1 Purpose of item

1.1 To advise the Committee of the petitions presented to the Mayor at the Council meeting on 15 June 2006 and referred to this Committee.

2 Recommendation

2.1 Members to consider whether they wish to take any further action on the petitions received.

3 Background

3.1 The revised constitution provides that each overview and scrutiny committee should consider any petitions within their remit received by full Council which do not relate to a matter falling within the remit of an executive committee, and report as appropriate.

4 Petitions

Details of the petitions referred to this committee are set out below, incorporating the Director’s comments.

4.1 Unruly behaviour – College Avenue, Gillingham

Councillor Juby presented a petition on behalf of Gillingham residents as follows:

‘Petition to stop ball games and unruly behaviour in College Avenue, Gillingham’
A letter accompanies the petition as follows:

`I have enclosed a copy of a small petition of the neighbours of College Avenue. Can I say we are really fed up of having our windows and cars hit with the children that are playing football in the road in College Avenue. We are surprised that there has not been an accident yet but I feel it is going to happen because they first run out in front of the cars. It is quite a busy road. I hope you can do something about this only it would be nice to have a bit of peace. Look forward to hearing from you in the near future…Mrs Luckhurst’

**Director of Regeneration and Development’s comments:**

The Community Safety Street team have been tasked with increasing their patrols in the area in an attempt to engage with the children and divert their play to a more appropriate location. The team will also visit the parents of children who continue to play in the road, once asked to stop and encourage them to talk to their children about the dangers of playing on the road. Officers from the Safer Communities Service will also investigate the feasibility of the use of local byelaws to control the playing of ball games.

### 4.2 Permit parking, King Edward’s Road

Councillor Chishti presented a petition on behalf of residents of King Edward’s Road as follows:

`We the undersigned ask Medway Council to introduce permit parking in our road, namely King Edward’s Road, due to lack of parking and as there is more development due to take place’

**Director of Regeneration and Development’s comments:**

The petition consisted of 4 signatures and was presented by Councillor Chishti. Controlled Parking Zones generally are used in areas which suffer from high volumes of parking generated by commuters or shoppers. King Edward Road is not in close proximity to an attractor of such movements. Whilst it is recognised that problems may be experienced due to over demand for parking space, particularly in dense residential areas, in cases such as this, permit parking is not an effective solution.

In addition, we are unable to look at roads such as this, in isolation. We would have to look at surrounding roads, likely resulting in their inclusion in the scheme. This would mean that those residents, who reside in these roads, could be given a permit that would entitle them park in King Edward Road. Additionally possession of a permit is no guarantee that a space will be available.
4.3 Permit parking, St Mary’s Road

Councillor Chishti presented a petition on behalf of residents in St Mary’s Road as follows:

`We the undersigned ask Medway Council, to introduce permit parking in our Road, namely St. Mary’s Road, in line with other surrounding Roads`

Director of Regeneration and Development’s comments:

The petition consisted of 11 signatures and was presented by Councillor Chishti and requests that permit parking (inclusion into the existing Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)). During the last review of the CPZ in Gillingham North in the summer of 2003, residents of St Mary's Road were consulted and asked if they would like to become part of the existing CPZ.

Questionnaires were hand delivered to the 63 houses in St Mary's Road and 41 questionnaires were returned to the Council. Of these 41 questionnaires, 18 were in favour of joining the existing CPZ and 23 were opposed.

As the majority of returns were in opposition to St Marys Road becoming part of the CPZ, it was not included. However, when the review for the Gillingham North CPZ is undertaken, the Council will re-consult with the residents of St Mary’s Road.
4.4 Traffic calming measures, Baden Road, Gillingham

Councillor Chishti presented a petition on behalf of residents of Baden Road, Gillingham as follows:

`We the undersigned ask Medway Council to introduce traffic calming measures in our Road, Baden Road, as the speed at which cars pass through our Road, poses a real safety risk to residents and visitors in the area` 

Director of Regeneration and Development’s comments:

All safety schemes such as speed reducing measures are prioritised on their ability to reduce casualties. In the last three years of available accident data, 1 May 2003 to 30 April 2006, no personal injury accidents have been recorded on Baden Road, Gillingham. With many other locations in Medway recording significant personal injury accident problems, it is not possible for a safety scheme to be justified at this location at this time.

It is recommended that a speed survey be undertaken to ascertain the extent of the speed problem to allow intelligence led Police enforcement to take place.
4.5 Traffic calming measures, Grange Road, Gillingham

Councillor Chishti presented a petition on behalf of residents of Grange Road, Gillingham as follows:

‘We the undersigned ask Medway Council, to introduce traffic calming measures in our Road, namely Grange Road, as at present, vehicles pass through the road at very high speed which poses a safety risk, to residents and visitors to the area’

Director of Regeneration and Development’s comments:

All safety schemes such as speed reducing measures are prioritised on their ability to reduce casualties. In the last three years of available accident data, 1 May 2003 to 30 April 2006, there have been four slight personal injury accidents on this road. However, excessive or inappropriate speed was not mentioned as a causation factor in any of these accidents. Three of the accidents were at junctions, all in 2003, and the fourth involved a driver using a mobile phone in 2004. A speed survey was recently undertaken and the 85th percentile speed (the speed that 85% of the traffic travels at or less) was 32mph.

The road safety team are currently reviewing the junctions on Grange Road to establish if any improvements can be made, however there are other roads in the Medway area with a higher priority for action and Grange Road cannot be considered for traffic calming at this time.
4.6 Residents’ parking/visitors permits – St George Road, Gillingham

Councillor Chishti presented a petition on behalf of residents in Gillingham as follows:

“We the undersigned ask Medway Council to provide residents parking permits/visitors permits to the Barbers shop located at number 2 St Georges Road, however situated on St Georges Road and Saunders Street. We have come to learn, that Medway Council will not give Residents permits/or Visitors permits to the owner of The Barbers Shop, as its address is listed as St George’s Road, however the shop is located in St George’s Road and Saunders Street, therefore we feel that it is unfair for the shop owner to be deprived of visitors permits as this means customers cannot come to the shop. The shop provided a valuable service to the community, taking into account that Gillingham High Street is in a state of economic decline, we ask that Medway Council provide these permits as otherwise it will drive out another small business from the town”

Director of Regeneration and Development’s comments:

The petition requests either resident/visitors parking permits for the Barbers Shop located at number 2 St Georges Road junction with Saunders Street, and comprises of 16 signatures.

Permits are given to those addresses included in the existing controlled parking zone. The Barbers shop is at the junction of Saunders Street with St Georges Road but is not included in the permit area as the address is St Georges Road.
However, as the shop has a frontage on Saunders Street it should be eligible to be included in the list of roads so that it can obtain visitor permits. An officer from Traffic Management has visited the shop to explain the updated situation.

4.7. **CCTV cameras - Strand Leisure Park**

Councillor Chishti presented a petition on behalf of Gillingham residents as follows:

`We the undersigned ask Medway Council to introduce CCTV cameras at the Strand Leisure Park, for visitors safety and also to prevent existing buildings and play equipment from being vandalised`

**Director of Community Services’ comments:**

The Strand Leisure Park facility has recently been brought back to be managed by the Council, having previously been managed by SERCO.

Officers are aware that there have been some problems with vandalism at Strand Leisure Park and from the £100,000 of capital expenditure agreed by Members in this year’s budget, approximately £40,000 has been allocated for CCTV which is intended to be installed at the site by the end of the year.
5 **Financial and Legal Implications**

5.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions. Any further implications particular to each issue will be included in future reports as appropriate.

6 **Background papers**

6.1 None

**Contact for further details:**

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