

Committee: Council

Date: 20 November 2013

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance

Lead member: Leader of the Council

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact officer: Democratic Services, democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations: That Council

- (1) receives petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution; and
 - (2) notes the advice given by officers in respect of the petitions presented to the 11 September 2013 Council meeting.
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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 Councillors presenting petitions on behalf of residents.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 11 September 2013, Council received the petitions detailed below. Petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.

2.2. Save Abbey Police Office

This petition was presented by Councillor Andrew Judge. Council will note the attached document (Appendix 1) supplied by the Head of Safer Merton, which is the response to the petition from Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

2.3. Protect Rookwood Avenue wild area and public right of way

This petition was presented by Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes. Officers have advised that the council recognises the value of Rookwood Avenue's importance for wildlife. In 2003 the council's development plan designated Rookwood venue as part of a "green corridor" to help support wildlife movement around the area.

Feedback from local communities on public consultation held in 2012 and 2013 shows support for the site being designated as open space.

In July 2013, as part of Merton's *Sites and Policies Plan*, the council resolved to ask the Secretary of State to designate the site as open space. We are hopeful that the Secretary of State will agree with the council when his inspector examines the *Sites and Policies Plan* in 2014.

As part of a previous development on adjoining land, the developer at the time signed a legal agreement in 1983 agreeing by covenant that the land will be retained for open space and recreational purposes only and for no other use whatsoever. This agreement runs with the land and is still therefore in force today.

We are aware of interest in designating the path as a Public Right of Way . There is a formal legal process to be undertaken to achieve this designation and we are in contact with local residents in pursuit of this designation.

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

11.1. Appendix 1 – letter from Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to Annalise Elliott, Head of Safer Merton, detailing the response to the Save Abbey Police Office petition.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None.