanley Road was granted in February 2003.
- 2.2 The Children's Centre and Nursery have a provision of six off-street parking spaces. There are also six on-street parking bays marked out longitudinally around the turning area and two drop off spaces in front of the Nursery.
- 2.3 In September 2014, "No Waiting at Any Time" restrictions were implemented around the junction of Stanley Road and Bushbury Lane. The proposals were developed as a result of concerns raised by local residents regarding visibility when exiting Stanley Road onto Bushbury Lane, due to vehicles being parked in the immediate vicinity of the junction.
- 2.4 The restrictions were subject to a statutory 21 day consultation process involving distribution of information to residents in Stanley Road, display of notices on-street and advertisement in local press. No formal objections were received during the consultation process.
- 2.5 All properties in Stanley Road are owned and under the control of the Heantun, which falls within the Accord Group umbrella.

3.0 Details of the petition

- 3.1 The key points of the petition are:
- The residents request that the "businesses" operating from Stanley Road provide proper and safe parking for their patrons and staff.
 - That parking takes place on both sides of the road and on the central hatched tapered area adjacent to the roundabout causing obstruction.
 - Vehicles are parked half on the footway causing obstruction to pedestrians.
 - Drivers conduct u-turns in the road which is considered dangerous.
- 3.2 Following receipt of the petition, employees from the Council's road safety team have investigated the key points raised and their findings/actions are reported as follows.
- 3.3 The Director for People at Heantun Group wrote to the lead petitioner in May 2015 regarding the residents' concerns. The letter detailed changes that were taking place at the Children's Resource Centre that would result in a reduced number of vehicles parking

in Stanley Road but at the same time acknowledged that the parking demands related to the Children's Nursery were high at particular times of day. The Director committed to communicating the need to park considerately to all parents and staff and to take action against anyone not adhering to this philosophy. The letter also offered the lead petitioner and other residents of Stanley Road to meet up with representatives from Heantun to discuss the issues further and identify possible solutions. This offer has not been taken up at this point in time.

- 3.4 The road safety team have contacted Enterprise Waste Services (EWS) regarding access to Stanley Road for refuse collection vehicles. EWS have confirmed that their operatives have not raised any concerns regarding access to the cul-de-sac on refuse collection days.
- 3.5 On-street parking for five vehicles is provided around the turning area in the form of longitudinal parking bays. The parking bays are currently unrestricted and available to the general public. On site observations show that there is clearly a significant parking demand associated with the Children's Resource Centre and Nursery and that this demand cannot be accommodated fully by the off street parking provision of the facilities.
- 3.6 Vehicle parking on the footway is commonplace in Wolverhampton and in built up areas across the United Kingdom. If vehicles are parking in such a manner as to prevent pedestrians progressing along the footway, this is a matter for the police who can enforce this as obstruction of the highway under the Highway Act 1980.
- 3.7 The tapered central hatched area is a road marking designed in accordance with Department for Transport guidance and has the functions of separating the two opposing traffic flows and warning drivers of the turning area ahead. The outer line is formed of a broken line in recognition that vehicles may have to travel within the hatched area to pass parked vehicles. This is the most appropriate road marking for this area; however the West Midlands Police can enforce against drivers parking in this area if they are deemed to be causing an obstruction of the highway under the Highways Act 1980.
- 3.8 It is common practice that vehicles are parked in a perpendicular fashion around the turning area at the end of Stanley Road, contrary to the marked out, longitudinal bays.
- 3.9 The road safety team have analysed the turning area and parking arrangements using vehicle tracking software. The findings of these investigations are that the informal perpendicular parking of vehicles around the turning area in itself does not cause an obstruction due to the width of the carriageway. However, when other vehicles are parked longitudinally on-street on the north side of the turning area, where the carriageway is narrower, there is potential for this informal parking arrangement to contribute to larger vehicles being unable to manoeuvre successfully around the turning area.
- 3.10 All residential properties in Stanley Road are owned by Heantun Group and have access to off-street parking, in the form of a driveway or rear parking court.

