

Petitions Committee

26 February 2016

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:

Contact Abigail Vella

Tel/Email 01902 553219 or abigail.vella@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Address Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 2nd floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <https://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>

Email democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Tel 01902 555043

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

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 6)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes.]
- 5 **Schedule of petitions** (Pages 7 - 10)
[To review the outstanding petitions.]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 6 **Petition 150-15 - Save Warstones Resource Centre** (Pages 11 - 18)
[To consider the issues raised and endorse the recommendation.]

Petitions Committee

Minutes - 8 January 2016

Attendance

Members of the Petitions Committee

Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Chair)
Cllr Val Evans (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Daniel Warren

Councillors in attendance

Employees

Abby Vella	Graduate Management Trainee
Nick Broomhall	Service Lead, Traffic and Road Safety
Dave Millington	Compliance Manager
Steve Woodward	Head of Service Public Realm

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Photay.

- 2 **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.

- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting**
Resolved:
 That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the addition of 'St Teresa's Academy' to minute item four for clarification purposes.

- 4 **Matters arising**
Councillor Rowley requested update information about minute item four of the previous meeting, which referred to the feasibility of restricting the proposed parking restrictions on Malins Road and 'park and walk' campaigns at St Teresa's school.

Nick Broomhall, Traffic and Road Safety Lead advised that the Malins Road proposed parking restrictions were still awaiting the outcome of an investigation, as per the last meeting. The Traffic and Road Safety Lead reported that he had requested that Paul Lever, Professional Lead - Road Safety Training and Promotion, contact the school regarding the 'park and walk' campaign but was yet to receive further correspondence. He agreed to follow these up and circulate an update to members of the Committee.

Resolved:

That the Traffic and Road Safety Lead circulate an update of the proposed parking restrictions on Malins Road and 'park and walk' campaign at St Teresa's school to members of the Committee.

5 **Schedule of petitions**

Resolved:

That the following petitions be closed:

1. Safety Barrier on Wobaston Road (133-14)
2. Open Ground Rear of 36-62 Inkerman Street, Heath Town (138-14)
3. Parking in Stanley Road, Bushbury (147-15)

6 **Revised Petitions Scheme**

Abby Vella, Graduate Management Trainee, reported that the Petitions Scheme had been updated due to the migration of e-petitions onto modern.gov. A supplementary sheet was circulated to Councillors with the proposed changes. Cllr Rowley requested that page five of the scheme be clarified to include how the Council responded to planning and licensing petitions.

Cllr Warren requested information be sought regarding the Council's role in addressing local petitions which were submitted to central government.

Resolved:

1. That the revised Petitions Scheme be approved subject to clarification on page five regarding the Council's response to planning and licensing petitions.
2. That the Graduate Management Trainee seek legal advice regarding the Council's response to petitions which were submitted to central government.

7 **Update - Blockage of Turning Circle at Dunkley Street**

Nick Broomhall, Traffic and Road Safety Lead, introduced the report and outlined the history of the petition.

He reported that in response to a public consultation carried out in respect of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) endorsed by Petitions Committee in 2013, objections were received from local businesses and the GP Surgery. As a result, the Traffic and Road Safety Team had reviewed the extent of the TRO to ensure that refuge and emergency services vehicles could safely manoeuvre in the turning head whilst retaining a number of parking spaces for local vehicles. He reported that the GP surgery in the vicinity of the turning head did have a car park providing 12 parking spaces for those using the surgery. The Traffic and Road Safety Lead highlighted 4.6 and 4.7 of the report which referred to vehicles which had no banksman available and the impact of this on road safety for pedestrians.

The Traffic and Road Safety Lead referred to appendix C which highlighted revised proposals for 'No Waiting at Any Time/No Loading at Any Time' restrictions on Dunkley Street which was subject to consultation and recommended that it be endorsed.

