

**Committee: Council**

**Date: 16 November 2022**

**Subject: Petitions**

Lead officer: Louise Round, Interim Executive Director Innovation and Change

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross Garrod

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

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**Recommendation:**

1. That Council receive petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.
  2. That Council notes the responses provided to the petitions submitted at the meeting held on 21 September 2022.
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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.

**2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 21 September 2022, the three petitions listed below were submitted and the responses are set out below. Any 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.

**Petition One**

A petition was submitted by Councillor Williscroft which stated "Against Planning App 22/Po440. To Save our Long standing local shops in Grand Drive from disappearing due to unnecessary redevelopment".

**Officer Response**

*The petition has been added to the Planning Application file for this application and will be addressed in the Officer report.*

**Petition Two**

A petition was submitted by Councillor Galea entitled Match Day Parking which stated "Whilst there is a need for extended controlled parking restrictions as a result of the return of AFC Wimbledon to the area, the current restrictions apply even when there are no events on. These restrictions have impacted friends and family visiting, especially during weekends. The current restrictions have also been ineffective during evening events at AFC Wimbledon Stadium.

We the undersigned, call upon Merton Council to change the controlled parking zone H1 from 8.30am – 8pm everyday to 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am – 9.30pm on match days."

### Officer Response

*During September 2020 we carried out an informal consultation to extend the operational period of the zone in response to a petition from the residents. A further consultation in the form of a statutory consultation was carried out in February 2021. The changes / current operational periods were introduced as a direct result of majority support. The reports that are available on the website sets out the outcome of the consultations. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/parking/consultations/cpz/h1-cpz-kohat-road-area>*

*It should be noted that part of the request / reason for the change was to protect the residents not just from the events but from those within the residential units of the development. The Council can programme the petition for an informal consultation to reduce the operational periods but it is not possible to adhere to the request regarding having extended restrictions only during the various events. The Council simply does not have the required resources or the funding that would be required to manage the requested restrictions which are extremely resource intensive in terms of both staff and funding. This was explained to the those few residents who pursued this proposal at the time.*

### Petition Three

A petition was submitted by Councillor Foley entitled “Better, brighter street lighting and identifying black spots where you feel unsafe in Merton Park”. A number of locations were identified by residents including Dorset Road and the footpath between Morden Station and Kenley Road.

### Officer Response

*All roads that are maintained by The London Borough of Merton and have associated street lighting are lit to the required standards as outlined in BS5489-1:2020. The minimum lighting class that is acceptable in Merton under this British Standard is P3.*

*In 2017 and 2018 a number of streets/locations within Merton Park Ward (including Dorset Road and the footpath between Morden Station and Kenley Road) formed part of Merton’s energy and carbon reduction initiative, whereby we installed LED retro-fit modules into existing lantern shells.*

*Unfortunately, a few failures started to occur after 24 months, this was due to a production fault and therefore meant that these failed lanterns went into a dimming mode where light output was reduced by 50%, this included Dorset Road. However, I can confirm that in August 2022 we have now replaced these failed units with brand new LED lanterns which are operating as expected.*

*With regards to the trees, I have spoken to our Greenspaces team whom maintain the street trees and they confirmed that they instructed their contractor*

*to undertake tree works to cut back branches around lampposts in Dorset Road which has been completed. A site visit of the footpath in question will be undertaken and assessed to see if any trees need to be cut back*

- 2.6 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting in February 2023.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. None for the purposes 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. None

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. None.

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