

Committee: Council

Date: 1 February 2023

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

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 16 November 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 16 November 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 and accompanying letter was submitted by Councillor Fairclough which "urged you to take steps to ban the use of pesticides in Merton and warn people about the damage it does to our pollinators"

Officer Response

The council and its service providers at Idverde UK and Veolia are working hard to seek both environmental and sustainable solutions to the management of pernicious weeds in both our parks and street scene environments so as to limit the impact to wildlife.

To this end and working with council colleagues in Climate Action and partners at Sustainable Merton and Merton Garden Streets the use of Glyphosate to control pernicious weeds in all 90 Merton Garden Streets (Excel spreadsheet attached) ceased from June 2022. This action in 2022 has resulted in the reduction of Glyphosate use in Merton by 18.1% from 2021 figures.

The council are also working with service providers at Idverde UK and their commercial partners at Rigby Taylor, and will be commencing alternative weed application trial in February 2023 using Pelagonic acid, naturally found in plants and dries out weeds. The product has shown strong performance in amenity trials across the UK in recent years, out performing other alternatives like Foam

Stream and Heat Control. The below trial locations will commence in February 2023 and continue for one full growing season;

- **Street Scene** across all street pavements and kerb lines in **Wandle Ward**.
- **Hard and Soft Landscape in South Park Gardens (Wimbledon) and Canons House and Ground (Mitcham)** two key horticultural park sites in West and East of Merton

If trials are successful in 2023-24 in parks and street scene locations above, we could adopt the use of Pelagonic acid for the control of all non-reportable weeds in Merton moving forward.

Petition Two

A petition was submitted by Councillor McLean entitled K5 Bus Shelter petition which stated “support to request to the bus company to provide a bus shelter on both sides of Motspur Park village. They would provide much needed protection from the sun in the summer months and inclement weather in the winter for residents of all ages”.

Initial Officer Response

Having spoken to TfL who are responsible for this matter, they have confirmed they will install 2 bus shelters once suitable locations have been identified. This is likely to be part of the 2023/4 financial year.

Updated Officer Response

The locations have been identified and the bus shelters will be installed during February / March 2023.

Petition Three

A petition was submitted by Councillor Gould entitled “Crossing to be implemented on Bushey Road” which stated “we the undersigned request the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Bushey Road between Prince George’s Avenue and Prince George’s Playing fields. Local residents and families would benefit from a safe place to cross”.

Officer Response

It is good to know that there is support for a crossing facility. The Council can confirm that the provision of a signalised crossing has been on our programme for couple of years but until now we have not been able to secure the necessary funding. However, we have recently secured the necessary funding to undertake surveys and complete the feasibility study and design within this financial year. The actual implementation of a signalised crossing would depend on obtaining approval from TfL and securing further funding within next financial year.

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