- 3.11 Whilst the perpendicular informal parking is technically not in accordance with the on-street markings, it would appear to maximise the available on-street parking in this area.
- 3.12 The Children's Resource Centre and Nursery were granted planning approval with a modest level of off-street parking provision, which has proved to be insufficient to accommodate all of the parking demands of the community uses. Provision of additional off-street parking for the uses would be a matter for the Heantun Group to consider.
- 3.13 The road safety team suggest developing proposals to formalise perpendicular parking arrangements around the turning area on Stanley Road and advertise "No Waiting at Any Time" parking restrictions on the north side of the turning area, as shown on the appended plan, to ensure larger vehicles can manoeuvre effectively around the turning area.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications to this report. Any provision of future Traffic Regulation Orders would be met from existing transportation budgets subject to Cabinet approval. [TT/27102015/C]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The Council, as a local traffic authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004, has general duties to manage the road network, otherwise there are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [RB/26102015/T]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 This report has no equalities implications. The proposed parking scheme and Traffic Regulation Orders would be subject to consultation with the general public and therefore any equalities issues would be identified at that stage.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 This report has no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

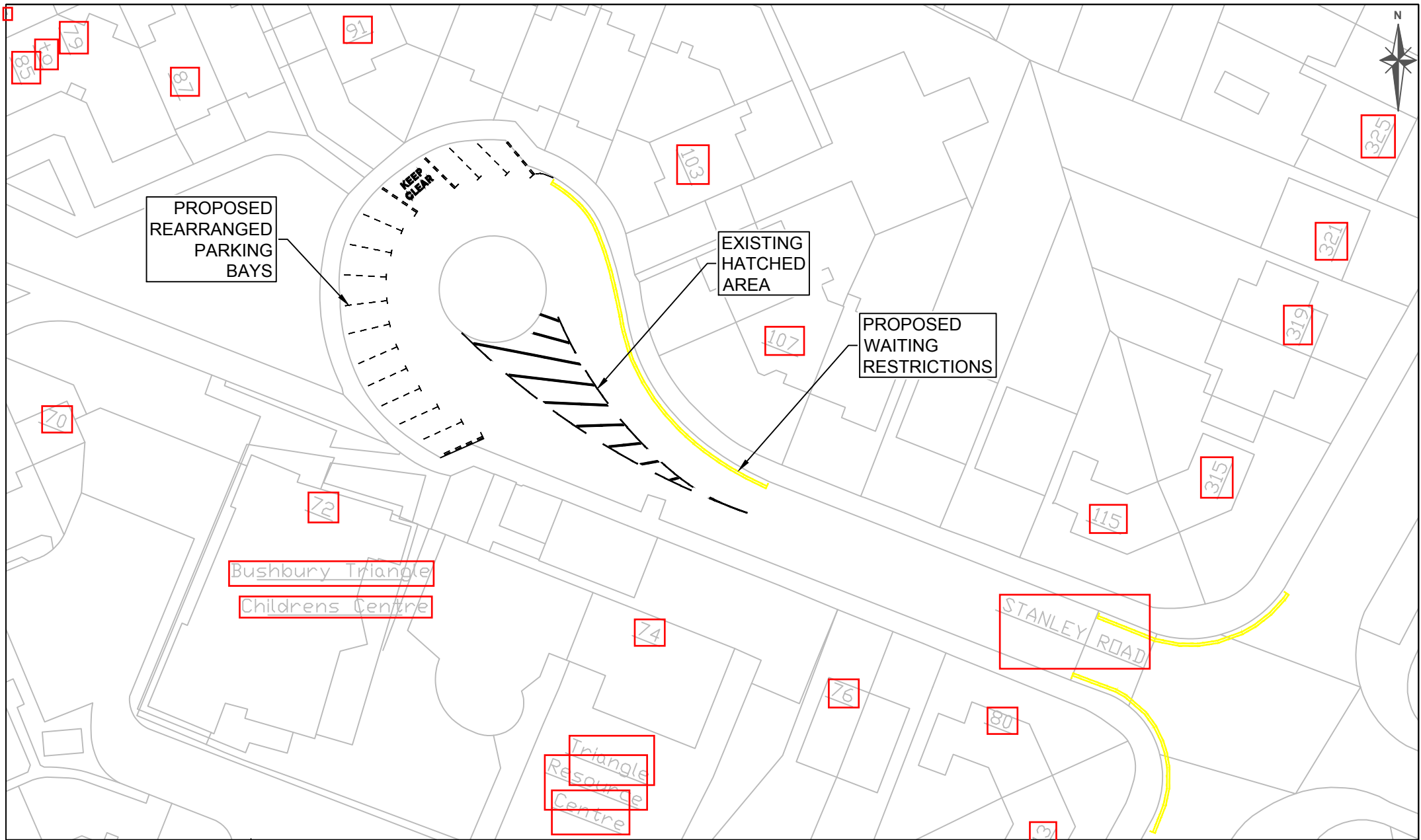
- 8.1 This report has no human resources implications.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no immediate corporate landlord issues.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None.