Councillors discussed the proposed recommendation, particularly its impact on Wolverhampton match days. In a response from a question from the Chair, the

Traffic and Road Safety Lead advised that the proposed recommendation would be legally enforceable.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed action to proceed to advertise the revised parking restrictions and parking arrangements in Dunkley Street be endorsed.

8 **Removal of Outdoor Fitness Equipment and Benches at Lincoln Green Open Space**

Steve Woodward, Head of Public Realm and David Millington, Compliance Manager, outlined the petition which requested the removal of the outdoor fitness equipment and benches on Lincoln Green open space in Bushbury North.

Head of Public Realm advised that officers had investigated the alleged antisocial behaviour incident and contacted multi-agencies which included the Police, Public Health and Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Team. He highlighted 4.3 of the report which detailed the outcome of enquiries, particularly the letter drop undertaken by the Council. He reported that further to the letter drop, on-site checks had confirmed no vandalism to the fitness equipment in Lincoln Green. In addition, no reports of anti-social behaviour had been received to date.

The Head of Public Realm advised that due to funding reasons, it would be difficult to relocate the equipment elsewhere. However, discussions were underway with the NHS regarding the promotion and use of the outdoor fitness equipment by local residents and patients for rehabilitation purposes. He highlighted the recommended option in 5.3 of the report for Councillors to consider.

Councillors discussed the report and it was noted that the open space in Lincoln Green was a well-used facility. They discussed the retention of the equipment as a contribution to the health agenda and highlighted that it was important for residents to have such facilities both in and outdoors. Councillors welcomed the recommendation to retain the equipment and monitor the area for a further 12 months.

Resolved:

1. That the option to retain the outdoor fitness equipment at Lincoln Green and monitor the location for no less than 12 months be endorsed.

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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 was presented on 8 January 2016. The Committee endorsed the proposed action to proceed to advertise the revised parking restrictions and arrangements in Dunkley Street. It is recommended that this petition be closed.</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>			

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.

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.

An update report was presented 6 November 2015. The Committee agreed that the larger play equipment be removed and replaced with equipment suitable for pre-school children.

An update is to be presented in six months' time.

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				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
The lead petitioner has requested that this petition be put on hold.				

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				
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.				
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.				
A report will be presented on 8 April 2016.				

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,	Dave Millington,	

		Angus, Warren and Dehar	01902 556104
Action Taken/Outcomes			
The Service Group had been advised of the petition and asked to undertake preliminary investigations.			
A report was presented on 8 January 2016. The Committee endorsed the option to retain the outdoor fitness equipment at Lincoln Green and monitor the location for 12 months. It is recommended that this petition be closed.			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
25 November 2015	Save Warstones Resource Centre		150 - 15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
People	Penn	Councillors Mattu, Patten, Waite, Singh	Helen Rowney 01902 5495
Action Taken/Outcomes			
A report will first be presented on 26 February 2016.			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
7 December 2015	Recovery House		151 - 15
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
People	Low Hill	Cllrs Mattu, Bilson, O'Neill, Sweet	June Pickersgill, 01902 551393
Action Taken/Outcomes			
A report will first be presented on 8 April 2016.			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
27 January 2016	Resurface of footpaths and option to drop kerbs		153 - 16
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Place	Wednesfield South	Cllrs Evans, Gakhal, Brackenridge, Brookfield	Bob Willis, 01902 555790
Action Taken/Outcomes			
A report will first be presented on 8 April 2016.			

Date Petition received	Issue Raised		Petition No.
2 February 2016	Grass verge removal in Baker Avenue		154 - 16
Service Group	Area of City (Ward)	Councillors notified	Contact Officer
Place	Spring Vale	Cllrs Evans, Gwinnett, Kaur, Whitehouse	Bob Willis, 01902 555790

Action Taken/Outcomes

A report will first be presented on 8 April 2016.

