

Committee: Council

Date: 2 February 2011

Agenda item: 15

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Helen White, Head of Civic and Legal Services

Lead member: Leader of the Council

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact officer: David Dunford, Democratic Services Manager

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Recommendations:

- (1) To receive petitions (if any) (Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution); and
 - (2) Council is asked to note the advice provided on those petitions presented to the 24 November Council:
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report invites council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution; and asks council to note the advice provided by officers to those councillors presenting petitions at the council meeting held on 24 November advising how the petitions are to be progressed.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. Council at its meeting held on 24 November 2010 received a number of petitions as detailed below. Officers apprised the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition was to be progressed and this is included with each item.

- **Presented by Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes on behalf of residents of West Barnes ward asking for the West Barnes library to be kept open**

Officers advised the lead councillor and the other ward councillors of the calling of a public meeting in the New Year primarily about the change in opening hours.

- **Presented by Councillor Rod Scott on behalf of residents of West Barnes asking for the removal of unnecessary bollards and the creation of a lay-by to enable parking in front of the parade of shops**

Officers advised the lead councillor that the request for parking provisions have been added to our programme of works for 2011/2012 for investigation and all ward Councillors will be consulted once a design is devised.

The 5 year restriction on works is discretionary and would not be applied to any future proposals relating to parking in this area.

• Presented by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender on behalf of residents in respect of fishing in the Cannon Hill Pond

Officers have provided the following information to the lead councillor the text of which comprised a response to a resident of the borough regarding the history of fishing at the lake and of the Council's efforts to resolve some recognised problems there, problems that are principally the result of some regrettable and inconsiderate behaviour by some anglers.

In terms of your three proposals, two rely entirely upon direct action by the Council to monitor and/or enforce either an outright ban or to directly manage the fishing there. The Council was not in a position to be adopting either of these two approaches two years ago when the concept of creating a local angling club for the lake was first proposed, which is fundamentally why it did so.

Recent significant government cutbacks in the funding allocations to local authorities for 2011/12 will have enormous impacts across our services in the coming years and we are already actively looking to transfer the management of a number of local recreational facilities to local groups. In that respect, therefore, the proposed angling club was ahead of its time and remains our preferred approach. We share your frustration that the club is not already active on site, but that is in the nature of independent clubs and societies and it is not within the local authority's gift to be forcing the issue, but rest assured that we continue to encourage its establishment insofar as we are able.

We remain hopeful that the club will be formed very soon and will be able to ensure that the lake continues to be enjoyed by all users and the wildlife that is present there.

• Presented by Councillor Ray Tindle on behalf of residents of Aragon Road and Dudley Drive requesting the council to implement the proposed ally gate scheme

Officers advised the lead councillor that discussions continue with legal advisors on how to resolve the issue and work continues towards presenting the merits of the scheme to all interested parties. Ward councilors will be kept up to date on progress.

• Presented by Councillor Janice Howard on behalf of residents asking for the removal of the Vodafone mast in Revelstoke Road/Durnsford Road

Officers advised the lead councillor that this matter is being investigated and there have been a number of responses sent to residents regarding the

installation.

We are still trying to determine when exactly the mast was installed, or more precisely, when the building works started, as that would be the key date. In any event, although I appreciate some of the residents may have changed during the 5 years since the determination, the question to be asked if we are to instigate enforcement action of any kind is, 'what is the change in circumstances now that would result in a different decision?'

Please be assured we are still investigating and are well aware of the strength of local feeling regarding this matter which was demonstrated by the number of signatories on the petition.

The reality is that even if there is a technical infringement due to the 5 year date being marginally passed, I consider it unlikely that we would succeed if enforcement action was instigated and the applicant then appealed.

You will, of course be kept updated.

• Presented by Councillor Samantha George on behalf of Wimbledon residents' making representations against the introduction of wheelie bins in the Village

Officers advised the lead councillor that the petition will be considered as part of any future report on this matter. Ward colleagues have been copied into the correspondence.

The Sustainable Communication's Overview and Scrutiny panel has been requested to set up a task group to review waste collection in Merton.

This review will be considering options around the methods of waste containment and it is anticipated that the panel will be reporting their findings with recommendations to Cabinet in early summer.

• Presented by Councillor Henry Nelles on behalf of Wimbledon residents' making representations against the introduction of wheelie bins in Abbey

Officers advised the lead councillor that the petition will be considered as part of any future report on this matter. Ward colleagues have been copied into the correspondence.

The Sustainable Communication's Overview and Scrutiny panel has been requested to set up a task group to review waste collection in Merton.

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3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

- 4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**
4.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 5 TIMETABLE**
5.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**
6.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**
7.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**
8.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**
9.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- None
- 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
12.1. None