Wolverhampton City Council
 Regeneration & Environment,
 Transportation Services,
 Heantun House,
 Salop Street,
 Wolverhampton WV3 0SQ

STANLEY ROAD PETITION PROPOSED PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Date 19/10/2015
 Scale 1:500
 Drwg. No. T4/3341

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Wolverhampton City Council



PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	147-15
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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.**

1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER (If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)
Steven Harris on behalf of the residents of Stanley Road
2. PETITION TITLE
Parking In Stanley Road Bushbury
3. PETITION TEXT
We the undersigned residents of Stanley Road want action to be taken over the thoughtless and dangerous parking in the street. We want the businesses in the road to provide proper safe and adequate parking for their patrons and not to fill the visitor parking spaces provided for residents. Parking takes place on both sides of the road and (unlawfully) on the white diagonal lines on the approach to the island. Many vehicles also park half on the pavement causing pedestrians to have to walk in the road. Furthermore many of the cars do not negotiate the island but rather perform a u turn at the island which has on several occasions caused a near miss to residents and children who do not expect such a manoeuvre.
4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION
Contacted parking services, police ,councillors and heantun Housing.
5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Parking in the road has become a serious problem due to careless drivers who park on the hash lines on the island as though they were parking spaces, and also half on the pavement causing an obstruction to pedestrians.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	Steven John Harris
Address	105 Stanley Road Bushbury Wolverhampton wv10 9en
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile:
E-mail address	Haggis49@hotmail.com
No. of petition signatures	
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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.	
<p>Signature</p> <p>Date 03/06/2015</p>	
<p>Completed forms should be returned to— Democratic Support Governance Services Delivery Directorate Wolverhampton City Council St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1SH</p> <p>Email: democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902 550181</p>	

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

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)

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Only sign this petition if you reside or work in Wolverhampton. You must supply a valid address and postcode otherwise the entry will be discarded. You are not allowed to sign this petition on behalf of any other person. Those wishing to participate in this petition must sign for themselves. Any replicate signatures will not be counted.

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
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1. NAME OF PETITIONER:

Please insert your name or, in the case of a petition being presented on behalf of a group e.g. a community council, the name of the person who is to represent the group and who will be the Petitions Committee clerking team's contact.

2. PETITION TITLE

Please give your petition a title that relates directly to the subject matter.

3. TEXT OF PETITION:

The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Council to take. Please note that this should be **limited to no more than five lines of text**.

4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING PETITION:

Before submitting your petition, petitioners should have made an attempt to resolve the issues of concern. Please provide a summary of the action taken to resolve your concern including details of Councillors approached, what happened, what was the result etc.

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Please insert relevant, factual background information and set out the reasons why you consider the action requested to be necessary. This information will be made available to each Committee member prior to consideration of your petition and **should be limited to no more than two sides of A4**.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Please provide as much of the requested information as possible. This information is necessary for the administration of your petition. Please, in particular, provide a contact telephone number and e-mail address if you have one. This will enable the clerking support team to the Petitions Committee to contact you quickly and efficiently in regard to your petition if necessary. **These details will not be published.**

An electronic version of the petition is much appreciated as this allows the swift and easy posting of it on to the website (every petition is posted on to the site).

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CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Petitions Committee

6 November 2015

Report title	Wobaston Road Corridor Improvements – Safety Barrier Request	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson City Assets	
Wards affected	Bushbury North	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee(s)	Ian Hipkiss Tel Email	Section Leader Network Development 01902 55(4241) Ian.Hipkiss@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the proposal for a 30mph speed limit in Wobaston Road as detailed in the report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update Petitions Committee following on from the previous report for Wobaston Road, to advise the results of further investigation and the proposed action as detailed in the report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In October 2014, the Petitions Committee considered a petition from residents of Winchester Road and Redhurst Drive regarding the request for a barrier to protect their properties from possible damage due to a vehicle collision.
- 2.2 The Committee was advised that the installation of an expensive Road Restraint System was not justified by the risk analysis undertaken. However, it was resolved that alternative approaches to managing the risk should be investigated, including the possibility of incorporating a bund within the landscape area. The results of the investigation are set out below.