Petitions Committee

26 February 2016

Report title	Petition 150-15 - Save Warstones Resource Centre	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Elias Mattu Adults	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Commissioning, Older People	
Accountable employee(s)	Paul Smith	Head Of Commissioning - Older People
	Tel	01902 555318
	Email	Paul.Smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be considered by	N/A	

Recommendation for decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the issues raised in the petition to save Warstones Resource Centre.
2. Support the plans to handover the Warstones office at the end of February 2016 to Corporate Landlord.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 In November 2015 a petition containing 852 signatures was submitted to the City of Wolverhampton Council. The petition totally opposes the closure of Warstones Resource Centre.

2.0 Details of the Petition

- 2.1 A petition was received on the 25 November 2015 from Mr William Baugh, tutor of one of the community groups located at Warstones. The petition, containing 852 signatures from residents of the City, is totally opposed to the closure of Warstones Resource Centre.

- 2.2 The petition states that:

'Keep the Warstones Resource Centre Open'

We as Council Tax Payers to Wolverhampton City Council are totally opposed to the closure of Warstones Resource Centre. The Centre is the only centre of its kind in the West of the City. All the other areas, i.e. Bilston, Wednesfield & Whitmore Reans are well provided with such facilities. Despite the Fact that they contrie far less money by Council Tax. Warstones Resource Centre should remain available to the local Community .So, why not the west side of the City.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 As part of a wider transformation process, in February 2013 Cabinet approved the decommissioning of Warstones Resource Centre and the relocation of the bed based services to existing in-house services for older people.
- 3.2 In January 2014, Cabinet approved the continuation of formal negotiations with the Clinical Commissioning Group. This option proved to not be viable.
- 3.3 The Warstones location is currently the office base for the following teams/groups :
- Adult Care Team West
 - Six community groups
 - External organisations
- 3.4 The move of the Warstones Office Base (completion of 2013/14 savings proposal) was included within the savings proposals that were submitted to Cabinet on 21st October 2015 as part of the Draft Budget 2016/17 report.
- 3.5 The facility suffers from significant obsolescence and disrepair which renders the building surplus to any future uses associated with the new service model and future reuse.

3.6 The maintenance backlog for Warstones office is £514,000 which has been derived at through the condition survey process and work is required within 5 years to ensure the building is compliant and fit for purpose.

4.0 Relocation Plans

4.1 In late 2015 Asset Management, Corporate Landlord undertook an options appraisal to identify suitable alternative accommodation for the following services that are currently based at Warstones office:

- Adult Care Team West – 19 staff
- Older Peoples Management Team – 6 staff

4.2 On 11 November 2015 and 18 November 2015 respectively, Future Space Programme Board (FSPB) and Corporate Landlord Board (CLB) agreed for the Adult Care Team West to relocate to Alfred Squire Road and for Older Peoples Management Team to relocate to the Civic Centre. Both of these relocations are due to be completed by the end of February 2016.

4.3 Community activity groups are currently being supported by the Head of Libraries and Community to identify an appropriate locality should they wish to continue. One of the groups has discontinued. The group below is still to be relocated and continued discussions are being undertaken:

Painting Club – held twice a week with an average attendance of 10-15 attendees per week. The following options have been explored:

- St Chads (declined)
- Bradmore Community Centre (no availability)
- Warstones Library (unsuitable)

4.4 The external organisation based at Warstones have identified an alternative location and will move out by 19 February 2016.

4.5 The aim is to handover the Warstones office at the end of February 2016 to Corporate Landlord.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 The subject of this petition is linked to a savings proposal included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 'Move Warstones Office Base Completion of 2013/14 Savings Proposal' with a target of £35,000. This proposal was approved for further development as part of the Draft Budget 2016/17 report approved by Cabinet on 21 October 2015.

[AS/15022016/U]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the petition.

[RB/12022016/Y]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. The staff are being relocated to appropriate alternative service locations (Alfred Squire Road and Civic Centre) and the community groups are being supported to find alternative venues should they wish to continue.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resource implications associated with this report. Staff are being relocated to appropriate alternative service locations.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 Corporate landlord is actively involved in the assessment of the asset implications relating to the service in this report.

