

## **REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**4 OCTOBER 2012**

### **PETITIONS**

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

Author: Tim England, Head of Safer Communities  
Caroline Salisbury, Democratic Services Officer

#### **Summary**

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented at Council meetings, received by the council or sent via the e-petition facility, including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 The constitution provides that petitions received by the council 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 The Director is asked to respond to the petition request within 10 working days. 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 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 5% of Medway's population (currently 12,675 signatures) it will be debated by Full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.
- 2.3 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 2% of Medway's population (currently 5,070 signatures) the relevant senior officer may give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

2.4 A petition may also be submitted through the e-petition facility on the council's website. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions. A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information.

2.5 A summary of the response to all petitions will also be published on the council's website.

### 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	Date of receipt and whether paper or e-petition	Response
Future charge for annual parking permits for staff at St Andrews School	21 May 2012	Whilst this request was given full consideration, the school is not entitled to the discounted rate. Other private schools pay the full rate and the council is unable to treat this school differently.
Request for the installation of speed bumps in Hartington Street, Chatham	26 July 2012	Whilst speeding drivers are always a matter of concern, the basis for introduction of speed bumps are where locations for poor safety records are tackled first to help prevent further casualties on our roads. Research has shown no injury collisions here in the last three years and with many other locations recording poorer safety records, unfortunately this is not a priority for traffic calming measures at this time.

#### **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 they are dissatisfied with the responses received.

4.2 This petition was presented to Council on 26 July 2012 by Councillor Paul Godwin which stated:

"We the undersigned, following regular gatherings and continual anti-social behaviour, call upon Medway Council to introduce a surveillance camera to the alleyway that leads up to the park on Hartington Street, Chatham."

4.3 The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture responded to the petition and the letter is attached at Appendix A.

4.4 The e-mail requesting referral to the Committee is attached at Appendix B.

#### **4.5 Director's comments**

4.5.1 Following the response of 10 August 2012 to Ms. Westwood, officers have consulted again with colleagues in Kent Police.

4.5.2 Police records from December 2010 report that antisocial behaviour in Hartington Street has peaked during the summer months and dropped markedly in September. The numbers reported during the summer of 2011 were high, and higher than for the surrounding streets. However, the numbers reported this year are far lower than for last year with no calls in September. The chart at Appendix C shows overall calls for Hartington Street and those specifically mentioning the alley.

4.5.3 Police colleagues do not believe that CCTV is an appropriate mechanism at present and believe that a dispersal zone should be considered first.

4.5.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, places a statutory duty on the Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime and disorder. There is no requirement to discharge this duty through the provision of CCTV.

4.5.5 From a Council perspective, officers do not consider that CCTV is an appropriate or proportionate mechanism for this area, in light of the unbudgeted costs of installation, monitoring and maintenance, which, for a fixed CCTV installation have now been confirmed as £12,000 capital costs for installation and a further £2,045 per annum for monitoring and maintenance.

4.5.6 The council intends to hold a public meeting in the All Saints area in early October to discuss residents concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder. In the meantime, residents are urged to continue to report any such incidents on the national 101 police number.

## **5 Risk Management**

5.1 The Council has a clear scheme for handling petitions set out in its Constitution. This ensures consistency and clarity of process, minimising the risk of complaints about the administration of petitions.

## **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 response and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (b) consider the petition referral and Director's comments in paragraph 4 of the report.

## **Background papers**

None.

## **Contact for further details:**

Caroline Salisbury, Democratic Services Officer  
Tel. No: 01634 332013 Email: [caroline.salisbury@medway.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.salisbury@medway.gov.uk)

Please contact: Leigh Ann Thurgood

Your ref:

Our ref: Lat/ME108

Date: 10 August 2012

Ms Tina Westwood  
62 Hartington Street  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME4 5PJ

Director's office  
Regeneration, Community and Culture  
Medway Council  
Gun Wharf, Dock Road  
Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR  
(DX56006 STROOD)  
telephone: 01634 331022  
facsimile: 01634 331729  
Minicom (text) 01634 331300  
email: leighann.thurgood@medway.gov.uk

Dear Ms Westwood

## **Petition for installation of CCTV camera**

Thank you for your petition presented by Councillor Paul Godwin on 26 July 2012, requesting the installation of a CCTV camera in the alleyway near Hartington Street.

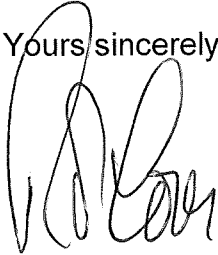
I have discussed this matter with my community safety partnership and CCTV managers, who have further consulted with colleagues at Kent Police. The police confirm that there is a problem with groups of people congregating around the alleyway leading to the park in Hartington Street.

At the current time Medway Council has no unutilised rapid deployment CCTV units available to cover this area, as they are all being deployed. Additionally, there is no infrastructure in place at present that would facilitate the quick installation of a permanent CCTV camera to cover the area in question. This could be put in place but there would be delay in the utility company being able to install the necessary power supply feed. There is also the matter of costs of installation and maintenance, in the region of £2,000, which is unbudgeted.

I have asked that the police step up their patrols in this area. Please ensure that any incidents of antisocial behaviour are reported through to the national 101 police number, which will assist in gathering data and ensuring that police target resources on the problem. We will work closely with police colleagues to monitor the situation and establish what measures can be put in place to deal with the problem, which may well include introducing a dispersal order allowing the police to move people on if they are acting in an anti-social way.

If you do not consider that the issues raised in your petition have been addressed, please refer to the procedure sent with the acknowledgment letter for a possible further course of action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Cooper', written in a cursive style.

**Robin Cooper**  
Director of Regeneration, Community & Culture

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**From:**

**Sent:** 16 August 2012 22:04

**To:** thurgood, leighann

**Subject:** petition for installation of CCTV hartington Street Chatham

Dear Leigh

With regards to the letter I received today ref Lat/ME108 about the petition to get a CCTV camera in hartington street and it being rejected. I wish to take this to the next step and take further action.

Regards

Tina Westwood





# Appendix C

## Hartington Street ASB Calls