3.0 Results of investigation

- 3.1 A review of the design options for a bund has determined that there is insufficient space available to provide for the gradients that would be required to allow safe maintenance of the grass banks. In addition, the Council's road safety specialists have expressed concern that a bund would not provide suitable protection and could in fact act as a launch pad and so increase the severity of any vehicle impact.
- 3.2 As an alternative approach, consideration has been given to a reduction of the speed limit on Wobaston Road to 30mph. The speed limit on most of Wobaston Road is currently 40mph. The proposed 30mph speed limit would apply to the section from The Droveaway to Vine Island and would include both roundabouts. It is believed that this speed limit reduction would reduce both the likelihood and severity of any vehicle impact.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The Wobaston Road project is funded primarily from Department for Transport (DfT) grant via the Local Pinch Point Fund, with a local contribution from the Council's Integrated Transport programme. The DfT grant is a cash limited sum and any additional expenditure on the project must therefore be funded from the Council's budgets.
- 4.2 There is no funding identified within the Wobaston Road project for the implementation of a 30 mph speed limit. The cost of implementing a 30 mph speed limit at this location is estimated at £8,000. These costs can be accommodated from within the approved Transportation capital programme budget for Minor Highway Improvements.
- 4.3 The Minor Highway Improvements programme is developed using a prioritisation process and a 30 mph speed limit at Wobaston Road may result in delay or cancellation of other Minor Highway Improvement projects elsewhere. [TT/27102015/R]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 The Council as a local traffic authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004, has a general duty to manage the road network, otherwise there are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [RB/26102015/E]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no specific equalities 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 implications.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

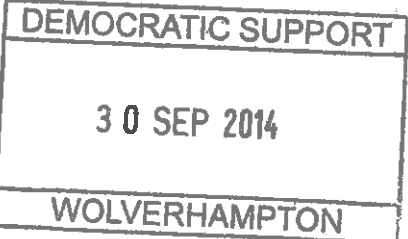
9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Wobaston Road Corridor Improvements, Safety Barrier Request – Report to Petitions Committee, 24 October 2014.

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Wolverhampton
City Council



PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	133-14
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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.

1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER (If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)
Mrs P Jenks (& Miss J Williams)
2. PETITION TITLE
Wobaston Road safety barrier
3. PETITION TEXT
Petition for a fence or safety barrier on Wobaston Road – principally on behalf of the residents of the flats and bungalows on Winchester Road and Redhurst Drive.
4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION
Concerns explained and request for safety barrier made directly to Wolverhampton City Council officers involved in the Wobaston Road development and responsible officers at URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited. On site meeting between residents and Councillor Angus in early September. Councillor Angus made subsequent representations to Lydia Barnstable.
5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Local residents have overwhelmingly called for the Council to amend their landscaping plans for Wobaston Road (as part of the extended Vine Island works) to include a safety barrier (safety railings) or fence on the southside of the carriageway. Residents (many of whom are very elderly) are worried about speeding traffic

and the potential for vehicles to leave the carriageway and a) strike walking pedestrians and b) plough into the back of their bungalows (their kitchens and bedrooms back on to the Wobaston Rd).

Committee will be aware that:

- a) The Wobaston road development work has seen the carriageway extended/widened bringing it much closer to the bungalows on Winchester Road;
- b) Significant local concern relating to speeding on and around the Vine Island. This has been raised as a priority concern at local PACT meetings and has prompted local councillors to request that the police undertake 'speedwatch' sessions in and around this location.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	Mrs P Jenks
Address	172 Winchester Road Wolverhampton WV10 6HA
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile:
E-mail address	
No. of petition signatures	130
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	..27/09/14.....
Completed forms should be returned to— Democratic Support Governance Services Delivery Directorate Wolverhampton City Council St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1SH	

Petitions Committee

6 November 2015

Report title	Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson City Assets	
Wards affected	Heath Town	
Accountable director	Lesley Roberts, Strategic Director Housing	
Originating service	Housing	
Accountable employee(s)	Jane Trethewey Tel Email	Section Leader – Housing Development 01902 555583 Jane.Trethewey@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Sangita Kular Tel Email	Housing Strategy & Development Officer 01902 553362 Sangita.Kular@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Petitions Committee	13 March 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree that on the basis of the findings of surveys relating to the open ground rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, the proposed development of this site for housing is unviable.
2. Support the on-going discussions regarding improvements to the existing Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA) on the Heath Town Estate.
3. Approve further discussions to find a solution for the use of the open ground rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street.

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The results of the Noise and Vibration survey.

2. The results of the consultation with residents on the MUGA options to include play facilities and green gym equipment.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the work undertaken to survey the site, the findings of these surveys, and the conclusions reached regarding the potential for residential development of the site.
- 1.2 To update on the results of the resident consultation on draft proposals for an upgraded MUGA to include play facilities and green gym equipment.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A report was brought to Petitions Committee on 13 March 2015 in response to issues raised in a petition against the re-development of open ground to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street. This site was included in the overall Heath Town Regeneration Project to support the financial viability of the scheme.
- 2.2 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 supported 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.
- 2.3 As part of the preparation for the delivery of wider Heath Town Regeneration plans, a number of site surveys were 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.
- 2.4 Site investigations showed no excess contaminants in the ground, no evidence of excavations or mine-workings, and the land is level and with easy access. However, for those development sites on the Masterplan boundary, a Noise and Vibration Survey was commissioned. The findings of the report indicate that for the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, the noise level from the neighbouring plastics recycling factory on Freeman Street is extreme. The consultant who undertook the survey has advised that development of this site is rendered inappropriate in light of the consistent high noise readings obtained, and the fact that the factory runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whilst homes can be designed to protect the occupiers from high noise levels, this would be at great expense, and would deliver units which are unlikely to be desirable. The effect of this finding is to show that the development of the Grosvenor Street site for housing is unviable.

