

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2013

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 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
Request Medway Council to completely resurface Maple Avenue, Gillingham as it has deteriorated beyond repair	25 April 2013	A highway engineer has carried out a site visit. It was noted that the road had some signs of wear and tear but overall it was structurally sound. It is unlikely that any resurfacing works will take place at this time. However it is proposed that this site be added to the list of roads being considered for resurfacing in 2014/15.
Request for traffic calming for Elaine Avenue and Elaine Court, Strood	25 April 2013	The number of road traffic accidents on this road has been examined and there have been two road traffic accidents on this road in the 3-year period up to December 2012, which involved slight personal injury. Unfortunately there are other locations within Medway recording poorer safety records, and therefore is not possible for traffic calming measures to be introduced at this time. The collision record will continue to be monitored.

Request a review of Tesco Express delivery and parking issues, Darnley Road, Strood	25 April 2013	The Environmental Protection officer has visited the store and spoken to the manager about the concerns raised. There are no parking restrictions in place so it is not possible to prevent loading which is an essential part of Tesco's business with some associated noise. However there are conditions stating that deliveries must be between 07.00-20.00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 - 20:00 on weekends and Bank Holidays. Residents should report to the Environmental Protection Team if they suffer noise nuisance from deliveries outside of the prescribed hours for deliveries
To enforce fines for dog owners who let their dogs foul the pavements in Grain village	25 April 2013	Whilst the Council is keen to prosecute offenders gathering necessary evidence to support a prosecution is difficult. The Government guidelines prohibit use of covert surveillance for such offences. The Community Team Leader will be discussing with the petitioners the scope to start a programme of engagement and education with dog walkers in this area.

4 Risk Management

- 4.1 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.

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.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are requested to note the petition response and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report;

Background papers

None.

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