

**REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
21 OCTOBER 2009**

**PETITIONS**

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

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**Summary**

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented to the Mayor at Council meetings including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

**1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 The constitution provides that petitions presented at Council meetings relating to matters within the remit of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be referred immediately to the relevant Director for consideration at officer level.

**2. Background**

2.1 Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent of the proposed action and timescales for implementation. The petition organiser may request to refer the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if s/he is not satisfied with the answer and has given reasons for their dissatisfaction.

2.2 For petitions where the Director is unable to meet the request of petitioners or where there are a range of alternative responses the petition will be referred to the next relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion.

**3. Petitions**

3.1 A summary of responses relevant to this Committee that have passed the ten day deadline for a request for referral to the Committee and are therefore seen as acceptable to the petitioners are set out below.

Subject of petition	Council Date Presented by	Response
Dog barking at rental business in Gillingham (2 petitions)	Councillor Stephen Kearney	A letter has been sent to the owner of the rental business advising of complaints received. Diary sheets have also been sent to everyone who signed the petition with a request that they complete the
Dog barking at rental business in Gillingham (2 petitions)	Councillor Juby	forms and return them to the Council. It is hoped that the co-operation of the dog owner will help to resolve the problem.
Resurfacing of York Avenue, Gillinham	Councillor Juby	Patch repairs have recently taken place and more are proposed for August. York Avenue has provisionally been programmed for re-surfacing work in next year's contract.
Telecommunications mast in Railway Street car park, Gillingham	Councillor Stamp	Members of the Development Control Committee refused this application but on being sent to appeal, the Planning Inspectorate made a decision to allow the appeal. A copy of that decision was attached to the response letter.
Traffic calming in Station Road, Rainham	Councillor Hewett	This petition has been referred to the committee for consideration on 2 December 2009.
Reduce the cost of residents' parking permits	Councillor Sheila Kearney	Although the two recent rises may seem high viewed in isolation, it must be recognised that they were not increased in the previous 5 years. £15 is no longer viable to sustain as this does not cover administration costs and the cost of enforcement and this has therefore initiated the need for the recent increases. Medway remains considerably lower in charges than neighbouring councils.

#### 4 Petitions referred to this committee

- 4.1 The following petition has been referred to the committee for consideration as the lead petitioner has indicated that she was dissatisfied with the response received.
- 4.2 The petition was presented to Council on 30 July 2009 by Councillor Hicks. The petition was submitted with a covering letter, which is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.3 The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture responded to the petition and the letter is attached at Appendix B.

- 4.4 The letter explaining resident's dissatisfaction with the Council's response is attached at Appendix C.

## **5 Director's Comments**

- 5.1 All road safety schemes, such as traffic calming measures, are prioritised on their ability to reduce casualties on the roads. The personal injury accident history for Higham Road has been reviewed and in the last three years of available data (1 May 2006 to 30 April 2009) there have been no injury collisions recorded.

There are other locations within Medway suffering poorer injury accident records. They are therefore a higher priority for the introduction of safety improvement measures in order to prevent further casualties.

- 5.2 A traffic survey has already been organised for this location to investigate road user speeds. This may lead to intelligence led police speed enforcement as appropriate.
- 5.3 The letter of dissatisfaction dated 18 August 2009 (Appendix C) includes details of a report in relation to Frindsbury Extra Parish Council. This report is inaccurate on the point of Section 106 funding for traffic calming measures in relation to the Liberty Park development. A Section 106 agreement is in place for Hollywood Lane and Brompton Farm Road in relation to traffic calming measures, also including Hoo Road and Wainscott Road in relation to traffic improvements. This agreement does not however include Higham Road.

## **6 Financial and Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.

## **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 Members are requested to:
- (a) Note the petition responses and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report;
  - (b) Consider the petition referral and Director's comments in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report.

## **Background papers**

None

## **Contact for further details:**

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