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 (Tenants and Residents Association). 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 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 compromised solution, allowing them to make better use of it as an alternative to use of the grassed site.
- 3.3 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 were consulted in a door-to-door survey of the estate in May 2015, and liked an option which provides for four different pitches to accommodate football, basketball and tennis. The proposals also include play equipment for 1-5 year olds, 5-9 year olds and an outdoor green gym. The Heath Town Project Team is continuing to work with colleagues from Landscape Architects to ensure the details of the scheme are sustainable, affordable, and meet the needs of the local community.
- 3.4 The open ground behind 36-62 Inkerman Street is not marked out for sport, and is currently unlit and is un-drained, causing it to be water-logged in wet weather, particularly in the winter months. Housing and Corporate Landlord Officers will discuss what alternative options may be for this site, which is currently poorly used and subject to anti-social behaviour.
- 3.5 Employees will need to consult with residents to further test opinion around the best use of this open ground if it is not being developed, taking into account the resident concerns outlined above, as well as the overall financial viability of the Heath Town regeneration proposals.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 It was initially thought that the development and disposal of the land behind 36-62 Inkerman Street would increase the viability of the Heath Town Regeneration project and result in a receipt to the General fund. However, the Noise and Vibration survey has since delivered findings that indicate this site is not currently viable for residential development and developing the site would not therefore have a beneficial financial impact on the General fund. [JB/23102015/P]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications to the removal of the land to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street from the Heath Town regeneration project. [RB/26102015/Q]

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. The changed proposals around the site to the rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street will change the overall size of the development opportunity at Heath Town, but this will not impact on any one group.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 The site will remain in its current form, so there are no environmental implications arising.

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.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Heath Town Regeneration – 26 March 2014 – Cabinet

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

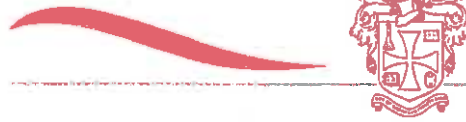
Seeking approval to progress the disposal programme including the approach to public open space – 9 December 2014 – Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Heath Town Regeneration – 11 March 2015 – Cabinet Report

Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town – 13 March 2015 – Petitions Committee

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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	

Petitions Committee

6 November 2015

Report title	Petition seeking the removal of the children's play equipment at Duke's Park	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Bilson City Assets	
Wards affected	Bilston East	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
Originating service	Planning	
Accountable employees	Stephen Alexander	Head of Planning
	Tel	01902 555610
	Email	Stephen.Alexander@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. The Committee is recommended to agree to employees asking the owners of the play area, Barratt Homes, to remove the large play equipment and replace it with equipment suitable for pre-school aged children, to encourage family use and make it less appealing for young people to gather. This would retain the children's play area for local use within the community.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 A petition was received on 30 January 2015 requesting the removal of the children's play area at Duke's Park estate located in the Bilston East ward. The purpose of this report is to inform Petitions Committee of the relevant facts, to consider three options and to make a recommendation.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Petition

2.1.1 The petition contained 85 signatures from residents of the Duke's Park estate and the surrounding area seeking the removal of the children's play equipment within the centre of the estate. The request was because of anti-social behaviour by young people.

2.1.2 The petitioners claim that Barratt Homes' sales representatives said 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.

2.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour

2.2.1 Between January 2014 to the end February 2015:

- A total of 58 Police logs were received covering the period
- Offenders were 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 sometimes continued late into the night/early morning.

2.2.2 The issues were raised at Partners and Communities Together meetings in November 2014 and 9 March 2015, and were brought to the attention of ward councillors. The multi-agency response included:

- An increased police patrol strategy including use of the anti-social behaviour van and an increased police presence in the vicinity
- Removal by Barratt Homes of the large swing
- Deployment of a Domehawk camera to provide a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and to aid the identification
- Consideration of a Section 35 dispersal order
- Young people in the local area signposted to the weekly Kicks session held in Bilston on a Wednesday evening
- Contact made with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council to agree a joint response
- Trenches dug by Barratt Homes in an attempt to prevent vehicles driving over the grassed areas.

