

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.