10.2 Proceeding with the relocation of staff and community groups and closure of this building will enable release of an asset for disposal.

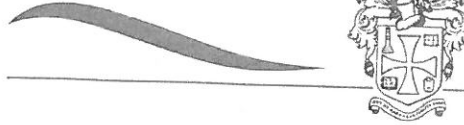
10.3 The Head of Libraries and Community is supporting the community groups to identify alternative venues.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Draft Budget 2016/17, Cabinet 21 October 2015.

DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT
25 NOV 2015
WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton City Council



PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	
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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)
W.H. BAUGH, ART TUTOR
2. PETITION TITLE
SAVE WARSTONES RESOURCE CENTRE.
3. PETITION TEXT
We as Council Tax Payers to Wolverhampton City Council, are totally opposed to the closure of Warstones Resource Centre. The Centre is the only centre of its kind in the west of the City. All the other areas, i.e. Bilston, Wednesfield & Whitmore Reans are well provided with such facilities. Despite the fact that they contribute far less money by Council Tax. Hence Warstones Resource Centre should remain available to the Local Community. So, why not the west side of the City?
4. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION
Have attended Council Meetings at WARSTONES RESOURCE CENTRE, Re the Relocation of the current Activities held at Warstones. Not impressed. Awaiting feedback after 4 weeks. Spoken to the Head Councillor of the Conservative Party.
5. PETITION BACKGROUND INFORMATION
I Have Collected 850 Signatures For The Petition In Five Hours. Which is Indicative of VERY STRONG GENERAL FEELING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC FEELING FOR RETAINING WARSTONES RESOURCE CENTRE, for the EDERLY & FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

NOTE:- 1001 SIGNATURES IN TOTAL.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Name	MR. W. H. W. H. BAUGH
Address	10 BIRCHGLADE THE SPINNEY FINCHFIELD WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 9ES TEL: (01902) 763333
Telephone nos.	Home: Mobile: 1
E-mail address	1009
No. of petition signatures	3

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

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

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

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)

**Keep the Warstones Resource Centre
Open.**

Save Warstones Resource Centre.

THE ACTIVITIES HELD AT WARSTONES RESOURCE CENTRE ARE VERY BENEFICIAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE ELDERLY. COMPANY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ELDERLY, IT REDUCES THEIR WORRIES, BEING ABLE TO TALK WITH OTHERS. LONELINESS IS A DREADFUL ASPECT TO DEAL WITH. MORE SO AS YOU GET OLDER. PARTICULARLY AS YOU GET OLDER. ANY MEDIC WILL CONFIRM THIS.

THE VARIOUSE ACTIVITIES ALSO ARE BENEFICIAL, MEETING OTHER PEOPLE AND LEARNING OTHER SKILLS. BOTH OF WHICH IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING. MY ART GROUPS OVER 16 YEARS AT WARSTONES I HAVE SEEN CHANGES IN MANY PEOPLES LIFESTYLES AND ATTITUDES ALL FOR THE BETTER.

HENCE DO NOT CLOSE WARSTONES AND OTHER RESOURCE CENTRES AS THEY ARE ESSENTIAL AND BENEFICIAL FOR WELFARE AND HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY. THEY MUST SURELY DESERVE SUCH FACILITIES DURING THEIR FINAL YEARS, HAVING WORKED AND PAID TAXES ALL OF THEIR WORKING LIVES, AND MOST STILL PAY COUCIL TAX. SO KEEP WARSTONES RESOURCE OPEN. SURELY THE ELDERLY DESERVE IT IN THEIR FINAL YEARS.

AFTER ALL YOU DO GET GRANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, FOR CARE OF THE ELDERLY. SO WHY NOT USE SOME OF IT FOR KEEPING WARSTONES RESOURCE CENTRE OPEN????

W.H.BAUGH.