2.3 Petitions Committee – 24 April 2015

- 2.3.1 Petitions Committee discussed the petition on 24 April 2015. Despite partner efforts to resolve the issues, the lead petitioner maintained that the anti-social behaviour was continuing and the petitioners were seeking complete removal of the play equipment, not modification of the play equipment.
- 2.3.2 Ward Councillors voiced objections to removal of the play equipment given the levels of need and deprivation in the ward and requested an increase in the multi-agency effort to resolve the anti-social behaviour before any decision is made to remove the play equipment.
- 2.3.3 Petitions Committee also requested further research, data and information which is set out in the following paragraphs.
- 2.3.4 Young families have been seen using the park on three occasions by the Neighbourhood Safety Coordinator which has also been captured on the Domehawk camera.
- 2.3.5 All households on the new estate and local ward councillors were asked to state their preference for retaining the existing play equipment, modifying the existing facility to a toddler play area or complete removal of the play area. Letters were hand delivered to all 262 households on the Dukes Park estate on 8 May 2015. Responses are summarised below:
- Option 1: Retain the play area as it is now – 15 residents indicated their preference for this option
 - Option 2: Remove the large play equipment and replace it with equipment designed for pre-school age children – 11 residents indicated their preference for this option
 - Option 3: Remove all the play equipment (and the fence and the hard standing) and grass the site over – 46 residents indicated their preference for this option.
- 2.3.6 Petitions Committee asked for Public Health to be consulted. Public Health has confirmed that it would not be in support of removal of the play area due to the health issues associated with Bilston East. For reception year and year six, obesity rates for school years 2009/10 to 2013/14 in Bilston East are 14.8% and 29.8% respectively. These rates are significantly higher than the national and local averages, and in the case of year six this is the worst ward in Wolverhampton. Obesity is a key priority for Public Health with one of the objectives being to create a less obesogenic environment. Provision of play areas are a key resource that can help to off-set the obesogenic environment.
- 2.3.7 Petitions Committee recommended that any additional action that can be taken to identify perpetrators of anti-social behaviour be carried out. A number of multi-agency meetings have been held to consider all available options of prevention and enforcement and an action plan agreed to supplement the work done to date. A summary is provided below:

- Regular uniformed patrols have taken place by neighbourhood officers including mobile/cycle and foot
- At a Partners and Communities Together meeting, police reports were received of approximately 100 youths congregating in the area from neighbouring Tipton
- Meetings have been held with partners and representatives of local residents and issues discussed
- Police have met with the bordering neighbourhood policing team at Princes End to make them aware of issues and support was offered
- Local schools (RSA Academy and South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy) have been approached and talks given to students
- Domehawk CCTV camera remains in situ
- Regular contact made with residents by way of reassurance visits, follow up calls to complainants and monitoring Facebook pages
- There have been six young people identified causing anti-social behaviour in the area - all were issued warning letters by the anti-social behaviour unit (none of them had had previous involvement with Police)
- Police have met with a youth worker and carried out joint patrols, liaised with local young people with a view to diverting them to activities on offer over the summer break including Provision for Outreach youth provision (11 years plus) based in Bradley - this project ran for four weeks during the summer holidays, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3 pm and 5 pm, based outside the old Rocket Pool youth centre
- There have been ten incidents logs recorded since 27 April and two recorded crimes of criminal damage
- Trading Standards have indicated that they have not any complaints from residents about under-age sales of alcohol or received any credible intelligence to justify undertaking test purchasing in the locality.

2.4 Petitions Committee – 11 September 2015

- 2.4.1 Petitions Committee discussed the petition again on 11 September 2015 and the minutes of that meeting are included in the papers. Petition Committee sought reassurance that the play area benefited from planning consent and requested further detail which is set out in the following paragraphs.

2.5 The Planning Approval

- 2.5.1 131 new houses and the children's play area were granted by the local planning authority on 17 Dec 2010. The planning permission was subject to a S106 legal agreement which requires the provision of the public open space and the children's play area. The play area was required to make the planning application acceptable in accordance with Unitary Development Plan, Policy H8 "Open Space, Sport and Recreation Requirements for New Housing Developments". The Council's planning guidance is that on new housing estates play areas should be more than 20 metres away from the houses. The installed play area clearly complies with this policy (the nearest houses are approximately 30 metres away).

- 2.5.2 Pursuant to the requirements of the S106 legal agreement, lengthy discussions and site visits were held by Barratt Homes with employees of the Council who subsequently approved the proposed details of the public open space and the proposed play equipment. In July 2012, a letter drop by Barratt Homes was completed to the residents of the occupiers of Duke's Park and the local ward members to advise of the installation of the children's play equipment and the public open space. The public open space and the play equipment was provided by Barratt Homes in accordance with the S106 agreement and site inspections and discussions continued with employees of the Council. In July 2013 a Planning Officer confirmed to Barratt Homes that the public open space and play area had been installed as required by the S106 agreement.
- 2.5.3 In February 2014, Barratt Homes stated that they came under pressure from local residents to open the play area, as residents were eager to use the facilities. Following a safety inspection the public open space including the play equipment was opened to the public in the same month.
- 2.5.4 The public open space, including the play area, was laid out and installed by Barratt Homes as part of their housing development and remains in Barratt Homes' ownership. The housing estate, the public open space and the play area have been properly approved in accordance with planning law and policy. The public open space fits in well with the layout of the houses, and the raising of the play area as a central feature is an attractive landscape feature that enhances the visual amenity and appearance of the area. This adheres to an important principle of urban design that housing estate play areas should be in full view and overlooked by surrounding houses to facilitate informal surveillance. This means that families with young children are likely to feel safer when using the play equipment during the day.
- 2.5.5 As part of the S106 legal agreement, an arrangement is in place that the Council will eventually adopt the public areas of the new estate (involving the highway, lighting and public open spaces). This is expected to take place in 2016. After that, the Council will own the play area and undertake the maintenance of the site. The Council has received a financial sum to contribute towards play area 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 on-going maintenance and repair costs to the play area.

2.6 Update

- 2.6.1 The Lead Petitioner has indicated that although the frequency of incidents has reduced, anti-social behaviour is continuing, with young people congregating on the site until early hours in the morning, and maintains that the play area should be removed.
- 2.6.2 Barratt Homes have stated their willingness to assist where possible with resolving the issues. However, one of their main concerns would be the possible repercussions from other home owners who have purchased properties on the site, believing their homes would benefit from the proximity of the play area. Therefore, they want to ensure they act

on behalf of all of the residents across the development and not just those that have petitioned for the removal of this equipment.

- 2.6.3 Offensive graffiti has been promptly removed by the Council. The Council has maintained a watching brief on the play area, with monthly visits carried out. All litter cleaning and repairs have been reported promptly to Barratt Homes for action. The Council have also assisted Barratt Homes in carrying out repairs to the play surface following vandalism through one of its specialist contractors, the cost of which has been met by Barratt Homes. The location has been litter picked by Council staff on a number of occasions following concerns from local residents about glass and litter.
- 2.6.4 The multi-agency response to address anti-social behaviour has been prompt. The Council's Community Safety team have used their best endeavours to respond to the issues raised. The response has been comprehensive and wide ranging and has included proportionate enforcement action taken against young people identified as having been involved in anti-social behaviour and liaison with schools and services in Sandwell. The level of partnership resources going into responding to the anti-social behaviour has been considerable and is not sustainable beyond the short term.

3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 There are three possible options to consider in response to the petition.

Option One

- 3.2 Barratt Homes to be asked to apply to the Council for permission to remove the children's park area and undertake remedial works to grass the area. The children's play area was necessary for the estate to be granted planning consent. To remove the play area, Barratt Homes would need to apply to vary the S106 agreement which required the installation of the play area in accordance with the Council's planning policies.
- 3.3 Following the consultation on the 8 May, 46 residents responded saying they want the play area to be removed. This is the only option that would satisfy the petitioners. Given the levels of recorded anti-social behaviour, the views of these residents and the petitioners should be taken into account. However, there are other considerations that should also be taken into account.
- 3.4 Following the consultation on the 8 May, 15 residents responding saying they want the play area to remain as it is and 11 residents responded stating they want the pre-school age equipment retained. This is a not insignificant number of people who already value the play equipment and were prepared to confirm this in writing. It is likely that these people have children or know children who have used the play area or are likely to use the play area in the future.
- 3.5 The completed estate will house approximately 1,000 residents so it is highly likely that a sizeable number of people living on the estate, particularly those with small children, will value the existence of the play area in the future. The benefits to these children in being

able to play on and enjoy equipment close to their own homes and the ability of children to use the play equipment in the future is a very significant consideration.

- 3.6 Also, the removal of the play area would be contrary to the Council's strategic aim to reduce obesity particularly given the long standing issues with child obesity in the area.
- 3.7 Barratt Homes as owners of the play equipment would have to apply to remove the play equipment. Barratt Homes have indicated that they would be concerned about doing this as they want to ensure they act on behalf of all of the residents across the development and not just those that have petitioned for the removal of this equipment. Even if Barratt Homes do make such an application the proposal would be contrary to the Council's adopted planning policies and guidance set out above.
- 3.8 The Council adopted the Wolverhampton Open Space Strategy and Action Plan and the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document in 2014. These documents establish the quantity, quality and access standards to be applied for provision of children's play areas in Wolverhampton and compare this to actual provision across the City, to identify gaps and priorities for future improvement.
- 3.9 The access standard for children's play areas is a 10 minute walk, or approximately 800m walking distance. There are no formal children's play areas within 800m walking distance of the Duke's Park estate.
- 3.10 The Duke's Park estate as a whole would be expected to generate around 1,000 new residents, creating a need for a children's play area. If the Duke's Park play area is removed, a large residential area in the south east of the City will lose access to play facilities for children, creating a large gap in children's play area provision, contrary to the vision and key aims of the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.11 On balance, taking all the relevant matters into consideration, the total removal of the play area is an option that should be considered as a last resort.
- 3.12 It is also worth noting that the removal of the play area would not necessarily reduce the anti-social behaviour.

Option Two

- 3.13 The play equipment is retained in its current state. This would retain the play area for local use within the community.
- 3.14 Retaining a range of play equipment would have the greatest benefits to children of different ages in terms of providing them with opportunities for play.
- 3.15 Retaining all the play equipment may mean that it continues to be an appealing place for young people to gather. It should be recognised that the majority of young people are not intent on anti-social behaviour and they should not be branded as such. However, it is recognised that the larger play equipment in particular does encourage young people to

gather and there is an associated risk of anti-social behaviour. As such this option is not a recommended option.

Option Three

- 3.16 Barratt Homes to be asked to remove large play equipment, which is replaced with equipment suitable for pre-school aged children, to encourage family use and make it less appealing for young people to gather. This would retain the play area for local use within the community. The benefits of retaining the play area have been fully set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.10.
- 3.17 Young people are more likely to linger on the larger play equipment. Removal of the larger play equipment may well deter young people from gathering.
- 3.18 The removal of the larger play equipment would not necessarily reduce the anti-social behaviour.
- 3.19 Barratt Homes have indicated that they would be willing to progress this option working on the detail in dialogue with the Council.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 Taking into account all the issues raised by the petitioners and the considerations relevant to the case, option three is recommended as a reasonable compromise. Subject to the views of Petitions Committee, officers are minded to ask Barratt Homes to remove the larger play equipment. Barratt Homes have said they would be willing to do this and the details could be agreed by officers in accordance with the existing delegation scheme.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 A financial payment of £71,494 was received by the Council from Barratt Homes as part of the S106 planning requirement. 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 large play area. Following this period, on-going repair and maintenance costs would be absorbed by the Council.
- 5.2 If the play area is totally removed consideration would have to be given to repaying the £71,494 funding for repairing and maintaining the children's play equipment back to Barratt Homes.
- 5.3 To remove the all play equipment and grass over the area there is a cost implication estimated to be in the region of £30,000. Should the Council at a later date choose to remove the children's play after it has adopted the public open space the Council would be responsible for the costs.

5.3 If the recommended option three is agreed, there will be a cost implication attached to the removal of the current large play equipment and the replacement cost of the new pre-school play equipment. It is estimated to be in the region of £16,000. [TT/27102015/E]

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. [RB/26102015/S]

7.0 Equalities Implications

7.1 Removal of the play equipment would have negative 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.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 Duke's Park is a well laid out housing estate with houses overlooking an attractive central public open space. The mound is an acceptable landscape feature and the distance from the play equipment to the nearest bedroom windows is well in excess of the Council's planning guidelines. The Council's lead on issues of noise disturbance has advised that the difference in noise levels as experienced by the neighbours would be insignificant if the mound was removed. The play area was implemented in accordance with the Council's development plan policies and accords with the Council's planning guidance. It is considered that if the play area is retained as recommended, on balance, it will be a long term benefit to the local environment and the local residents.

9.0 Human resources implications

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

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no immediate corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 The previous reports to Petitions Committee regarding this petition.

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Wolverhampton
City Council



DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT

30 JAN 2015

WOLVERHAMPTON

PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only)
PUBLIC PETITION NO.

140-15

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 (If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)
<i>Dukes Park Neighbourhood Watch.</i>
2. PETITION TITLE
<i>Remove The Park from the Dukes Park Estate.</i>
3. PETITION TEXT
<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>
4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION
<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 Spayatts and Wolverhampton Council however neither party will take responsibility.</i>
5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	<i>Matthew Williams</i>
Address	<i>11 Cranbeck Gardens Bilston WV14 8GL</i>
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile:
E-mail address	
No. of petition signatures	85
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?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
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 <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: democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk 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.